

Minutes
of the Sulhamstead Parish Council Meeting held at
Sulhamstead and Ufton Nerve Village Hall on Thursday 18th November 2021 at 7pm

Present: Mrs Margaret Baxter (Chair), Ms Teresa Sosna, Mr Ivan Wise, Mrs Fiona Jones, Mrs Liz Penston, Mrs Diane Woodward,

In attendance: Elle Gibbons (Clerk)

1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mrs Rosemary Sanders-Rose. No apologies were received from Mr Pete Prewer.

2) Declarations of Interest by Councillors

There were none.

3) Open Forum

There were 2 members of the public present.

4) Approval of Minutes of 23rd September 2021

The minutes were approved as a true record.

5) Matters arising from Minutes of 23rd September 2021

The RBL soldier silhouettes had been placed around the Parish for Remembrance Day. The silhouettes would be taken down from the Triangle and SUN Village Hall by the end of the month for storage. The St Michael's Graveyard silhouette would stay sited.

Councillor Sosna had previously suggested holding a community litter pick where residents collect litter locally. A date for this would be decided in Spring 2022. **Action: Councillor Sosna**

The Chair reported that St Michael's Graveyard had been tidied and the cost for the tidy up would be shared between the Parish Council and the PCC. The Clerk would invoice the PCC for their portion of the costs. **Action: Clerk**

The proposed reassignment of land on Hollybush Lane was in progress, the Parish Council were currently seeking legal representation.

Councillor Sosna reported that Ash Lane would be closed indefinitely. Councillor Sosna had contacted Google Maps to inform them of the road closure.

6) Local Matters

a) Public Open Space (POS)

i. Electricity Poles

The Clerk would raise an application for the electricity pole moneyback scheme.

Action: Clerk

b) Litter Picking

Applications had been reviewed and interviews would be scheduled imminently. **Action: Chair and Councillor Wise**

7) Website

The Clerk would organise a Zoom meeting to finalise the decision on a website provider.

Action: Clerk

8) Sustainability Group / Greening Campaign

Councillor Jones had scheduled a meeting for Tuesday 23rd November. Councillor Jones and Councillor Sosna would discuss how to 'advertise' the Greening Campaign and Sustainability Group. **Action: Councillor Jones and Councillor Sosna**

9) Speeding Review

Councillor Sosna had raised concerns over national speed limit areas in Sulhamstead and had contacted Highways Department. In order for the Highways Department to review the roads in question, evidence was required to prove there was a issue with motorists speeding.

Councillor Jones offered siting of the SID Machine owned by Ufton Nerve Parish Council at Sulhamstead Hill and Reading Road to collect speed data in 30mph zones. The Parish Council accepted this offer. Councillor Jones would provide an estimate of the costs. . **Action: Councillor Jones**

10) Planning Applications

a) Planning Decisions

21/01953/HOUSE, 53 Normoor Road, Burghfield Common

Granted – October

21/00285/FUL, Tyle Mill, Sulhamstead

Granted – November

21/02024/PIP, Land at Firlands Farm, Hollybush Lane, Burghfield Common

Refused – November

b) New Applications

21/01278/FUL, Old Barn at Benhams, Hollybush Lane, Burghfield Common

The Parish Council had no objections.

21/01288/FUL, Old Barn at Benhams, Hollybush Lane, Burghfield Common

The Parish Council had no objections.

21/02320/FULD, The Old Manor, White House Green, Sulhamstead

The Parish Council had no objections.

c) Proposed new Church Hall and Burial Ground at Hollybush Lane

The Chair provided some background to this application. The Parish Council had been approached in June 2021 by the applicants, who wished to give a presentation to the Parish Council on the proposed Church and Burial Ground. They requested that the Parish Council 'work with them' to put together their application. They were reminded on a number of occasions that the role of the Parish Council was not to work with potential applicants, but to comment on validated planning applications only, and therefore the request was refused.

However, the presentation was received in electronic form and circulated to the Parish Council, who noted it but did not comment.

The Parish Council had now been invited by West Berkshire District Council Planning Department to comment on the validated planning application for the proposed Church Hall and Burial Ground at Hollybush Lane. In preparing to comment, The Chair had noted that a number of statements in the Planning Statement were inaccurate and strongly implied that the Parish Council were supportive of the application, despite having made no comment to date. The Chair had raised these concerns with the Planning Consultant acting for the applicants, and had requested that the statements be amended to reflect the correct situation. This had been agreed.

The Chair requested that Councillors now read through the documents associated with the application and give their feedback before the application deadline, so a response could be drafted.

The Chair also reminded Councillors and those present that the Parish Council did not make any decisions on planning applications and could only submit their comments to West Berkshire Planning Department for consideration. The formal decision would be made by West Berkshire Council.

11) Finance

a) Account Balances at 31st October 2021:

General Account: £ 20,883.63

CIL Account: £ 58,793.44

POS Account: £ 41,677.72

b) Budget

There had been a slight overspend on donations, this was due to a carryover from the previous year which had been spent.

There had been an overspend for St Michael's Graveyard, this was due to the requirement of a tidy up of the land. There will be ongoing maintenance for St Michael's Graveyard moving forwards which will be included in the budget.

12) Review of Post/Any Other Business

The Parish Newsletter would be created and distributed in Spring. **Action: Councillor Wise**

Next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting would take place on Thursday 27th January 2022 at 7pm, to be held at Sulhamstead and Ufton Nervet Village Hall.

Mrs Elle Gibbons (Clerk)

Distribution

All Councillors

Clerk – Sulhamstead Parish Council

Website

Notice Boards

District Councillor Mackinnon