

Sutton Benger Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council

Held on Wednesday 11 October 2023 in the Sutton Benger Village Hall

Those present were noted as Cllrs N Roynon (Chair), R Gaunt, C Mansfield, B Carter, A Carwardine, J Haselton, G Prewett and D Spencer, and L Roslyn, Parish Clerk, 2 members of the public and Ward Cllr H Greenman.

096⁽²³⁾ **Apologies and Reasons for Absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllr J Campbell (work).

097⁽²³⁾ **Parish Councillor Resignation**

The resignation of Liz Craig was noted and the Councillors thanked her for all her hard work whilst on the Council, especially with regard to the SID installation.

098⁽²³⁾ **Declarations of Interests from members regarding the agenda.**

No declarations of interest were received.

099⁽²³⁾ **Public Forum Session**

A Cllr from Christian Malford PC raised the issue of flooding along the B4069 between the two villages. Cllrs G Prewett and N Roynon agreed to liaise with him and the Clerk to try and arrange for the landowner to cut some grips along the ditch to allow water run-off into the field rather than onto the road and back into the River Avon. A resident raised the issue of potential illegalities with the NDP submission and the lack of communication from the NDP Team in answering his queries.

100⁽²³⁾ **Minutes for Approval**

It was **resolved to approve** the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13 September 2023 and they were duly signed by the Chair.

101⁽²³⁾ **Governance – Councillor Roles and Responsibilities**

It was **resolved to approve** the appointment of Councillors to the following roles:

- a) Flood/Emergency Plan – Cllr Garry Prewett
- b) Grounds Maintenance/Assets – Cllr Jeremy Haselton
- c) Planning Lead (alongside Cllr R Gaunt) – Cllr Garry Prewett
- d) Village Hall (alongside Cllr C Mansfield) – Cllr Adam Carwardine

102⁽²³⁾ **Finance**

- a) It was **resolved to approve** the October monthly accounts statement and new invoices totalling £870.93 for payment.
- b) It was **resolved to approve** the cancellation of the Grounds Maintenance contract with Idverde due to the unacceptable level of service received in 2023.
- c) It was **resolved to approve** the expenditure of up to £200 from S106 funds for a new litter bin, with lid, to replace the existing one at the bus shelter

103⁽²³⁾ **Planning**

- a) It was **resolved to ratify** the responses made to new planning applications between meetings:

i	PL/2023/07783	Long Ridge House, High Street, SN15 4SP - Field Maple tree - raise canopy (TCA)	No Objection
ii	PL/2023/07777	7 Manor Farm Drive, SN15 4RW - T1 - Alder - fell to ground level (TCA)	No Objection
iii	PL/2023/07701	The Old Bakery, 5 Park Lane, SN15 4RN - T1	No Objection

		Silver Birch tree - Fell. T2 Corkscrew Willow. Pollard to leave at a finished height of approximately 1.5 metres (TCA)	
--	--	--	--

- b) **New Applications:** Cllr R Gaunt reported on new planning applications and it was **resolved to respond** as follows:

i	PL/2023/07724	42 High Street, SN15 4RF - Erection of a single storey rear extension following the demolition of existing conservatory and out buildings	No Objection
ii	PL/2023/08276	43a High Street, SN15 4RQ - 1. No Horse Chesnut. Remove canopy structure back to original pruning points approx 30%. Remove all deadwood. Canopy reduced to prevent contact with passing traffic and maintain aesthetic value.	No Objection
iii	PL/2023/08324	Elmete, High Street, SN15 4RE - T1 - Cherry - Reduce by 2m to increase amenity value, focussing attention on the branches that are overextending towards the Sycamore. T2 - Variegated Sycamore - Reduce by 2m to increase amenity value.	No Objection

- c) **Wiltshire Local Plan Consultation (Reg 19)** – Cllrs R Gaunt and A Carwardine reported on the online event they attended for the Local Plan and agreed to draft a response to be circulated to the Council for approval before the next Parish Council Meeting on 8 November 2023.

104⁽²³⁾ **Neighbourhood Development Plan**

The Clerk reported that the NDP Grant funding would have a shortfall of £848 that the Parish Council could make up from CIL funds, as previously agreed.

105⁽²³⁾ **Highways, Parish Steward & Speed Indicator Device**

- a) **Highways and Parish Steward** - Cllr D Spencer reported on works carried out by Mark, our Parish Steward, which included path clearance, hedge cutting and litter picking.
- b) **Seagry Road Traffic Calming** – Cllr C Mansfield reported on the decision by LHFIC to approve the installation of signage, road markings and the moving of the white gates to make them more prominent, to help with traffic calming on Seagry Road. The cost of these works will be £4,500 with a 30% contribution from the Parish Council at £1,350. She advised that the works would hopefully be done in early Spring 2024. The Councillors thanked her for all her hard work on this project.

106⁽²³⁾ **Rights of Way**

Cllr R Gaunt had no matters to report.

107⁽²³⁾ **Allotments**

Cllr C Mansfield reported that the hedge maintenance was being carried out and she had asked them to send the invoice to the Clerk.

108⁽²³⁾ **Flooding/Emergency Plan**

Cllr N Roynon gave Cllr G Prewett some advice on taking over the role.

109⁽²³⁾ **Environment & Sustainability**

Cllr N Roynon reported that we had access to free trees and is looking for ‘pockets’ of land in the village to plant some – he will contact local landowners to try and arrange this.

110⁽²³⁾ **Village Hall**

Cllr C Mansfield reported on improvements to the hall being made by the VHMC. Following a discussion on grounds maintenance, it was agreed that Cllr C Mansfield would liaise with the VHMC for them to submit a proposal for consideration at the next PCM for financial assistance from the PC for this in 2024.

Chair..... Date.....

111⁽²³⁾ **Primary School**

Cllr B Carter reported on changes at the school and on the potential grant application from FoSBS to the PC for new tables.

112⁽²³⁾ **Post Box at The Bell**

The Clerk advised that she is waiting to hear from the Chippenham Office on the re-location (or not) of the post box following the closure of the Post Office at The Bell. Ward Cllr H Greenman advised that he had been contacted about the possibility of a Mobile Post Office for the village.

113⁽²³⁾ **Wiltshire Council**

Ward Cllr H Greenman gave an update on the agenda for the Parish Forum on the 18 October 2023 and it was noted that Cllr J Haselton was planning on attending.

114⁽²³⁾ **Clerk's Report**

The Clerk's report was given and forms part of these minutes. It was agreed that Cllr D Errington would lay the poppy wreath at the Remembrance Day Service on behalf of the PC.

115⁽²³⁾ **Date of the Next Meeting**

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting was noted as being on Wednesday 8 November 2023 at 7.15pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting ended 21:02

Chair.....

Date.....