



SUNNINGDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council Tuesday 13 December 2011

At 7.30 pm at the Pavilion, Broomhall Lane

106/11 **Attendance:** Christine Gadd (Chairman), Robin Booth, David Lupton, Rodney Stubblefield, Jon Read

Apologies for absence: Nick Dawson, Mark Klinecicz, Richard Sefton, Kate Webb

Declaration of interest for agenda items. DL declared an interest on grit bin in his road.

107/11 **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 8 November.** With a change to the wording under 105/11, the Minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting
Matters arising: Coworth Burial Ground. The Chair reported that RBWM are taking up the legal issues being raised by objectors, the second application for the gate will be taken to Development Control panel. The PC Planning Committee will be simply considering the gate. The Clerk should get authorisation from the Borough to remove the notices pinned up in the village.

108/11 **Finance:**

Council received the Clerk's Financial Report (Paper 108/11). It was noted that the Risk Register was due for annual review and David Lupton agreed to examine this with the Clerk and report back to the next meeting.

Council noted the absence of Graeme Kennedy.

Grit bins extension of provision to Beech Hill Road and Charters Way. It was agreed that residents need to be informed and involved in administering any grit provided by the Parish Council (no longer provided by the Borough), in gritting as appropriate and paying for refill as required. Priority should be given to roads on a hill and the Parish Council would provide a maximum of £150 per bin. **Council agreed** to £300 for 2 additional bins. (Power: S137)

Discretionary grant to the Village Hall. RS reported that Stage 3 of VH development is the landscaping of the garden area for which a quote of £11,000 has been received. This will be paid for by £2k from PC, £2k from Village Hall Trust while still retaining the agreed level of reserve, and £7k to be fund-raised by the parents of the Pre-school who have proven fund-raising ability. **Council agreed** to pay £2,000 to the VH towards this project (Power: LGA Act 1972 s.133)

Council approved the income/expenditure for November

Council agreed to review the **Financial Regulations**. DL was asked to review them and bring back his recommendations to Council

Rainwater harvesting proposal. Having looked at the water bills of the past 2 years and likely savings, it was estimated that the pay back time might be around 5-6 years. CG stressed it was important to be an example to our residents and lead the way in water conservation and educating the public on the value of potable water in a changing climate. The project would be good PR and good practice for Council. **Council agreed to put the figure of £4k in the budget.**

109/11 **Finance: 2012/2013 Budget.** Discussions had taken place on the level of increase in GK's salary, while AM would increase by a Scale point as previously agreed. The new figure and the rainwater harvesting will be included in the Budget to be presented to Council for ratification in January 2012.

110/11 **Localism Act**
The Plain English guide to the Localism Act was circulated. CG noted the significant changes brought in with this Act which will increase the matters before Council.

111/11 **Neighbourhood Plan**
The Clerk made a presentation based on the consultation findings report. Council considered its conclusion and awaited further developments before deciding what further action may be required by Council.

112/11 **Christmas Celebration December 2011**
It was an excellent occasion, had wonderful atmosphere, had received very positive feedback from the public and businesses and had generated business for some. CG recounted the very significant amount of work to put on this event, encouraging the schools, organising the lights, the celebrity and all involved, preparing and distributing the booklet, re-visiting the shops, and chasing the money, and motivating all those involved. CG thanked the good number of volunteers involved, notably Michael Crowe who had taken a lead on preparing the booklet. Council noted its hearty appreciation to Christine for all her hard work.

113/11 **Participatory Budgeting and Devolution to Parishes**
CG reported briefly on the discussion with RBWM Council leader and Workshop. The ethos on delivery of public services is changing. We have shown an interest in greater transparency on S106 money but having considered the other services offered, we were pleased to leave these to the Borough. Only those that are practical will be adopted.

114/11 **Big Society**
Council received Paper 114/11 with an update on progress made by Joiy Chan-Meeson. Council was very pleased to note the very significant progress made by the BS volunteers which was extending the work of the Parish Council and improving the appearance of Sunningdale. Council expressed its sincere thanks to Joiy for all her work.

115/11 **Village Hall**
Council noted the change of VH Trustees; David Lupton became a Trustee to replace Jamie McCaul as Parish Council nominee. John Upperton replaces Bill Ryder as the PCC nominee.
Council noted that the CMI would close at the end of March, as agreement with St John's College on future rent had not been reached. The Church are assuming to continue their work under different office arrangements. There is currently no request for assistance from the Parish Council.

Council received the letter from the Vicar agreeing to the seven point agreement to end all matters of dispute. Council received the letter from Peter Harris on behalf of the claimants that subject to the minuting (below) and its cross referencing to the original minutes, the complaint had been withdrawn.

Council agreed to clarify comments at its meetings in February, March and June 2010 concerning the Sunningdale Village Hall (SVH) charity. The clarifications are as follows:

Minute 18/10b dated February 2010: There were no repercussions resulting from the resignation of the Treasurer.

Minute 26/10c dated March 2010: The "CMI trustees" were not reluctant to appoint a Treasurer for SVH – the SVH trustees had already unanimously agreed to the appointment of a Treasurer as minuted in their meeting of 14th January 2010.

Minute 55/10 dated June 2010: i) an independent interim Treasurer for SVH had already been appointed ii) there were no conflicts of interest in the way that the Church Trustees and the Operations Team conducted the affairs of the charity. iii) the new arrangements to administer SVH in partnership with the CMI, as approved at the SVH AGM, had proved successful and highly beneficial to wide sections of the community.

Council wishes, therefore, to record its view that the charity's Operations Team have carried out their responsibilities for the day to day management of SVH with a high level of professionalism; and that the management and other fees paid by SVH to the CMI have been in line with the projections agreed at arms length by the stakeholders and included in the five year plan for the charity.

In addition, and for the sake of clarity in future, the Council accepts, firstly, the independence of the Village Hall charity; and secondly, that dealings between the Sponsors and the charity will be conducted in an appropriate "arm's length" way.

It agrees moreover that confidential matters proper to the charity are only discussed outside Trustee meetings with the consent of the Trustees, who will continue to ensure that this is balanced by a proper level of public transparency in the affairs of the charity.

116/11

Reports and Representatives

- a) Chairman noted that there is much more work for all Councillors and we all need to support, listen and engage with our community – bold and mature in our attitude to Localism. We have to grasp opportunities and lead as a Parish Council. All are asked to give as much time as possible.
- b) Planning. CG had been following up with the Leader and officers in the Borough on the £900k for affordable housing emanating from the Charters S106 agreement. Two schemes had been ear-marked for other housing projects but some sum could be available to Sunningdale. BEN Lynwood application is a major development for our area for which the Chair of Planning needed to be properly prepared. People from the Neighbourhood Plan will be attending. It was agreed that the Clerk should invite BEN to present their development
- c) Recreation –deferred until the next meeting
- d) Jubilee Festival meeting. Richard and Mark on the committee but there had not been a meeting for some time. There is a need to form a very active committee for this big event in 2012 which will require a great deal of time and effort.

The meeting ended at 9.30pm