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| **SIDLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting**  **Held on Wednesday 8th October 2025**  **The Parish Rooms, Church Farm Lane** | |
| **Present:** Cllr M Mellodey (Chairman), Cllrs A Harland, D Guest, C Hall, M Monnington, T Tull, N Wade (Vice Chairman). Mr N Robson (Chairman/Treasurer to SCA), Cllr P Montyn WSCC, Cllr D Johnson (CDC), the Clerk & 1 member of the Public.  It was confirmed that the meeting was being recorded and filmed by one member of the public. | |
| **1.** | **Welcome & Apologies for Absence** – Cllr N Wade chaired the meeting on behalf of Cllr M Mellodey who has just returned from holiday. Apologies had been received from Cllrs L Ramm & T Parsons. | |
| **2.** | **Declaration by Councillors of Personal Interests of Items on this Agenda** - None | |
| **3.** | **Questions from the Public.** (Exempt Subjects on the Agenda). None | |
| **4.** | **Minutes of Last Council Meeting.** | |
|  | Cllr A Harland proposed, and Cllr C Hall seconded, that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 10th September 2025 be approved and signed. All agreed. | |
| **5.** | **Matters arising from the above minutes not dealt with in separate items below** | |
| **5.1** | **Gypsy & Traveller Letter** – The Vice Chairman explained due to the resignation of the Deputy Prime Minister, there had been a change in personnel in the Ministry for Housing and Planning and therefore the letter to Mr Pennycook MP has been redirected to Mr S Reed MP, his replacement. The Clerk confirmed a copy of the letter sent has also be sent to our MP. | |
| **5.2** | **Road Traffic Concerns & GLaM –** The Vice Chairman reported that Cllr Parsons had circulated correspondence regarding the proposals for roads to be included in GLaM’s report for changes. Cllrs were asked to check the proposals and forward any changes or recommendations to the Clerk.  The Vice Chairman also reported that a successful meeting had been held couple of weeks ago focusing on re-establishing a Sidlesham Traffic Action Group (STAG). The new input from parishioners was very positive. We are waiting to hear from Stephen O’Connell (Sussex Police Speed Watch) to progress to the next steps.  Also, being very pro-active was another parishioner who has circulated a questionnaire regarding road concerns, particularly improving the footpaths on Keynor Lane and the need for a road crossing. The PC recorded its thanks for the hard work that the parishioner has carried out thus far and confirmed that the matter of encroachment on the footpaths by vegetation had been reported and will continue to be chased. | |
| **6.** | **WSCC Councillor Update:** | |
| **6.1** | **Devolution/Re-Organisation** – Cllr Montyn confirmed that after a full Council Meeting on the 23rd September, WSCC agreed to a single unitary authority, although CDC has voted for two unitary authorities. Cllr Montyn confirmed the Government will be launching a consultation in November/December and early next year the Government will make the decision as to the number of unitary authorities. The next calendar date is the election of the Mayor in 2026. The final handover from the County and District Councils will not take place until 2028. | |
| **6.2** | Cllr Montyn reported that from early January 2026 there will be major road works to be carried out by Scottish Gas on the Stockbridge Road which will be closed (apart from blue light access) for 7 weeks. This work cannot be avoided and the implications on the minor roads to circumvent this closure have been noted. will be the use of minor roads to access to circumvent this closure. Cllr Montyn has asked the about bus access, but there are several reasons why they would not have access either and the issues are still unresolved. Cllr Montyn has requested that all Parishes are kept informed as to this major upheaval. | |
| **6.3** | **Fletchers Lane** – Cllr Montyn will check with CDC regarding correspondence from them to Highways relating to Fletchers Lane, but suggested the PC should write a letter to WSCC Highways as well and copy him in.  Cllr Montyn then gave his apologies and left the meeting. | |
| **7.** | **CDC Councillor Update:** | |
| **7.1** | 82A Fletchers Lane, Melita & Ham Road. The Vice Chairman asked Cllr Johnson for her response to the challenges being faced by CDC Planning. Cllr Johnson requested a further meeting to discuss these issues and she will forward possible dates to the Clerk. | |
| **72.** | **LGR -** Cllr Johnson reported that CDC had voted for two unitarian authorities as they felt that one was not sufficient to run effectively. The Vice Chairman asked how the public would be informed of these proposals as it was likely parishioners would not know the detail regarding Devolution and Re-organisation and felt that they were both the same, which is not the case. Cllr Johnson stated that it would be unlikely that the public consultation will readily change anything and the difficulty is that it is not known what will be asked and therefore cannot prepare in advance. It was agreed that in managing change communication is important. | |
| **7.3** | **Melita** – Cllr Johnson informed the Parish Council that the Appeal will be a Public Enquiry on the 6th December, but representations need to be made by the 17th October. Cllr Wade asked if proper representation will be made at the Enquiry as we do not want a repeat of before and Cllr Tull asked whether they would be carrying out a site visit. Cllr Johnson stated we need to discuss this at a meeting. **Post Meeting**: Closing date for representations has been extended to the 17th November 2025 and the Appeal is open to the Public who may on the first day make a statement. | |
| **8.** | **Sidlesham Memorial Recreation Ground** | |
| **8.1** | **AGM**. Mr Robson was asked to update the PC on the outcome of the AGM. He reported that he was now the Chairman as well as the Treasurer. The other Trustees are Cllr C Hall, Ms A Tupper, Ms L Gibson House and Mr R Stewart. The trustees have a meeting on the 11th October to discuss roles and the future Business Plan for the Charity/SCA. The Vice Chairman confirmed the importance for the Parish Council to know how the SCA intends to make money to run the hall. Mr Robson will report back at the next meeting. | |
| **8.2** | **Business Update**. Mr Robson reported that Infinity FC have not paid their invoice for the last two months and have been given a warning letter re non-payment. Mr Robson continued with his report and answered various questions pertaining to the accounts to the satisfaction of the Councillors. | |
| **8.3** | **Status of the PC/SCA MOU** - Cllr Tull proposed that this along with any further discussion relating to Items 8.1 and 8.2 should be deferred until after the SCA meeting on the 11th October and resumed as necessary at the next Council meeting. Seconded by Cllr Monnington and agreed by all. | |
| **8.4** | **Infinity Agreement/Licence** – Mr Robson reported a more constructive working relationship with Infinity FC since the AGM, but the SCA were still waiting for the necessary paperwork to progress the issue of an Agreement/License. Cllr Mellodey will continue to chase this. | |
| **8.5** | **Roof Repairs/New Roof** – The Clerk confirmed the roof repairs were being carried today and tomorrow. Regarding the grant, Cllr Johnson confirmed speaking to Dave Hyland who informed her we will need a liaison officer to progress this and although there had been some contact, the matter has not progressed. The Clerk confirmed she was waiting to hear from CDC for a telephone appointment. Cllr Johnson asked the Clerk to send her a copy to her email. | |
| **8.6** | **PC Representation for the SCA** – The Vice Chairman stated a need for two representatives from the Parish Council to be represented in the SCA, but raised a concern as to a Councillor being a Charity Trustee could lead to a conflict of interest. After discussion, Cllr Johnson also confirmed that there could be a conflict of interest and this would need to be checked with the Charity Commission. The Clerk will investigate. It was agreed Councillors should notify the Clerk of their interest in being a SCA member as soon as possible. | |
| **9.** | **Correspondence Received** | |
| **9.1** | **Email from YEEP.** After discussion it was agreed a good idea. The Clerk to investigate further. | |
| **10.** | **Business Forum** – Cllr Monnington reported that she and Cllr Ramm decided to postpone this until the spring of next year, with a suggested date of the 12th March due to work commitments. It was agreed to write to businesses with this date for their diary. | |
| **11.** | **Councillor Emails**  The Vice Chairman reported that the new details had been circulated. A few of the Councillors stated they were unable to set these up and the Clerk confirmed she would assist. | |
| **12.** | **Matters of Urgent Public Importance** - None | |
| **13.** | **Schedule of Account for Receipts/Payments**  Balance as per Bank Statement on the 30th September 2025 £48,488.66. All accounts £84,930.01.  Half Yearly Budget Review/Accounts | |
| **13.1** | **Schedule of Account for Receipts**   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Ref** | **Who** | **What** | **Amount £** | | 13.1.1 | CDC | Precept | 26,436.00 | | 13.1.2 | HMRC | Refund of Over Payment of Tax/NI | 1,275.19 | | **Total** |  |  | **27,711.19** | | |
| **13.2** | **Schedule of Account for Payment**   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Ref | Who | What | Amount  £ | | 13.2.1 | Unity Bank | Bank Charges for August | 7.20 | | 13.2.2 | CDC | SMRG Bins | 61.30 | | 13.2.3 | SCA | Grass Cutting – July to September | 475.00 | | 13.2.4 | M H Kennedy & Son | Grass Cutting – Paddock Straight – August | 170.40 | | 13.2.5 | Ms A Colban | Salary | 1,542.66 | | 13.2.6 | Ms A Colban | Expenses + Vouchers for School Children for Flag 13th August to 10th September | 94.75 | | 13.2.7 | VFM & Grassline | SMRG – Line Paid (To be reimbursed by SCA) | 143.95 | | 13.2.8 | Sidlesham Parochial Church Council | Hire of Parish Rooms – July – September 2025 | 71.25 | | 13.2.9 | SCA | Refund of Payment for VFM & Grassline | 119.96 | | 13.2.10 | Scribe/Starboard Systems Ltd | Scribe Accounts Renewal Package | 417.60 | | 13.2.11 | Scanstation | M365 Business Standard Annual Fee plus Renewal of Administration Fee | 174.24 | |  | **Total** |  | **3,278.31** | | |
|  | Cllr A Harland proposed, and Cllr T Tull seconded the summary of expenditure at 13.1.1 to 13.2.11 be accepted. All agreed. | |
| **14.** | **Requests for Future Agenda Items:** | |
| **14.1** | Report of water leak opposite the Texaco Garage – The Clerk will report it.  Cllr Harland stated we needed a date for the Finance Working Party to meet to discuss the budget for next year and precept. The Clerk to circulate proposed dates. Cllr Wade also asked Councillors to think of possible future projects that could be of benefit to the Parish that might be included in the budget.  Cllr Wade confirmed with Mr Robson that the Last Post will be sounded under the flagpole at SMRG at 11 o’clock on the 11th November. The Clerk will ensure the Wreath will be available for the Act of Remembrance Service on Sunday 9th November 2025.  Hedges – riparian rights and reporting to WSCC – Councillors to report directly rather than passing to the Clerk. | |
| **16.** | **Date of Next Meeting**: 12th November 2025 at 7.30pm in the Parish Rooms | |

Meeting ended 20.57 pm

Alison Colban, Parish Clerk, Sidlesham Parish Council