

SAPC meeting with Scottish Southern Electricity

The Parish Council meeting was preceded by a meeting with Duncan McDonald and Gary Paxton from SSE with all councillors except Mrs McKinley in attendance. The Parish Council had invited the SSE representatives as a result of a large number of electricity outages over recent months which are extremely annoying and in some cases, particularly for those working from home, costly. Mr. McDonald explained that cuts are often caused by trees, birds, squirrels etc causing a short circuit on overhead power lines. He explained that if something is on the power line it will trip 3 times before an engineer is called out. For an alert about minor contact from trees not requiring major repairs, the power can be automatically switched on again in a few seconds. Only if the alert happens three times running is the power disconnected for longer and engineers sent to investigate. SSE have installed new equipment which means that a trip can be rectified through an automated service operated down phone lines via an operations centre in Portsmouth. There have been 20 faults in Steeple Aston since July 2012. In an ideal world all lines would be underground but since this is not possible there is a team of 16 regularly walking the lines and reporting potential defects. The six separate feeds to Steeple Aston are fed from the transformer in Deddington and the responsibility for the cutting of trees near power lines lies with the landowner. SSE will cut trees with the landowners permission. New, modern low voltage cable has been installed throughout the village with an on-going programme of replacement elsewhere. The insulators on the top of poles are ceramic and if moisture enters through small chips or cracks this can also cause electricity cuts. Mr. Bell asked why one particular circuit seems to trip more often than others and was told that SSE did not know the answer to this at present but will investigate. SSE have a policy of a 7 year maintenance cut of trees. Mr. Ekhart said that there is one landowner in the area with a transformer on his land who refuses to cut his trees because of the visual impact of the transformer. Mr. Macdonald said that he will investigate and if necessary force the cutting of the trees. Finally, Mr. Latchford congratulated SSE and their employees on the often difficult work they carry out in sometimes very challenging conditions. Mr. Macdonald and Mr. Paxton assured the Parish Council that the situation in Steeple Aston was being closely monitored and that everything possible was being done to improve the situation

Minutes of the meeting of the Steeple Aston Parish Council held on Monday 16th

September 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall Committee Room

Present: - Mrs Mason, Mr Preston, Mr Coley, Mr Kewley, Mrs Trinder, Mr Ferguson,
Members of the public: Mrs Whybrew, Mr., Ekhart, Mr. P. Bell, Mr. S Latchford

In attendance: Cathy Fleet (Clerk)

Apologies were received from Cllr Kerford-Byrnes, Cllr Macnamara and Mrs McKinley

Declarations of Interest: Mr. Preston declared an interest in the Village Hall and Mrs. Mason declared an interest in the Village Hall and Sport & Rec

Minutes of the last meeting held on 22nd July 2013 were read and it was **RESOLVED** to accept these as a true record of the meeting and they were signed by the Chair.

09.13.01 Public Participation: It was reported that a dark car is often parked across the pathway opposite the lay-by in Heyford Road causing a potential hazard. Clerk to report to TVP
ACTION: CLERK

09.13.02 Clerk's Report

- Grit bins have been filled
- Pagoda in playground has been re-stained
- Bushes by village hall door have been trimmed and rubbish removed from under
- Missing road sign for The Dickredge has been reported
- The inconsiderate parking of the white van on South Side has been reported to TVP
- Clerk requested that all Councillors complete the Register of Members interests and return to CDC
- Mike McKinley has made some steps to box in the pipes around the drinking fountain outside the S & R building

09.13.03 Matters Arising

- School bus - no progress has been made. Mr. Ferguson to follow up **ACTION :SF**
- Clerk to inform volunteer grit monitors of the imminent arrival of grit and ask them to be prepared to collect and store bags as in previous years **ACTION : CLERK**
- Ryan to be asked to stain bollards, and fencing round VH bins. Mrs. Mason to purchase stain **ACTION : MM**
- 4 Paines Hill - Cllr Kerford Byrne had followed up with Bob Duxbury but no progress has been made. CDC are in contact with the owner.

09.13.04 Highways/Footpaths - A quote of £140 had been received from Bob Staig to crown lift the trees on Heyford Road and it was agreed to accept his quote and ask for the work to be completed as soon as possible. **ACTION : CLERK**

A request had been received by the clerk for a litter bin to be sited on Heyford Road near the war memorial and it was agreed that this should be done as soon as possible.

ACTION : CLERK

An email had been received from Hugh Potter regarding the re-instatement of the Rifle Plank Bridge, apologising for the lack of progress and stating that a temporary bridge was not likely to be installed in the near future. Mr. Preston considered this to be an unsatisfactory response, although not the fault of Mr. Potter, and requested that Mrs. Mason contact Sir Tony Baldry and Cllr. Fatemian. **ACTION : MM**

The grass has been cut on Sixty Foot by Tim Taylor but it was agreed to ask Mark Probbitts to quote for cutting between the trees back to the hedge. **ACTION: CLERK**

The marker posts by the Town Well still have not been replaced. Clerk to chase

ACTION : CLERK

09.13.05 Website - The minutes were received. Mr. Coley reported that more technically minded members for the website committee were needed.

09.13.07 Meetings - Mr. Coley had attended the CDC Boundary Review meeting and circulated his report.

09.13.08 Play Area - The play area has been extremely well used over summer and again the question of a collection box was raised and it was suggested that some kind of receptacle, possibly architectural salvage, be sourced to be securely placed on the concrete planters near the picnic tables. **ACTION : ALL**

The ROSPA report had been received which Mr. Preston had compared to last year's, though it was apparent that some of the criteria used varied between the years. The Bike Trail was required to have a start/finish line and some minor holes filled which has been

done by Oli Ong and the boys involved with the building of the Trail. RoSPA reported that the monkey bars were considered potentially dangerous but acceptable as a challenge and of medium risk.

New matting has been placed on the mound and sand and bark has been topped up. Mr. Preston to liaise with Ryan to cut the branches around the zip wire.

Some of the bollards in the car park need replacing. Mr. Preston to speak to Trevor Stewart

ACTION : RP

09.13.09 Village Hall - The extension to the village hall is now complete and an opening ceremony was held on 6th September. A vote of thanks was given to Martin Lipson who masterminded and managed the whole project. All donation and grant funding has been received and Clerk to prepare final reconciliation for next meeting

ACTION: CLERK

09.13.10 Conservation Area appraisal - Deferred to next meeting when Martin Lipson will be present representing SAVA . An open meeting has been arranged by CDC for 23.10.2013 to discuss the appraisal plans.

09.13.11 Toilets/Cleaner - Clerk has given Ryan a set of keys for the toilet. He covered for Julia in her absence.

09.13.13 Allotments - A cheque for £200 for the rent of the allotments for 2013/14 has been received. Also received was the water bill for information only as the water charges are the responsibility of the Allotment Association and not the Parish Council.

09.13.14 - Broadband coverage - Mr. Kewley has had conversations with OCC and reported that with the provision of Superfast broadband the village will be split. The houses that will not be covered are those that are closest to the BT exchange which will be providing the Superfast service through the use of fibre optic cable to the green boxes around the village. Mr. Kewley has prepared a paper for SAL and the website.

09.13.15 - Correspondence - Correspondence lists were circulated and discussed. Clerk had received a letter from Playbus offering their services as a mobile Santa's grotto during December. It was suggested that this could take place on Wed 18th December. Clerk to contact school and pre-school to establish interest.

ACTION : CLERK

09.13.16 OALC representative - Mr. Coley confirmed that as of Monday 23rd September he will be a member of OALC representing Cherwell District

09.13.17 Sycamore Stone - Mr. Kewley reported that the stonemason will be inspecting a stone at the quarry in the near future, and if he considers it is suitable will arrange shipment and commence work. Funding is in place and the parish council will not be asked to contribute.

09.13.18 Planning -

13/00677/F	Mr & Mrs Hanney land south west of Cherry Trees, South Side	Garage REFUSED
130007/disc	Camp Road Upper Heyford	Clearance of condition 561 of 10/01642/out
13/00967/CAC	Dorchester Group	demolish water tower and office block tree work APPROVED
13/00208/TCA	G. Clifton, Church Warden	
13/01198/F rear	Mr. & Mrs Cater Brookside Cottage	proposed first floor and single storey extensions with associated works to to

The plans for Brookside Cottage were examined and discussed and it was agreed unanimously not to object. Mrs Mason to provide Clerk with response asking for conditions for submission to CDC

ACTION : MM

09.13.19 Affordable Housing Building work has commenced on Fenway with a road closure to allow groundworks for services to be laid. The builders, E.G.Carter, met with members of the parish council on 10th September. Completion is due in May. The spelling of the road name is incorrect and a submission for alteration to Coneygar Fields will be sent to CDC. The builders acknowledged that some clearance between the site and Shepherds

Hill will be done to create a link between the two sites. Planning Conditions stated that the front doors would be black but this was considered unsuitable and is currently under discussion. Mrs. Mason to write to Sovereign and Carters for clarification on items raised. Mr. Williams for Carters suggested that he would send occasional articles on progress of the development to SAL and the website. A public viewing will be arranged before the development is completed.

ACTION : MM

09.13.20 Finance - Mr. Coley proposed and Mr. Kewley seconded that the following accounts be approved for payment :

Cheque No	Payee	Detail	Amount
200688	Kevin Brookes	2nd payment VH	36157.20 **
200689	AON	Additional premium	98.07
200690	Playsafety	ROSPA report	234.00
200691	S&R	Hall hire	25.00
200692	OPFA	Subs	40.00
200693	M Lipson	expenses (VH)	17.11
200694	Eurooffice	table & chairs (VH)	549.28
200695	M Mason	Wood stain	27.98
200696	Ryan Kilby	Playground maintenance	366.21
200697	Julia Joyce	Toilet cleaning	280.00
200698	Cathy Fleet	Clerk Salary	217.82
200699	Cathy Fleet	Clerk expenses Aug/Sept	45.99
200700	Banbury Memorials	Sign - History Centre (VH)	420.00
200171	KJ Brookes	CDM works (VH)	1770.00
100002 (NW a/c)	Kevin Brookes	3rd payment (VH)	18638.94 **

** cheque signed outside of meeting

Payments received :

16/08/13	Viridor	£25525.55
30/08/13	Tozers refund	44.00
08/09/13	Viridor	14474.45

09.13.21 AOB - It was reported that proposals for a cricket pitch on Robinsons Close have been abandoned
Local government elections will be on 22nd May 2014

Date of next meeting : 21ST OCTOBER 2013

The meeting closed at 9.25PM

Signed Mrs M Mason Date