

## SUTTON VALENCE PARISH COUNCIL

<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> February at 7.00pm
<b>Venue:</b>	Sutton Valence Village Hall
<b>Present:</b>	Cllrs: Mel Flint, Lesley Flint, Mike Gammon, Sally Annereau, Alex Castle Parish Clerk: Emma Hull Two members of the public

The Chairman to ask if anyone is recording - no recording took place  
 Submissions from Police, Community Support Warden, County or Borough Councillors  
 Questions and comments are invited from members of the public (limited to 15 minutes in total a maximum of 3 minutes per person) This provides an opportunity for members of the public (who are not usually permitted to speak during the meeting except by special invitation of the Chairman) to participate before the start of the meeting by asking questions, raising concerns, or making comments on matters affecting Sutton Valence. As this is an information session only, no action can be taken, but the Chairman may decide to refer any matters raised for further consideration.  
 Apologies received from Ward Cllrs Martin Round and Ziggy Trzebinski due to their attendance at MBC Full Council.

Vice Chair Mike Gammon chaired the meeting

1. Apologies for absence - none received
2. Declaration of Lobbying - none
  - I. Declaration of Changes to the Register of Interests – none
  - II. Declaration of Interest in items on the Agenda - none
- III. Requests for Dispensation – none
3. Cllr Resignation – Cllr Alsop’s resignation was noted and accepted
4. The minutes of the meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> January were agreed and signed by the Vice Chairman Amendments were made to the minutes held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January to show that the budget had been approved, with the final figure agreed at £86,350 and that there may be virements, between budget lines, to be signed at the meeting in March.
5. Invitation – Saturday 17th May 2025 - Official Inauguration of the Mayor of the Borough of Maidstone – Cllr Gammon to check availability
6. Policies to be renewed / agreed
  - i) NALC model financial regulations

The Parish Council resolved to approve the financial regulations
7. 106 Money
8. Cil Money
 

Action The Clerk to contact MBC with regards to Cil money and timescale to spend. The Parish Council to identify projects that Cil money could potentially be used for
9. 2025/26 Grass cutting and maintenance contractor to be discussed

The Parish Council resolved for the current contractor to invoice work on a monthly basis after the end of March as directed by the Clerk until the tender process is finalised

10. Streetlight – update

The Parish Council resolved for the Clerk to start seeking quotes for an alternative provider to maintain the streetlights

11. Contract with Drax

The Parish Council resolved for the Clerk to seek an alternative provider, due to changing to LED, the level of consumption falls below the threshold with some energy providers declining to quote

12. Finance

- i. Authorisation of payments
- ii. Bank Balances
  - I Unity £78,994.36
  - II Nationwide £86,720.65
- iii. The following Income was noted

Car park	48.00	Permit
Uk Power Network	113.58	3 electricity poles at The Harbour playing fields / platinum meadow
Allotment	497.50	Fees

- iv. The following Expenditure were ratified

Unity	6.00	Bank Charges
XLN (Daisy)	76.67	Phone
Tailored Auto	13.20	Pension Admin
Hugofox	35.99	Website
Sutton Valence Village Hall	1,145.49	Rent Oct, Nov, Dec
Sutton Valence Village Hall	1,139.49	Rent Jan, Feb, March
Information Commissioners Office	35.00	Data Protection Fee
Lloyds Credit Card	23.71	Post Office Counter 8.35, Microsoft Office 365 12.36, fee 3.00
Castle Water	6.26	The Harbour Allotments
Toilet Cleaner	25.50	Public Toilet
Unity	6.00	Bank Charges
Staff	2856.61	Costs

- v. The following Expenditure was agreed

P Waring	7848.24	Grass cutting and maintenance as per 24/25 quote
M Flint	47.04	Sundries
J Burnett	196.88	Clerk Assistance
Stationery Express	289.60	Newsletter printing
Stationery Express	181.94	Insert for newsletter
P Coleman	12.00	Allotment overpayment

- vi. Bank Reconciliation - approved
- vii. To finalise the Budget it was noted that the budget had been set at the meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January
- viii. To review printer and phone contracts – update given

### 13. Planning

Recommendations to be made on

- i) 25/500195/FULL Land At Haven Farm North Street Sutton Valence Kent ME17 3HT  
Section 73 - Application for variation of condition 31 (to provide a zebra crossing instead of a toucan crossing on the A274) pursuant to 22/504692/HYBRID for – Hybrid Planning Application consisting of: Full planning application for the erection of 105no. dwellings, retail space (423m<sup>2</sup>), access off North Street and site infrastructure works, following demolition/removal of the existing structures. Outline planning application (with all matters reserved) for the development of a doctor's surgery (1,500m<sup>2</sup>) with associated car parking and a phased development of 5 x self-build plots

The Parish Council resolved to make no comment on this planning application

- ii) 25/500111/FULL Land At Forsham Lane South Of Park Farm Forsham Lane Sutton Valence Kent Erection of polytunnels

The Parish Council resolved to object to the above application on the following, the proposed development is not in conformity with the Plan supporting policies. SP17 is clear that proposals in the countryside will not be permitted unless they accord with other policies in the Plan. The proposal is in the countryside, we believe that the Plan policies would be contravened - the proposal is on the slopes of the Greensand Ridge. SP17 specifically designates the Greensand ridge as a landscape of local value (paras 4.113 to 4.116). The development would materially impair the iconic views from the historic village across to the low Weald as well as views of the ridge when approached from the south and looking west.

### Meeting to be closed to members of the public for item 14

- 14. i) To consider quotes for tennis hut repairs

The Parish Council resolved to go with Quote one £2,630.00

- ii) To consider quotes for alternative provider for finance, allotment and asset package

The Parish Council resolved for the clerk to undertake training on the current package and to enquire if it was possible to have a monthly service

- iii) HR

- l) To consider and resolve the Clerks leave

The Parish Council resolved for the Clerk to carry over 5 days leave

### 15. Working Groups / Committee Updates

- I) Event Committee (Jubilee)

The Parish Council resolved to discuss events at main council meetings

- II) Working Groups

- i Communication – Newsletter being delivered by Cllrs and volunteers
- ii Climate Change / Open Spaces – no update

### 16. Recreation and Open Spaces

- I. War Memorial Play Area and field

- i. Weekly inspections - nothing to report
- ii. Container on War Memorial Playing Field – update given

- iii. Peter Shayler Fair 2/6 till 9/6

The Parish Council resolved to agree the dates

- iv. To ratify the use of KCC members grant for Tennis Hut repairs

The Parish Council ratified the use of the members grant for the tennis hut repairs of £1,443.83

II. Village Hall

- i. Lease

The Parish Council resolved to defer until further information obtained

III. Permit Car Park

- i. To consider options to secure the permit car park – update given

IV. Harbour Play Area and field

- i. Weekly inspection - nothing to report

V. Open Spaces

- i. Platinum Meadow – update given

- i) Independent Survey –update given

ii. Allotments

- i) To agree a date for Allotment holders meeting

The Parish Council resolved for Cllr Castle to Chair and to inform the Clerk of available dates

17. Roads and Transport

I. Roads

- i. Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) – update from Cllrs M Flint and Gammon

- ii. To consider using CIL money to purchase a Speed Indicator Service Scheme (SIDS)

Action The Clerk to contact KCC with regards to the criteria

- iii. Speed Watch – update from Cllr L Flint

The Clerk to contact the Speed watch co-ordinator for an update

II. Public Transport -nothing to report

18. Police – nothing to report

19. Village Hall – items to be raised by PC representative - none to raise

20. Cleaning of public toilet – update given

21. Training

22. KALC

- i) Chairmanship Conference 27th February 2025 Appledore, £70 Plus VAT for Members – Chairman unable to attend

- ii) Maidstone KALC Committee Meeting – 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025 – Cllr M Flint to attend and to give an update at the next meeting

23. Ward Cluster meeting 11<sup>th</sup> February update – Cllr L Flint

Action The Clerk to request a list of meeting dates

24. KCC Consultation

- i) Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy closing date 12 March 2025

Action Cllr Annereau to formulate the parish response

25. Agenda items for next meeting

- i) Cil money

- ii) Analysis of parishioner survey

- iii) Resourcing model

26. Date of next meeting 12<sup>th</sup> March

Meeting Closed 21.55