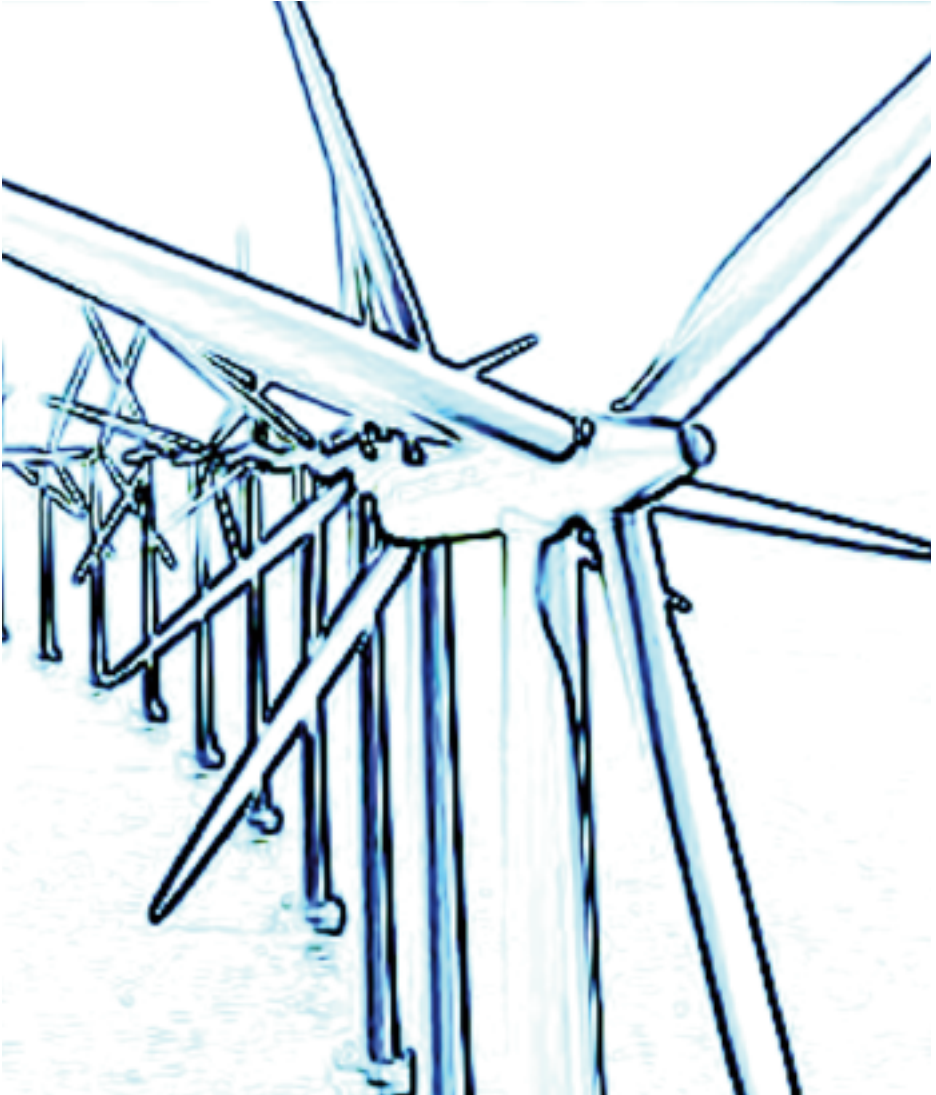


Sulgrave News



March 2009

Well, it seems spring has sprung at last, and I wish all those who are now tending their gardens for the Front Garden award, and the National Garden Scheme Open Day the very best of weather. I look forward to seeing your hardwork later in the year.

Thank you for all the items for this month's newsletter, I will have to keep the odd item over for next month, but do keep them coming in. Without your contributions there will be little need for a newsletter.

As usual a reminder about the email address for the Sulgrave Newsletter. It is

newsletter@84f.com

Deadline for the April newsletter - 20th. March.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER CAN BE LEFT AT THE VILLAGE SHOP.

Could I remind all contributors to provide a name and contact number with their articles- Thanks



Tom Cockeram, editor

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This Newsletter is an independent publication, edited and compiled by Tom Cockeram. It is delivered free of charge to all houses in Sulgrave and Stutchbury by Jill & Anthony Barrett, George Metcalfe and Vera Smith. Costs are met by Sulgrave Parish Council. It is provided as a service to the community and those involved in its production cannot accept responsibility for omissions and errors, or necessarily agree with its contents.

Regular Events

- BB&C Service 2nd Sunday of the month at Culworth Church, 11:00 am
- Book Club 4th Tuesday of each month at the Star Inn, 8:00 pm
- Circle Dancing 3rd Thursday of the month at Culworth, 7:30 pm
- W.I. 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Church Hall, 7:30 pm

Cover - An image of the ever spreading wind farms. Due to the problems of photocopying dark images and photographs it has been simplified.

ngs gardens open
for charity

This year seven Sulgrave gardens are opening for the NGS on Sunday 14th June from 2 - 6 pm. The admission price per adult will be £4, children free.

Those gardens taking part will be Church Cottage, Eagle House, The Herb Society garden at the Manor, Mill Hollow Barn, Sunnymead, Threeways and The Watermill.

We don't open every year as many of the gardens in the Yellow Book but we usually open every other year.

The NGS supports several charities and keeps running costs to an absolute minimum. Despite the awful weather last summer more money was given to the charities than ever, over £2.5 million, so all the pennies really help, especially when charities may be struggling with lower donations from corporate sponsors.

Please come and visit, and munch your way through one of Jean's delicious teas at The Cottage.

If you would like to help on the day in any way please contact me (earlier help also very acceptable, weeders are always especially welcome!) *Ingram Lloyd, tel: 760520*

The Star Inn

Most of us are feeling the effects of the crunch,
But we still like to go out for a yummy munch,
So you are cordially invited one and all,
To visit the Star where you'll have a ball,
Choose from our special menu & and we will throw in some wine,
How many £s we hear you ask we'll reply 'a mere nine'.

Offer available Tuesday to Thursday
Soft drink option also applies

Call us for further details
01295 760389

Woman's World Day of Prayer - March 6, at 2 o'clock

This is an annual ecumenical service held all over the world, and we in Sulgrave have been asked to welcome everybody to our church next Friday.

Do come and join us – opportunity to worship together and to meet people from other villages over a cup of tea afterwards *Julie Metcalfe*

The Church Hall

The interior of the Church Hall has recently received a make-over. A panel of users said that it looked at least 15 years younger and it was now somewhere that they would definitely consider being seen!

Bookings for meetings, children's parties etc.

Call Roger Cherry – Tel. 760216

Sulgrave with Culworth Women's Institute

We were saddened to hear of the loss of Angela Cherry a former member and past president. Angela joined our W.I in 1961 and was a member until 2008. She was a loyal member and represented the W.I. at many village activities over the years and will be missed by all.

Due to adverse weather we had to cancel our February meeting, hopefully Mr Soden will be able to visit us in the future with his 'Wildlife Photography'.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 11th March at 7.30p.m in the Church Hall when our speaker is Jean Wilson on 'Hats'.

New members and visitors welcome.

Margaret Watts

“If winter's here, can spring be far behind?”

Sulgrave gardens are already showing new growth and promise of colour to come. The W.I. cups will be awarded this year for 'Early Spring in your Front Garden'. Could be your garden this year?

Pauline Flynn. W.I.

Safari Supper

Don't forget this not to be missed event and meet new people while enjoying a lovely meal. It is still not too late to reserve your place by calling either Shrimp on 760214 or Anne on 760634



NOT BUSINESS AS USUAL

Come snow or floods the shop thrives in adverse weather conditions.

During the week of the snows over 20 per cent more customers used the shop and experienced the benefits and the service that it provides to our community throughout the year.

Are you getting the most from our bakery selection? You can choose to

- buy fresh baked bread, baguettes, delicious croissants & pains au chocolat
- buy items from the freezer for home baking
- order what you want from our suppliers' lists (including cakes)

Our fruit and vegetables are still cheaper than Tesco; you can shop local and save money

SULGRAVE VILLAGE SHOP

for

QUALITY, VALUE AND SERVICE

ORCHIDS

I was interested to read the article in the November newsletter on Sulgrave orchids.



Many years ago I planted a *Dactylorhiza Foliosa* – the Madeiran Marsh orchid in the top corner of the Garden of Remembrance.

It had been sent to me by Dr. Max Walters of the Cambridge Botanic Garden, for whom I worked for many years. In his letter he wrote - “It won’t flower this year – unless you are very lucky.” Came the spring and I wrote back – “I gloat, I gloat – I have several flowers.” When we moved from Spinners Cottage I tried to lift four bulbs but only the one in the church garden survives. Each year I hope it will spread.

Dr. Walters has since died but he would be delighted that this is still enjoyed.

Anne James - Brackley

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Sulgrave Parish Council is organising a Litter Pick Event on Saturday 14th March and needs your help

Why not come along and HELP?

10.00 am
at
Sulgrave Church Hall

Tea and refreshments
will be served

Please wear stout shoes and warm clothing

Image courtesy of “The Big tidy up”



Sulgrave Parish Council

The Parish Council is made up of the following members and they can be contacted as follows:

Chairman: Cllr Graham Robert, Westfield, Park Lane, Sulgrave, OX17 @RX (07778 584108)
Vice Chairman: Vice-Chairman – Cllr David Kellett (07747 808574)
Parish Clerk: Mrs Christine Coles, 55 Gillett Road, Banbury, OX16 0DR (tel. 01295 276229; fax. 01295 276658; email colesnccj@btinternet.com)
Cllr Clare Pollak (01295 768224)
Cllr Jane Osborne (07879 624375)
Cllr Jo Powell (01295 768243)
Cllr Andrew Waite (07787 502260)

Draft Notes from Parish Council Meeting held 22nd January 2009

Introduction

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Everyone stood for one minutes silence to remember Cynthia Beck and Angela Cherry who had both sadly passed away.

Confirmation of minutes of last meeting held on 4th December 2008

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed as a true record. These were proposed by Cllr Waite and seconded by Cllr Powell.

Matters Arising

The Clerk had not received a response from SNC in relation to the pruning of the apple tree in the middle of the village. The Chair instructed George Metcalfe to carry out the work when convenient and thanked him for offering to do the work. Chris Coverley has agreed to help him.

To receive an update on the Castle Green Restoration Project

Cllr Pollak gave an update. The contractors had been told they could do no further work until the Spring when the frosts had gone. Work has not been up to scratch and will be reviewed at this time. The contractors had asked for further funding to help ease their cashflow problems.

The Rhodes Partnership have asked them to prove that the value of work is greater than what has been paid to date. Some rough figures were provided six weeks ago but are not detailed enough and nothing has been heard since. The Castle Green Committee (CGC) have considered their request and declined it. An informal email from Cllr Pollak has been sent advising of this decision. The Rhodes Partnership have asked the CGC what has been paid but no figures have been agreed between them yet.

The project completion date should have been 30.04.09. Cllr Pollak has had to make contact with the Lottery Fund to ask for a two year extension to 30.04.11.

The benches have been delivered and the positions marked out. Mr Ratley is to make the concrete bases in the next six weeks. Colin is making a plaque as he has sponsored a bench. The CGC have approached the Cave Family to ask if they would like one in memory of Emma. If they agree, this will be sponsored by the CGC as Emma started the project off.

Cllr Kellett felt the point should be made known to the contractor that as the project will be not completed this year, it could jeopardise the funding.

Update on grass tenders received and selection of contractor

A formal notice was placed in the Banbury Guardian in November advising the Parish Council were going out to tender. Ten initial responses were received although only seven people actually quoted against the spec sent to them which Cllr Waite had put together. One contractor had declined to quote for the main contract and had just quoted for the churchyard. There was a common formula across the document and the annual cost of 12 cuts ranged from £2962.00 to £5875.00. There was a difference in close cutting costs but three were within the same range.

The Chair felt the council needed more time to consider the quotes in detail but a budget figure for grass cutting had to be set tonight.

Cllr Kellett suggested that £3400.00 was included in the budget for grass cutting in 2009/10 which was the average figure of the lowest four. Cllr Pollak felt that a 40% increase on the previous year was a lot although the scope and detail of work had increased.

Cllr Waite suggested that a figure of £2600.00, which was halfway between £2K, (what was spent in 2008/9) and £3400.00 be included in this years budget. The main number of cuts could be reduced to 10 and other areas could be targeted more closely such as Pocket Park and Castle Green.

From the floor, Mrs Barrett noted that her son cut the grass in Pocket Park quite frequently last year. It is fast growing grass and needs to be kept short. She asked the council to consider this as a priority area in this years cutting plan.

Cllr Waite then proposed that the budget figure for grass cutting be set at £2600.00 which represented a 30% increase on last year. This was seconded by Cllr Powell. All the councillors voted in favour. Cllr Waite would ask the lowest four contractors to requote and focus on the priority areas such as Castle Green and Pocket Park. The other areas will have to fall in line with the budget. Cllr Waite would make contact with them and would ask for references and note the first year would be on a trial basis. He was given the authority to proceed within the budget figure of £2600.00 and report back at the next meeting.

Setting of Budget 2009/10

The Chair had circulated a spreadsheet prior to the meeting which detailed actual spend for 2008/9 to 31.12.08. A proposal was made that the budget be set this year at £10,067.00 which represented a 5% increase compared to last year. The council discussed the various areas where money has to be spent. The allotment area will require fencing and water, money that was available last year has not been spent and the Chair proposed that this be transferred to a contingency fund, which when added to this year's allocation would make a total of £600 for allotment project. It was suggested that an allotment association is formed who can then make their own decisions as to how the money is spent to improve the allotment facilities. The Chair also proposed that the £500.00 allocation for Pocket Park that was not spent last year be moved to the Pocket park account.

Other areas of expenditure which has increased in 2009 include:-

One off legal costs for the shop lease which expires on 30.09.09.

Employee costs which have to be increased to allow for additional hours and a pension arrangement for the Clerk.

Increase in Public Lighting energy and maintenance costs

Newsletter publishing costs

The budget for 2009/10 was then presented as follows:

Expenditure 2009/10

Public Lighting	1,100.00
Village Mowing	2,600.00
Pocket Park Inspection	67.00
Pocket Park Maintenance	200.00
Communication/Broadband Costs	60.00
Village Maintenance	
Allotments	400.00
Castle Green	100.00
Stocks/Trees	100.00
Church Hall Hire	250.00
Church Clock Maintenance	100.00
Section 137 Subscriptions	170.00
Audit	400.00
Employee Costs (Salary/Travel)	2,000.00
General Admin (Postage/Copying/Fax)	250.00
Newsletter publishing	250.00
Web site costs	48.00
Other Admin	150.00
Insurance	700.00
Annuity payment of PWL for Shop/PO	2,716.00
Sub Total	11,661.00
Contingency	£100.00
Total	£11,761.00

Income 2009/10

Precept	10,067.00
Mowing Allowance from NCC	449.00
Rent from Shop	1,500.00
Allotment Rent	135.00
Proceeds from village fete	0.00
Grant from Cllr Ben Smith	0.00
Total	£12,151.00

The Chair proposed that the precept for 2009/10 be set at £10,067.00. This was seconded by Cllr Kellett. All the councillors voted in favour.

With the budget set for 2009/10 the Chair then proposed that Sulgrave Parish Council approve for the Clerk to join the Local Government Pension Scheme. This was seconded by Cllr Waite and all the councillors voted in favour.

Councillors Reports

Pocket Park

Cllr Osborne has been able to make contact with Ruth Rolls who is the Northamptonshire Pocket Park supervisor and she is sending details of the Grass Roots Grant. The expiry date is April 2009. Through this grant, councils can apply for up to £5K for Pocket Park projects but normally match funding of 75% is required.

Cllr Pollak asked if she will be able to offer any advice on schemes and Cllr Osborne replied that would be welcome assistance.

NCC Consultation Documents

Cllr Kellett had looked at the NCC proposals on mineral extractions and there will be no direct impact on the village.

Community Speedwatch

Cllr Powell had received the traffic data reports from the sensor boxes which had been placed near School St/Church St junction. In respect of the motorists whilst there were no reports of excessive speeds, out of 2877 vehicles, 44 vehicles exceeded the speed limit during the quarter. The survey will continue and Cllr Powell will ask the police to put the boxes nearer to the Stocks in order to get results from there.

Stockwell Lane/Drains

The Chair has tried to meet up with MGWSP to discuss the flooding, drain and water problems in Stockwell Lane. He will have to rearrange another meeting to fit it in with his own work commitments.

Allotments

Cllr Waite has investigated a cheaper solution to supply water to the allotment area. Bowsers can be supplied which are a polythene tank in a metal cage. To supply 1000 litres the cost is £211 & VAT. A consequent delivery of water would cost £211.00. Bowsers can be bought on Ebay for £40.00 but have to be collected in person. A cheaper solution would be to ask someone nearby to fill them up. Cllr Waite has tried to speak to Andrew Grant at NCC about a grant for the water supply but Sulgrave is outside of this area. He has suggested speaking to Cllr Ben Smith.

Spinners Cottages parking

This is ongoing.

Finance Report

The following payments were approved and cheques raised accordingly. They were proposed by Cllr Powell and seconded by Cllr Pollak.

£48.12	Sebastian Flippence (website charges)
£42.72	BT (fax line)
£34.00	Northants ACRE
£79.84	EON (lighting)
£50.00	Parish Clerk (float)
£333.54	Parish Clerk (hours)
£31.62	Parish Clerk (mileage)
£208.75	EON (electric)
£1.00	Mr and Mrs Pollak (respect of permissive path agreement)

The Clerk will ask Sulgrave Manor to resubmit an invoice for the newsletter copying to 31.03.09. From the floor Mr Metcalfe asked how many copies were being paid for and the Chair replied 260. Mr Metcalfe said it should be 210 and he agreed to speak to the Manor directly.

Correspondence

A letter from Brackley Police Station advising that PCSO Suzanne Bourne is leaving on 6th February to work with the Safer Community Teams in the county. The Clerk to write a letter of thanks and good luck.

Letter from SNC to advise that Barn 1 of Dial House Farm has been renamed to 'Stone Barn'.

Letter from Christina Shillito, Footpath Warden to advise that she wishes to hand the role over to someone else. A huge vote of thanks was given to her for all the work she has done and all the walks she has organised. She will be asked if she can continue until a replacement is found. A note to be put in the newsletter.

The Chair had received notice from Mrs Barrett, Chair of Sulgrave Charities that she wants to resign at the end of April. An appeal letter was sent out to various people in the village and two responses were received. An up to date report on her replacement will be given at the next meeting.

Open Forum


Mr Metcalfe referred to the council meeting of 06.11.08 and asked Cllr Osborne if she had been successful in getting a group of people together to work in Pocket Park. She replied she had but they had not met yet. He noted that the role of Pocket Park Warden was still unfilled and it is a key issue to be resolved. The new season begins in March and there is rotting vegetation in the pond area. He has given the job description to Cllr Osborne and felt a full page spread should be included in the next newsletter making the job as attractive as possible. New people in the village may be interested. The Chair replied that the council recognise the issue and are working as hard as possible to fill the role. It is a difficult role to fill and the council have tried many times in advertising it. They would continue to work on it.

Date and Time of next meeting

12th March 2009 at 7.30pm in the Church Hall

Meeting Closed at 9.30pm

March 2009

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
30	31					1 Benefice Holy Communion 10:00 am M. Pink.
2	3	4 Pilates 7:30 pm Culworth	5	6 Women's Day of Prayer 2:00 pm Church	7	8 Holy Communion 8:15 am Sulgrave
9	10	11 W.I. Meeting 7:30 pm Church Hall	12 Parish Council 7:30 pm Church Hall Circle Dancing 7:30 pm Culworth	13	14 Big Clean-up 10:00 pm Church Hall Safari Supper	15 Evensong 6:00 pm Sulgrave
16	17 Soup Kitchen 12:30 am Church Hall	18	19	20	21	22 Mothering Sunday 10:00 am Sulgrave
23	24	25	26	27		29 Benefice Holy Communion 10:00 am C. Warden