

SWALCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 14TH JANUARY 2014 AT 7.30PM IN SWALCLIFFE VILLAGE HALL

Councillors Present

Julie Carpenter (JC), Chairperson

Patrick Bradshaw (PB), Vice-Chair

Mike Taylor (MT)

Mick Foley (MF)

Charlotte Watkins (CW)

Christine Coles, Parish Clerk (CC), two villagers and Kiran Hingorani and Cathy Stoertz of Swalcliffe Park School

1. Apologies

Jane Gallick

2. Declarations of Interest

MF declared an interest under item 6 as he rents a garage.

3. Minutes of last meeting held on 3rd December 2013

The minutes were approved and signed.

The meeting was attended by Kiran Hingorani (KH), Principal of Swalcliffe Park School and Cathy Stoertz (CS), Chair of Governors to explain the current planning application of change of use from admin/classroom space to residential at Lodge Cottage, The Square. CS explained the purpose of the application which was to help increase the flexibility of accommodation across school. Boarding arrangements have changed recently to single bedrooms. Before that 6-8 children shared a room. There are fewer bedrooms now and this is a more flexible approach to boarding. A neighbour had expressed concern. KH went to see the person concerned and apologised they had found out by letter. He explained there is pressure on space in the school. There are different groups of children, some of which would benefit from being in a smaller building. The house is like a halls of residence and can be very lively and noisy at times. The room may not be needed but it gives the school the option. The area would not be used before September. MF asked if the boys are encouraged to use community facilities during the day and if they go to college. KH explained that the boys of KS4 who are between 15-16 years attend the college in Banbury three days per week and would use the local bus to get there. They would not go out in the evening. This is a transition period so that the Local Authority can pick up when the boys leave the school and go back home. KH noted there is an open day on 4th April which anyone can attend from 11-2.30pm. A note to be put in the Link. MF thanked KH for the school allowing the use of the football pitch over the Christmas period. The event raised £350.00. MT noted that in the past a taxi has picked up a child and carer from Leicester, dropped them at the school and then sat all day in his taxi at Taylors Farms before picking the child up again. KH advised that child has left the school now and did not realise that was happening. Taxis are normally organised by each Local Authority. KH did note that start times at beginning of terms have changed to 1pm to help children from wider areas who have to travel further.

JC thanked them for coming to the meeting. Mr Hingorani and Mrs Stoertz left the room.

4. Matters Arising from the previous meeting

Home To School Transport Consultation - JC has completed the consultation document. The deadline was extended to 14th January.

Registration of Swalcliffe Fuel Allotment - No suitable documents to help with the registration, have been found yet.

White gates to mark entrances to the village - The order for the gates has been placed.

Plants for wellhead - JC to buy the plants in the Spring.

Parish Pit - PB and CC to draft a letter.

Bench outside the church - The bench has been taken away to be re-varnished.

Trimming of trees on the Green and in front of the school - Approval has been given for the trimming of the trees on the Green. JC to approach two people to quote for the work.

Vacancy on council - There is still a vacancy.

Registration of area in front of school - A cheque of £40.00 to be raised to cover the payment.

Trimming of overgrown vegetation - Gerry Melvin to do the work on Thursday.

Cutting of the village and churchyard - The Parish Clerk to write a letter to the PCC. For the benefit of Mr Grimston who was at the meeting, the Chair gave an overview of why the letter was being written. Mr Grimston, who is on the PCC, thanked the Parish Council for their contribution.

Dogs off leads - MF to put a note in the February edition of the Link.

Christmas - The lights were put on the trees on the Green. A smaller tree will be purchased next year. The Chair to work out costs for the pub and church for the electric used.

Parish Plans - CW to invite Aimee Evans of ORCC to the Annual Parish Meeting in July and talk about parish plans.

Highways - A pothole to be reported at the top end of Bakers Lane.

Broadband Update - Doug Seymour has circulated an update. The village will not achieve high speed rates for a long time.

5. **Planning applications**

One new application had been received since the last meeting:

- *13/01889/F, Change of use from admin/classroom space to residential at Lodge Cottage, The Square.* Councillors raised no objections to the application.

The Parish Clerk gave an update on older applications:-

13/01288/F, Change of use from farm building to single dwelling at Blacksmith Cottage, Swalcliffe Lea. Approved by CDC.

13/01545/F, Change of use of land to garden. Construction of garden railway at Barnwell Cottage, Main Road. This has been withdrawn .

13/01661/TPO, Crown lifting , thinning and crown thinning of two lime trees on the Green. Approved by CDC.

12/01772/F, Construction of a tennis court at the Mount, Green Lane. This was refused by CDC on 29th April 2013. The application went to appeal. The appeal is allowed and planning permission has now been granted by the Planning Inspectorate.

6. To discuss garage rent and access payments for 2014/15

It was agreed to increase the garage rent from 1st January 2014 as follows:-

Single garage - £140.00

Double garage - £200.00

Access payments for Mr Cooling and Mrs Bowen to be increased by £10.00.

Action: The Parish Clerk to email the lease to councillors.

A short discussion took place about the Parish Council selling the garage land but people do need parking and garage space within the village. The current garages are not of sound structure and may have asbestos roofs. Another idea was to amend the lease and include a compulsory purchase clause so that when garages became free the Parish Council could buy them. This would give them greater control over the whole unit.

Action: The Parish Clerk to circulate the current lease to councillors.

7. To discuss parking in and around the village hall

MF noted that parking in and around the village hall is a big problem. An untaxed car has been left outside the village hall for two months. A discussion took place about other places to park and there is an overflow car park at the Barn which the school have used in the past. In Tadmarton village hall car park there is a gate and there is more control over who parks in there. There is a sign outside the village hall to show when the hall is being used.

Action: JC to speak to Tracey who takes the bookings as she may be able to ensure the sign is showing the correct information.

8. Financial Report

To set the precept for 2014/15

The Clerk had circulated an income and expenditure spreadsheet for the current year. Large items of expenditure continue to be the grass cutting, clerks payment, maintenance and general insurance.

It was agreed to increase the precept to £6500.00 and to accept the grant of £223.00 from Cherwell District Council

The following payment was approved:

- £928.12 to Broker Network Ltd (general council insurance)

To consider a donation request for the Link

It was agreed to give a donation of £80.00.

9. Correspondence

- ORCC, Community Led Neighbourhood Planning Conference on 25.01.14
- Oswyn Murray, next meeting
- Oxfordshire Waste Partnership, Tour of plant on 23.01.14

10. Councillors Reports

The Chair and MT announced they would not be standing for re-election in May. A note would be put in the Link as there will be at least three vacancies to fill in May.

The Parish to forward previous meeting minutes to David McLindon for the website.

MF asked who would send out village information to newcomers and JC noted that Carole Moir is the person.

11. **Date and time of next meeting**

Tuesday 25th February 2014 at 7.30pm.

Meeting Closed 9.30pm