

SWALCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

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

Councillors Present

Jane Morgan (JM), Chairperson

Jenny Bell (JB)

Ben Benson (BB)

Lizzie Melvin (LM)

Victoria Taylor (VT)

Christine Coles, Parish Clerk (CC), two villagers and Mrs Grimston of Sibford

1. Apologies

Cllr's Foley and Watkins

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Melvin declared an interest in the payment to Gerry Melvin.

Cllr Taylor declared an interest in the discussion to be held about the revised planning application at Swalcliffe Park Equestrian.

3. Minutes of last Parish Council meeting held on 9th September 2014

The following amendment was made.

Page 2, third paragraph under Item 5, line 9. Highlands to read highways.

The minutes were then approved and signed.

4. Open Forum

Barbara Taylor (BT) and Sarah Taylor (ST) attended the meeting to talk about their planning application at Swalcliffe Park Equestrian which they have submitted to CDC.

Their last application was withdrawn because CDC were going to impose conditions which would have removed events and closed the business down. They have recently met with CDC and a new application has been submitted. The area is currently used for training and events which is a shop window for events. It is about trying to get the right balance. CDC have requested that the whole physical area that they currently use is incorporated into the application. There will be greater control to regulate how they run their business and no additional events have been added. The 28 day ruling was not previously included because that is the legal entitlement.

Traffic was a major issue before and the applicants have tried to accommodate each person with their main issues. Traffic was eliminated from Grange Lane and the appropriate road signage will be a priority.

The Chair asked Barbara Taylor if she would be prepared to attend a meeting and answer questions from villagers. BT said yes but only if the meeting was chaired properly.

Cllr Benson suggested that this information is put on the Facebook page which is closely monitored by himself and Cllr Melvin and inappropriate information is removed.

Mrs B Taylor also advised that the anaerobic digester is up and running. They will be organising another open day again soon.

Barbara Taylor and Sarah Taylor then left the meeting.

5. Guest Speaker, Richard Hartree of Sibford to talk about Parish Plans

Mr Hartree advised that the Sibford Parish Plan was developed two years ago. He was Chairman of the Steering Group but nothing to do with the Parish Council. He received an invitation from Sibford Ferris Parish Council to put together a plan and be one of the first volunteers. He got in touch with ORCC and they had several meetings.

Then there was an open meeting in the village, attended and ran by ORCC which went very well. A few more people came forward to join the steering group and there was one Parish Councillor from each council as a representative. Another open meeting was held three months later and more detail was presented at this meeting. During the next three to four months, more people came forward. The plan took eighteen months to complete and it was a community plan, not a parish plan. It was easy in Sibford as there are two villages and there was no conflict of interest with the Parish Council. The questionnaire was prepared by the Steering Group and printed by Sibford School. It was delivered to each house by volunteers to see the interest and ask peoples thoughts and they collected them back. A monthly newsletter was set up to keep the communication alive. A new bank account was set up for grant money and expenses.

Mr Hartree felt that looking back now, the plan did not transform the village. However ninety four people said they wanted a walking group. One has been organised and about fifteen people attend every other week. In Sibford Ferris there is a play area near to houses and a suggestion was made for one in Sibford Gower. Sibford Gower Parish Council could not establish a real need and the cost would have had to be added to the precept. This idea was not progressed any further.

Cllr Bell asked how they got interest from the village? Mr Hartree explained that the idea was announced with presentations. More people joined as the process went along. A launch event was held in December with an open meeting in March. Mr Hartree visited Oxford 2/3 times and went to other places where they were doing plans. He said it was important to keep it alive after.

The Parish Council thanked Mr Hartree for attending the meeting and he left the room.

Councillors then discussed the Parish Plan launch meeting on 4th November. The A4 flyers will be distributed by each councillor by area. It was agreed that additional flyers would be copied and laminated by Banbury Print and Design (5 x A4, 5 x A3 and 2 x A1 size). A flyer could be put on the phone box. The Parish Clerk to email each village group (PCC, Village Hall committee, Swalcliffe Charities, Swalcliffe Society, Fundraising group) to ask for a representative to attend the meeting and consider being on the Steering Group. ORCC will attend the launch meeting and run the session. Each councillor to work with a small group during the evening. It was agreed that less food should be prepared for this meeting.

Action: A pre-session meeting to be held with the Chair, Cllr Bell and Cllr Taylor.

6. To discuss sewage issues in Bakers Lane and Swalcliffe Park School

Two residents have reported that the school are pouring fat into their sinks as part of food preparation which is backing up the sewers and impacting on drains in Bakers Lane.

Action: The Parish Clerk to email Cathy Stoertz, Chair of Governors at Swalcliffe Park School.

7. To receive a brief update from everyone on their key area and progress

Parish Pit lease - Cllr Melvin has been able to read through some of the paperwork passed to her. There is evidence of garden plots in 1965 and as the stone pit was worked, the garden plots disappeared.

Action: The Parish Clerk to pass the solicitors contact details to Cllr Melvin so that she can contact them.

Community Speedwatch - Cllr Taylor has not been able to get together with Cassie and PCSO Allford yet.

Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) meetings - Cllr Taylor to look at attending these meetings.

Village Hall Committee - Cllr Taylor attended the last meeting and lots of ideas were discussed. Some dates were not in the diary. The committee agreed to keep the notice-board up to date including the outside board. They are hoping to bring back the film night. Cllr Taylor to remind the committee about the clock in the meeting room which has stopped working.

Highways - Cllr Benson has been given a selection of new speed board signs which can be put up on telegraph poles. At least one to go at each end of the village and they can be changed regularly. Cllr Benson has reported all the highway issues from the last meeting to Fix My Street. Peter Eghawary has asked OCC to check that the 30mph signs are in the correct position. The 30mph poles can be painted white. Cllr Benson has arranged for a 'No HGV' sign to be put up at the end of Park Lane.

Broadband - Cllr Benson spoke about broadband speeds and problems he has had with BT recently. Mobile phone connection is limited too. The Parish Council to send a complaint letter to BT.

Defibrillator - Cllr Benson has seen a BBC website which suggested that defibrillators could be put in phone boxes with solar panels used as a charging point. In the past a resident has asked BT to move the village phone box and BT agreed to this. He asked if the Parish Council were willing to lose the phone box. It could be the hub of the village and used as a notice-board. This point will be raised at the Parish Plan launch meeting on 4th November.

Grass cutting - OCC have confirmed there is no official rota of when they cut villages. There is a pot of money and the more important places take priority over less important areas.

White post for Sibford end - OCC have advised that it would be quicker if the Parish Council organise the extra white post for the Sibford end themselves.

State of garage area - There are a few issues to address before major work can be done in front of the garages. The Parish Council own the land and the lessees own the garages. There are drainage issues, weeds, potholes and rubbish in the area. It was agreed that the Parish Council should get legal advice from a solicitor and get a correct value for the ground rent.

Action: The Parish Clerk to contact Berrys in Banbury and Sheldon & Bosley in Shipston upon Stour and ask their management fee. Cllr Taylor to ask her father the cost of putting more stone down.

Kerbing of parking area by village hall - Cllr Benson to get quotes.

8. To discuss where to hold future council meeting

The village hall is used a lot and a pilates class would like to start using the main hall from 11th November each Tuesday night. This would mean the Parish Council would only have access to the small meeting room. It was agreed that for the next meeting on 25th November, the council would ask to use the restaurant of the Stags Head Public House. A fee of £20.00 would be given to the Stags Head for use of the room.

Action: The Parish Clerk to speak to the pub and ask to use the meeting room for the evening.

9. Finance Report

Bank balances are as follows:

Current account £10,557.00

Deposit account £16,790.00

Betty Panks Account £4,664.00

The following payments were approved:-

£120.00 to Gerry Melvin (grass cutting)

£295.38 to Parish Clerk (hours)

10. Planning

One new application had been received by the council:-

- 14/00293/TCA, Fell 1 apple tree at Lime Tree House, Main Road. The Parish Council responded to note that they noted the safety concerns raised by the owner but the tree has not been inspected by a tree specialist. The Parish Council responded and asked if a CDC tree specialist could look at the tree to see if any of it could be saved.

There was an update on an older application:-

- 14/00272/TCA, Tree work at Barnwell Cottage, Main Road. CDC had no further comments or objections.

11. Correspondence

- CDC, Dementia and Alzheimers Awareness Session. This session has taken place already.
- Oxfordshire Association for the Blind, Donation Request
- OCC, Hook Norton CD Primary School Proposed Expansion

12. Councillors Reports

The Stags Head are happy to supply the electric for the lights on the Christmas tree but there were problems last year with the electrics. The Christmas lights will need checking beforehand.

Action: Cllr Taylor to arrange for a qualified electrician to check the electrics at the Stags Head. Cllr Foley to organise the putting up of the Christmas tree. Cllr's Foley/Benson to check the Christmas lights.

The Chair advised that she has been told via Peter Beddowes that Swalcliffe Park School have allocated an area of their land to be used as a village play area. This will be discussed in more detail at the Parish Plan launch meeting.

Cllr Benson noted the overgrown ivy on the wall near the cottages in Park Lane. Cllr Bell advised that she has spoken to the school groundsman and their schedule of works will include this work. Cllr Benson to complain too.

Meeting Closed 10.00pm