

SWALCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

AN ORDINARY MEETING
HELD 6th JANUARY 2009 AT 7.30PM
IN SWALCLIFFE VILLAGE HALL

Councillors Present

Julie Carpenter (JC)

Patrick Bradshaw (PB)

Mick Foley (MF)

Mike Stanley (MS)

Mike Taylor (MT)

Martin Greenslade (MG), Christine Coles, Parish Clerk (CC) and one villager

1. Apologies

None

2. Declarations of Interest

MF declared an interest in the garages as he rents one.

PB declared an interest in his planning application at the Mount.

3. Minutes of last meetings held on 25th November 2008.

The minutes were agreed to be a true record and duly signed by the Chair.

5. Matters Arising from the previous meeting

Registration of Swalcliffe Common - This is ongoing.

Main Road markings - The work has been completed although it was felt the white edge line was painted too close to the properties to be able to walk along safely. The Clerk to speak with highways and also ask if cats eyes can be put down along this line like in Tadmarton

Children At Play Sign for Bakers Lane - To be carried forward. JC and MG noted that the No Through sign for The Square was in place. Additional road name signs for both Bakers Lane & Park Lane are still needed - PB.

CDC, Village Traffic Calming - Portable Speed Indicator Signage - There is no further news.

New villager welcome letter - Carole Moir from Brick Row is speaking to newcomers of the village to portray their history via the Link magazine. MF agreed to go and see her.

Village Hall Update - Six events are being held during this year in the village hall which are heavily subsidised by OCC.

Upkeep of church garden planted by Betty Panks - MS is to speak to Mark Parsley who may be interested in doing this work.

JC has spoken to Lloyds TSB Bank and a new account has been set up called Swalcliffe Parish Council, Betty Panks Memorial Fund and £5K has been transferred into it.

Work at Jesters - Work is still going on but may be finished towards the end of the month. The Clerk to send a letter asking the owners to ensure the whole area is left as it was found.

Bench by bus stop - To be carried forward to the next meeting.

Parish Pit - PB reported that Melanie Haynes (MH) has now tried to formally register this piece of land. JC has since found evidence of a map provided by the Ministry of Housing in 1967 approving the land. MS remembers Bert Haynes using the land in 1976 to grow vegetables when he first moved in but the land wasn't worked for that many years after. Doug Seymour has been in the village since 1984 and was involved with the village hall since that time and never recalls anyone maintaining the parish pit. JC has asked if he would look through his files for any further background information. There are no maps available with the enclosure award which Ladders have asked for. It was agreed that PB would first speak with Ladders regarding sending MH a 'without prejudice' letter asking why she has such an interest in this plot. JC has also asked Ladders to confirm how much it will cost for them to complete the Land Registry application form to register the land quickly with the new evidence supplied along with any supplementary statutory declarations.

Wall outside Backwater - There is no further news. MS has all the information about the accident and PB agreed to use this to write to DOCRWA.

School Sign - The next governors meeting is 19th January. The School are aware of the parish's concerns regarding the appearance of the sign.

Extension of Wall Around the Green - The funding cheque from TOE for £4K has been received and put in the bank account.

Co-option of new councillor - MS was asked to approach Jane Gallick of Brick Row and MG had been approached by Dan Parish of Forge Cottage, Main Road.

Resignation of Councillor - MG passed a letter of resignation to the Clerk which was accepted by the council. JC thanked MG for all his work over the years as a councillor.

Christmas Lights - All work is complete and JC thanked everyone involved for their help. JC to calculate money owed to The Stags Head for the electricity.

Freedom of Information - The Clerk to put together the guide to information charges.

Removal of Sycamore Tree o/s Rock Cottage - MS to obtain relevant planning paperwork.

5. Setting of Budget 2009/10

The Clerk had prepared a spreadsheet of spend to date for 2008/9 and estimated spend. The budget set last year was £4725.00.

To date £2806.00 has been spent and there is estimated spend of £1830.00 for the rest of the year. This totals £4636.00.

As most services will increase this year it was proposed that the precept be set at £5000.00 for 2009/10 which is an increase of £275.00. The Clerk to advise CDC.

6. To review the garage rental payments

MF remained in the room but did not take part in the discussion.

The agreement made at the last meeting meant a discount was being passed to all garage holders but the mess has been caused by a person who rents a double and single garage from the Parish Council. JC felt it should be discussed again to make sure the right decision was reached. After a long and detailed discussion it was agreed the new charges agreed at the last meeting, £100.00 for a single garage and £150.00 for a double garage should be implemented immediately. Also, that if any villager wished to claim a rebate on this years rent because of the messy state of the area, then this should be dealt with separately. The Clerk to write to each garage holder and advise.

7. Planning Applications

A decision notice had been received from CDC.

08/02301/TCA, Fell Hawthorn Tree at The Mount, Green Lane. This was approved.

A letter from CDC was received to note the following application had been withdrawn.

08/02296/F, New stable building and change of use of adjacent land for a proposed new tennis court at The Mount, Green Lane.

PB then went onto say that the letter sent from the Parish Council, which objected to his application, was damning and in his opinion, the council's decision was spineless. A member of the council asked PB to withdraw the comment but he did not. PB felt there was a huge difference in opinion between the site meeting and the Parish Council meeting held soon afterwards. He felt he was disadvantaged by being a Parish Councillor. Circulars distributed by a member of the village who opposed the application were considered to be inappropriate by the Council. In response the general feeling from the councillors was that they had been very honest in front of him at the last meeting. They openly spoke about their own concerns which were minuted. The council took a very balanced view of the neighbours views and also considered their own views. MT noted that although he was absent from the last meeting he felt the council had to be very careful in their judgement of the application especially as PB is a councillor. The Parish Council do have a duty to represent the village when advising of their final decision and had thought about it very carefully'.

8. Financial Report

The Clerk has sent a letter of complaint to Lloyds TSB about the overdrawn charges and is awaiting a response.

9. Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received and was distributed to the councillor's:-

- CDC, Scrutiny Review into Rural Affordable Housing and exception sites.

- CDC, Cherwell Seniors Groups Newsletter

MG and the villager left the meeting.

10. Councillors Reports

- The Council discussed the co-option of two new councillors to replace Martin Greenslade and Steve Kingsford. MF proposed that Jane Gallick and Dan Parish be co-opted onto the council. This was seconded by MS and all the councillors voted in favour. The Clerk would write to each applicant.

11. To set regular meeting dates for 2009

The Clerk to set the meeting dates and email everyone.

12. Date and time of next meeting

17th February 2009 at 7.30pm in the village hall. Meeting closed 9.00pm.