

SWALCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

AN ORDINARY MEETING
HELD 7th APRIL 2009 AT 7.00PM
IN SWALCLIFFE VILLAGE HALL

Councillors Present

Julie Carpenter (JC)

Patrick Bradshaw (PB)

Mike Stanley (MS)

Mike Taylor (MT)

Mick Foley (MF)

Jane Gallick (JG)

Dan Parish (DP), Christine Coles, Parish Clerk (CC) and one villager

1. Apologies

None

2. Declarations of Interest

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

3. Minutes of last meetings held on 6th January 2009 and 17th February

These were agreed and signed as a true record of both meetings.

4. Matters Arising from the previous meeting

Registration of Swalcliffe Common - This is ongoing.

Main Road markings - The cats eyes have been put in the road.

Children At Play Sign for Bakers Lane - To be carried forward.

CDC, Village Traffic Calming - Portable Speed Indicator Signage - The position has been agreed and underground services have been checked. Work should commence soon. The position is on the grass verge opposite the Tithings sign on the left heading towards Sibford. A second fitting to get incoming traffic from the Banbury end may be considered at a later date.

Village Hall Update - The new curtains are up.

Upkeep of church garden planted by Betty Panks - MS to speak to Mark Parsley as the weather is better now. MF agreed to do some extra work at the roadside edge of the churchyard.

Work at Jesters - Work is still going and some hard core has been put down outside of their gate. The owners are continuing to park vehicles on their right of access which was not agreed when the land was sold to them. This will be monitored over the coming months.

Bench by bus stop - The old bench was not covered by the insurance policy. DP suggested asking CDC if they use a local source to purchase benches. CC to ask George Reynolds. MF presented some research on benches found on the internet and they range in price considerably. It was agreed that we would need to spend in excess of £500 to obtain a bench of a similar quality and that it would need to be maintained annually.

Parish Pit - A letter dated 23rd March was received from the Land Registry noting the Parish Councils objection to the application affecting Title No ON283954 for the land on the "east side of Green Lane". The Land Registry cannot complete the application until the objection has been withdrawn or disposed of. The applicant has to consider whether they still want to proceed or withdraw the application in the light of the objection that has been received. An application can be withdrawn at any time. The applicant has until 15th April to confirm if they want to proceed. If the applicant wishes to proceed and we continue to object, we will both be embarking on a process which could lead to a hearing before the Adjudicator to HM Land Registry or to proceedings in court. The applicant and Parish Council will be offered an opportunity to negotiate. If either party indicates that they do not want to negotiate or negotiations break down the matter is referred to the Adjudicator.

The council agreed to wait until 15th April but they do have to bear in mind that, if unable to come to an agreement on negotiating significant costs would be incurred if we lost the case.

PB noted that he had mowed the pit the previous weekend

Wall outside Backwater - There is no further news.

School Sign - A new smaller sign is up. Gareth Lewis has agreed to attend the next council meeting and introduce himself to everyone.

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

Removal of Sycamore Tree o/s Rock Cottage - The tree, in the conservation area has a TPO on it. MS has left a message with the relevant person at CDC who will come out and have a look.

Garage Rental/Access payments - A letter was sent to MF advising that rental would stay at £70.00 instead of being increased to £100.00 due to the inconvenience of work being carried out at Jesters. A further letter had been received from Mrs Brookes of Sunrise noting a similar comment. It was agreed that the Clerk should send her the same letter offering the garage rent of £70.00.

Planning Application 09/00013/F, Erection of farm office and plant room, store, garaging and stables associated with existing farmhouse at Upper Lea Farm, Swalcliffe Lea. This has been approved by CDC.

30mph sign outside Manor Cottage, Main Road - Has been replaced.

List of councillors for notice-board- CC to email to MF.

6. Financial Report

The following payments were approved at the meeting:

- £52.00 to Gerry Melvin (grass cutting)
- £1150.00 to Ladders Solicitors (legal work on parish pit)
- £126.26 to OALC (Subscription 2009/10)

7. Correspondence

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

- CDC, Spring edition of Youth Spotlight newsletter
- Thames Valley Police, Community Policing Awards
- Oxfordshire Advice Centre, donation
- CDC, Agenda for Standards Committee meeting on 8th April
- CDC, Cherwell Recreation Strategy Action Plan 2009/10
- CDC, Cherwell Countryside Forum on 22nd April 7, 2009
- OCC, Services for children need promoting at local level

8. Councillors Reports

- MT agreed to take the old bench away.
- MS noted that MT's sons have been using the common for shooting. It appears they may have been responsible for removing some smaller trees along the boundary with the bridle way and that this might encourage riders on to the common. If he is using the area commercially, MS suggested he makes a donation towards the charity fund. JC also noted that a rather unsightly feed bin had been secured in the middle of the cleared area and suggested that this could be better placed out of sight in the vicinity. MT agreed to speak to his sons.

PB left the meeting at this point whilst the council discussed his planning application.

5. Planning Applications

A new application had been received since the last meeting:

- 09/00341/F, Horse Stables at The Mount, Green Lane

The main objection by the council before was change of use regarding the tennis court and this is no longer the case. The stables have been moved away from the houses although objection letters have been raised again from close neighbours. Mrs Bradshaw who was in the room advised that three members of CDC had visited the site and suggested the stables are sited in the revised position so as not to be obtrusive and that CDC did not want them put at the bottom of the field as they felt development would be outside of the village boundary.

JC noted that additional planting to the south was not shown on the plans and it would help soften the look of the building. Mrs Bradshaw advised it was not included but she would put some up if the plans were approved.

The Parish Council requested that the applicant should give due consideration to the possible decorative re-use of the extracted soil and rubble within their own field instead of having to arrange it to be taken away and so reduce the disruption to neighbours.

JC advised that the council had not objected to previously approved applications for similar stable blocks within the village over the years. The councillors were unanimous in their view that they would not object to the above application. It was agreed to submit the following observations:-

- That the revised position of the stable is a large structure close to neighbouring property boundaries and that the addition of hedge screening to the south elevation would soften the view
- That works traffic be better directed out of the field via the B4035 and NOT via Green Lane
- It is our view that the stable would be better positioned at the north end of the field where the present shelter is, away from any neighbours.

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

26th May 2009 at 7.30pm in the village hall

Meeting Closed 9.30pm