

SWALCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 7TH SEPTEMBER 2010 AT 7.30PM IN SWALCLIFFE VILLAGE HALL

Councillors Present

Julie Carpenter (JC)

Mike Taylor (MT)

Mick Foley (MF)

Mike Stanley (MS)

Patrick Bradshaw (PB)

Dan Parish (DP),

Christine Coles, Parish Clerk (CC) and two representatives from Thames Valley Police.

1. Apologies

Jane Gallick

2. Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

3. Minutes of last meetings held on 6th July 2010

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters Arising from the previous meeting

Registration of Swalcliffe Common - Ongoing.

Children At Play Sign for Bakers Lane - Ongoing.

Upkeep of church garden planted by Betty Panks - Ongoing.

Parish Pit - The lease has been amended and once JC has signed on behalf of the council will be returned to Graham & Rosen Solicitors. MS advised that Doug Seymour has applied for a grant to purchase a sinking thermal sink to heat the village hall. It is hoped it can be placed in that piece of land when registration is complete.

Tree by the Old Bakehouse - This has not been removed yet.

Action: MS apply for a notice with Cherwell.

Clearing of weeds - OCC do not clear weeds from pavements.

BT, removal of payphone - BT have advised the payphone cannot be removed.

Mirror on wall by Swalcliffe Manor - MS has tried to chase this as the Enforcement Officer was due to visit as reported in July.

Action: The Clerk to ask Louise Wilson at OCC for an update.

Incidents relating to children at Swalcliffe Park School - The Chair has tried to make a last minute contact with Caroline Daniels but have yet to hear back. It seems there have been no more incidents since.

5. To discuss the Speedwatch Initiative

The meeting was attended by Richard Miller and Angela Alford of Thames Valley Police. They were able to meet Councillor Dan Parish at the recent 'Have Your Say' meeting held in August and were invited by him to attend this meeting to discuss speeding. Speed enforcement is currently carried out by the Road Safety team which is part funded by the Police and Oxfordshire County Council. Funding has recently been withdrawn from the Safer Roads Partnership but speeding is still a problem in 14 villages. The police spoke about 'Community Speedwatch' which is being rolled out across the south of the county. The police were able to set up a SID unit as a demonstration model at the meeting. Laser beams are set for oncoming traffic and the data collection is very accurate. The programme requires four or five volunteers working at one time and they need to be committed. Richard Miller recommended the Parish Council not be part of the volunteer team as they are often busy with other duties on the council. If the police are in attendance and vehicles are speeding, they can issue a summons or ticket at the roadside. If the community wished to go ahead the police would have to visit the village and carry out a health and safety check and risk assessment. The police have a laser gun which they are trained to use but they do have to deal with other issues in the 14 villages they represent. After the speed check has been carried out the data is sent away and put through the National computer. As only a PO can enforce speed at the roadside, if only a PCSO is present a warning letter would be sent. The details would be kept on the database and, if the same vehicle is caught again a referral made to Bicester and a home visit would be made. Many criminals are traced through Speedwatch. Richard Miller is currently looking into whether parishes can conduct speed checks without the presence of police. They are also looking into whether neighbouring parishes could purchase a SID unit between them. Deddington Parish Council have bought their own laser gun which is expensive and the training is very intense. Richard Miller did not recommend the parish went down this route. If the police are in attendance, they will bring their own equipment. Angela Alford also advised that she is trained on the ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) system. Cllr Foley asked about how agitated people should be dealt with. Richard Miller replied the advice given would be to stand back from the situation but this would be part of the training procedure. He left NAG survey forms which, when completed, would set the three priorities for the next year.

Action: DP to look for a Speedwatch Co-ordinator and a team of 4-5 people.

6. To discuss highway issues

The last council meeting was attended by two representatives of OCC Highways and various measures were proposed to reduce speeding and to help motorists deal with bad road conditions when driving through the village.

Treatments recommended for the village

- *Removal of centre line throughout village between 30mph terminal points (OCC cost). It was agreed this should be done.*

- *Removal of adverse camber sign (OCC cost).* It was agreed the sign should not be removed as the suggestion was made purely to reduce clutter in the village.
- *Installation of white gates with possible combining village name plate and terminal signs (Parish to absorb cost of gates, OCC would pay for new village nameplates).* It was agreed this work should be done.
Action: MT to get a quote for the making of the gates.
- *Application of surface roundels adjacent to repeater signs (OCC cost).* It was agreed this should not be done.

Treatments that could be considered

- *Provision of permanent VAS at a cost to parish of £3-5K.* It was agreed not to proceed with this at present as there are other cheaper treatments that can be tried first.
- *Kerbing (Parish Cost) around the corner of Lime Tree House.* DP had met Simon Marsden of OCC Highways to discuss kerbing and his recommendation is to kerb a small part of the road by Manor Cottage without interrupting current drainage. The cost would be approximately £2K. It was felt that ideally the kerb should be longer, from the phone box past DPs house but there could be other implications.
Action: CC/DP to ask Louise Wilson for further advice.
- *Series of sharks teeth which could be applied at terminal points (OCC cost).* It was agreed the council should proceed with this treatment.

The council had previously discussed changing the way people parked on the Green. Parking at angles with marked spaces was suggested as being much safer. However valuable spaces will be lost if this is done and the villagers do not want that. The question was asked if the road edge marker line outside Manor Cottage and Forge Cottage could be moved but OCC have advised that it would have to be looked at after the kerbing has been done so they can judge the alignment which may need adjusting. Speed surveys were discussed and OCC have confirmed these will be carried out at the Lea end and another at the Barn after the school holidays. OCC have advised the Main Road will be resurfaced next year.

Action: The Clerk /DP to go back to Louise Wilson with agreed recommendations.

7. Planning applications

Two new applications had been received since the last meeting:-

- *10/01208/F, New external hard/soft landscaping including pond, decking, play areas, new gates and alterations to garage building at Swalcliffe Manor House, Main Road.* The council would be objecting as it is a change of use from agricultural to domestic and a disruption to the flow of the landscape and a potential environmental impact on the pond by Green Lane.
- *10/00221/TCA, prune back overhanging branches of Cedar tree at Forge House, 5 Old Forge Yard.* To be considered by the council.

Decision notices had been received on the following applications:-

- *10/00778/F, Single storey rear and side extensions at Stratford Lodge, Main Road.* Approved.
- *10/00663/F, Retrospective. Erection of combined garden shed and summerhouse at 6*

Brick Row. Approved.

- *10/00992/LB, Internal alterations at The Manor House, Main Road. Approved.*

8. Financial Report

The following payments were approved at the meeting:

- £127.00 to Gerry Melvin (grass cutting)
- £57.20 to CDC (uncontested election costs)
- £262.50 to Parish Clerk (hours)
- £27.15 to Parish Clerk (expenses)
- £54.09 to Parish Clerk (mileage for 2009/10)
- £188.00 to Oxfordshire County Council (purchase of one new grit bin)

9. Correspondence

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

- OCC, Oxfordshire Big Debate meeting dates
- OCC, Road Safety Casualty Report 2009
- Oxfordshire Association for the Blind, Donation request
- ORCC, Community Led Planning in Oxfordshire
- CDC, Invitation to Environment Forum on 4th October 6.30-8pm
- 'No Need For Nuclear' newsletter
- CDC, Annual Electric Blanket Testing Campaign 2010
- OALC, Being a Good Employer, A Guide for Parish & Town Councillors
- ORCC, Invitation to ORCCs 90th birthday AGM and Conference on 8th October
- ORCC, Celebrating vibrant rural communities and their 90th birthday in a publication
- CDC, 2011 Census, Councillor Handbook

10. Councillors Reports

- Potholes were reported at the top end of Park Lane and at the side of the Green by the pub. CC to report.
- The owners of Backwater have reported flooding in their garage. CC to speak to OCC Highways as they had previously suggested putting a grid in place to take the water which runs down Bakers Lane
- MF and MT agreed to cut in front of the church together in November.
- MF reported a parking problem on the piece of parish land opposite Sparrow Hall. MF to talk to David and Anna McLindon to discuss what action to take to resolve the issue.
- MT advised a new fence around "Wykham" had received a complaint from a villager. It was agreed they should check with the Land Registry regarding the boundary details.

11. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 19th October at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting Closed 10.15pm

