

SWALCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING **OF 21st APRIL 2015 AT 7.00PM** **IN SWALCLIFFE VILLAGE HALL**

Councillors Present

Jane Morgan (JM), Chairperson
Jenny Bell (JB)
Ben Benson (BB)
Mick Foley (MF), Vice Chairman
Lizzie Melvin (LM)
Victoria Taylor (VT)
Christine Coles, Parish Clerk (CC)

1. Apologies

None

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Foley declared an interest as he rents a garage from the Parish Council.

A payment of £195.00 to Gerry Melvin was approved.

3. To receive an update on the garages and area

The Clerk had received a letter from Mrs Elisabeth Irons to note that nobody has expressed an interest in the garage she is selling with her house. The Parish Clerk to reply that there have been three expressions of interest, Gerry Melvin, Dan Parish and Charlotte Watkins. The following points to be noted in the letter. As soon as her house is sold, the lease which is signed in her name will be broken. The lease will not be automatically renewed to the purchaser of the house and the garage must be sold to someone in the village.

A couple of suggestions have been received from other garage owners. Mr Stanton would like to buy the land that his garages sit on which would add huge value to his property, Jesters. He could make the Parish Council a proper offer and the money be used on other things. Cllr Foley has said he might be interested in buying his plot. Another idea was to sell off the whole area and the area looked after by a management group. A covenant would have to be put on the land to protect the area. Another suggestion was for longer leases such as 15 years which would be more valuable and to charge more for ground rents. Cllr Foley spoke about the state of the area and the garages being in the conservation area. The whole of the area is in an awful state. Some councillors felt it should be kept as a village facility and the freehold not sold. Another idea was to give concessions to those who have spent a lot of money on their garage.

It was agreed to invite all garage owners to the next Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 12th May at 8.30pm and for them to come with ideas and suggestions.

Action: The Parish Clerk to invite garage owners to the next meeting. Cllr Melvin to draw up plans for the area.

4. To look at the budget for the coming year

A more detailed budget discussion will be held at the next meeting.

Meeting Closed 7.20pm