

SWALCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 29TH MARCH 2016 AT 7.00PM IN SWALCLIFFE VILLAGE HALL

Councillors Present

Jenny Bell (JB)
Lizzie Melvin (LM)
Mike Stanley (MS)
Victoria Taylor (VT)
Christine Coles, Parish Clerk (CC) and four villagers

1. Election of Chairperson

Due to the resignation of Jane Morgan, Cllr Stanley proposed that Cllr Bell be Chair for the duration of the meeting and this was seconded by Cllr Melvin.

2. Apologies

Cllr's Benson and Smith

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Bell declared an interest in the discussion of flooding in Park Lane.
Cllr Melvin declared an interest in the grass mowing.
Cllr's Taylor and Stanley declared an interest in the Village Hall Committee.

4. To approve the minutes of the previous council meeting held on 12th January and 16th February 2016

The minutes of the 12th January 2016 were approved and signed. An amendment was made to the minutes of 16th February. Page 4, item 11, line 7 to now read 'As Duncan Jack's family once owned Brick Row, he may be able to clarify where the culvert should be'. The minutes were approved and signed.

5. Open Forum

Mr Hodgkinson spoke about cars speeding along Park Lane. There are blind corners at the top and children play along this road. Councillors agreed that the road is not used by strangers and it is more inappropriate driving for the road condition rather than speeding. At the meeting organised by Thames Valley Police recently which the Parish Clerk and Cllr Taylor attended, a discussion took place about Shenington trying to get a 20mph speed limit. The Parish Clerk to contact Shenington Parish Council for more information.

There seems to be a problem with dog poo in Park Lane despite there being two dog bins along this road. The Parish Clerk to write a piece for the Link.

6. Matters Arising (for information only)

Assets of Community Value - The Parish Clerk is to speak to Faith Trivizas at the Stags Head as she has concerns about the pub being registered.

Woodland Play Area - Mr Foley advised that a meeting will be held within the next two weeks. He will email the date to the Parish Clerk to see if a Councillor is available to attend.

7. To discuss the Councillor vacancy

The Parish Clerk has notified Cherwell District Council of the resignation of Jane Morgan. An official notice is being placed on the notice-board to advise of the vacancy.

8. To discuss the Digital Connectivity Group

Robin and Emily Grimston of Elm Farm, Sibford have been approached by Cornerstone Telecommunications Infrastructure Ltd , CTIL (a joint venture between Vodafone and Telefonica) to install a mast at a site adjacent to the B4035 at grid reference 367379. The mast will be of lattice design and approximately 15 metres high. The installation will consist of the mast and two or three consoles to house the electrics enclosed in a perimeter fence of 5 metres by 5 metres. CITL will be responsible for arranging all planning and other consents. The planning application will be sent to Sibford Parish Council.

A meeting of the new village group will be held on 5th April. It is hoped that Cllr Smith can attend this meeting to represent the Parish Council.

9. To discuss the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations

An email had been circulated from David McLindon about ideas for the party. Councillors agreed to these in principle. There is a grant of £200.00 available from Cherwell District Council which the Parish Clerk will apply for.

10. To receive an update on the defibrillator

This is work in progress. Community Heartbeat Trust have advised that there is a possible grant from Southern Electric. The application form has to be completed by 31st March. The Parish Clerk will complete and send off.

11. To receive an update on the village website

David McLindon has updated the website as he has been working with other groups on the village plan group. He is proposing to phase in the website by having a link on the home page of the current site to the new one. He has asked for feedback. The site will be developed so that content can be added and other people will have access to update the site.

12. To receive an update from Cllr Taylor about the recent meeting with Thames Valley Police

Cllr Taylor and the Parish Clerk attended a meeting at Banbury Police Station. The police normally attend as many Annual Parish Meetings in the area as they can but they have a big area to cover. This year they decided to invite Parish Councils to one meeting which would give them more time to do other work.

There were representatives from twenty parishes at the meeting. The top three priorities are going to be Speeding, Parking and Anti Social Behaviour. There is a small police team and they want targets which are achievable. Speedwatch was discussed at the meeting and if parishes have their own equipment they can do Speedwatch on their own. Cllr Taylor thought that a PCSO had to be in the village at the time but this is not the case. The police are going to forward details of Speedwatch equipment which parishes can buy themselves. The cost could even be shared between neighbouring parishes. Cllr Taylor to try and get a list of villages that have their own equipment.

Parking is a harder problem to solve as a lot of problems are to do with villagers parking in their own villagers as space is limited. If someone parks in a dangerous way that can be reported. The police are looking at parking around schools which is a big problem and in particular at drop off and collection times.

13. To discuss Councillor Responsibilities

The list has been updated but will be discussed in full at the May meeting. Mr Foley offered to give a debrief on the work of the North Oxon PC Group and what they do.

14. To receive an update on the garage area

Cllr Melvin advised that the double garage belonging to Mrs Irons has been sold to Colin Hill and Cathy Stoertz. Mr McLoughlin has sold his garage to Mr Stanton. Mr Stanton has been asked to pay rental now on two single garages and a double garage. He will be giving up the double garage on 31st December. He can sell the garage to the Parish Council or the village. At the end of this year a new 5 year lease will be drawn up for owners.

From the floor, Mr Foley asked if the garage and village hall are still within the Conservation Area? Cllr Stanley replied he has does not a definitive version of the whole area yet but there is no intention to reduce the area.

The Parish Clerk noted that letters and leases have been sent to all garage owners but not all rent has been received.

15. To receive an update on the Brick Row culvert

The details have been sent to OCC Highways. The Parish Council are awaiting a response. The Chair noted that DEFRA may be able to help.

16. Finance Report

Bank balances are as follows:

Current account £ 5,951.11

Deposit account £17,012.00

Betty Panks Account £4,316.12

The following payments were approved:

£165.00 to Gerry Melvin (grass cutting)

£133.07 to OALC (subscription)

£175.06 to ABC Advertising Partners Ltd (website costs)

£138.60 to Parish Clerk (hours)

£47.99 to Parish Clerk (expenses)

£958.00 to Projectorpoint (Purchase of projector for VHC). The Parish Clerk to invoice the VHC for the full amount less VAT.

17. Planning

One new application had been received since the last meeting:

16/00054/TCA, Fell 1 Sycamore tree at Old Cottages, 4 Park Lane. Cllr's were concerned that by taking out a whole tree can be more troublesome as the hole where the tree is may settle and drop.

Update on older applications:-

- *15/02119/F and 16/00035/LB, Installation of external security lighting at Swalcliffe Park School.* The Parish Council raised objections. Cherwell District Council have approved the application. From the floor Mr Foley noted that objections are being raised within the community and legal council may be taken.
- *16/00015/TCA, Fell 1 Red Chestnut at Forge House, 5 Old Forge Road.* Approved by CDC.
- *15/01815/F, Alterations and erection of extensions to existing dwelling, and formation of new vehicular access and parking space at Abingdon House, Park Lane.* Approved by CDC.

16. Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received:

CDC, Rural Housing Pack

OCC, Update on Oxfordshire Together

Mr Hodkinson of 5 Brick Row, speeding in Park Lane

CDC, Guidance on bias in decision making

OCC, Oxfordshire Devolution

CDC, Queen's 90th birthday celebrations

OCC, Subsidised bus services

Robin Grimston, Mobile mast

Colin Hill, garage

OCC, Public Service re-organisation for Oxfordshire

Michelle Boycott, Grange Lane

OCC, Scope of independent review of unitary options for Oxfordshire

CDC, Swalcliffe Conservation Area

Several items of correspondence were highlighted:

OCC, Subsidised bus services, An email has been received from Tim Huckvale, Chair of Sibford Ferris PC to advise that Warwickshire are going to subsidise the bus route from Shipston to Brailes and may be persuaded to subsidise the route to Banbury. This may mean an increase in the bus fare. There will be more news in May.

Michelle Boycott, Grange Lane - The awful state of the road was discussed. The Parish Council have tried for a long time to get it resurfaced. A mock fence was put up to try and protect part of the road but the police took it down as they felt it was dangerous. Cllr Melvin to take photos of the road surface and the Parish Clerk to send to OCC.

CDC, Review of Swalcliffe Conservation Area - A four hour site meeting was held with the CDC Conservation Officer, Cllr Stanley, Colin Hill and Cathy Stoertz. Half of a draft document has been seen. The CDC Conservation Officer is hoping to set up another meeting when she returns from annual leave.

19. Councillors' Reports

Cllr Taylor reported that the VHC are looking at putting in another door into the village hall so that caterers can go straight into the kitchen area. This might be through an internal or external door. It would be easier to put in an internal door via the small meeting room and not have to apply for planning permission but this may not solve the problem from a catering point of view.

Cllr Stanley reported the recent sewage problem in the garden of Woodbine Cottage, Bakers Lane. Sewage was pouring out for several days. The problem was reported to Cherwell District Council and the Environment Agency. The problem seems to happen annually and may be connected to the school. Cllr Smith to speak to the school.

20. To discuss arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting

It was agreed that speakers should be invited to receive an update from The Woodland Play Area, Swalcliffe Park School, Parochial Church Council, Village Hall Committee, The Barn and Swalcliffe Charities. Cllr Taylor to provide refreshments. The Parish Clerk to prepare the notices and invite speakers.

Meeting Closed 8.35pm