

# SWALCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 6th SEPTEMBER 2011 AT 7.30PM IN SWALCLIFFE VILLAGE HALL

### Councillors Present

Patrick Bradshaw, Vice Chair (PB)

Mick Foley (MF)

Mike Taylor (MT)

Jane Gallick (JG)

Dan Parish (DP)

Mike Stanley (MS)

Christine Coles, Parish Clerk (CC), Angela Allford of Thames Valley Police and Mr Hingorani, Head of Swalcliffe Park School

### 1. Apologies

Julie Carpenter

### 2. Declarations of Interest

MS declared an interest in the planning application for Lodge Cottage.

### 3. Minutes of last meetings held on 5th July 2011

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.*

*Parish Pit - The council should be receiving another lease soon.*

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

*Speedwatch - Thanks was given to DP for arranging for Angela Allford of Thames Valley Police to attend this meeting.*

*Coping of wall around the Green*

*Action: The Chair to ask Paul Waller and Mr McNally for a quote.*

*White gates to mark entrance to the village*

*Action: The Clerk to chase OCC Highways for a response.*

*LED lights along Main Road - MF was able to show two samples of LED lights that he had borrowed for the meeting. MS has been approached by a number of people and the general opinion is that people do not want them. The original idea was suggested by MT as the Main Road can be very dark and dangerous in the dark. It was agreed to not progress this any further.*

*Overgrown vegetation*

*Action: The Parish Clerk to send a letter to Ben Benson and Elizabeth Whittle about overgrown vegetation along the Main Road*

*Undergrowth in churchyard - This needs to be done again. MT/MF to action.*

*Redressing of Main Road - This has been done.*

*Planning Application 11/00939/F, Single storey rear extension and 11/00966/F, Erection of single storey poolhouse at the Mount, Green Lane. This has been approved by CDC.*

**5. Community Speedwatch, Angela Alford of Thames Valley Police**

Angela Allford (AA) attended the meeting to discuss the "Speedwatch Initiative". It has been in force now for 12 months and Swalcliffe is a flagship village. However new blood is needed as volunteer numbers are dropping. There has been an impact and offenders have been compliant with the police. AA is hoping to bring the laser gun to the village which she can now use on her own. In the past there has had to be an officer with her. The council discussed the VAS (Vehicle Activated Signs) and how effective they are. However they have not been used in the village for some time now.

*Action: A new note to be put in the Link asking for volunteers. AA to find out if Steve Wood still works for OCC and if he is still responsible for the VAS.*

**6. Mr Kiran Hingorani, New Head of Swalcliffe Park School**

Mr Kiran Hingorani (KH) has worked for a Global Education Company for the past eight years and previous to that he was a principal at a similar school in Derbyshire. KH lives in Derbyshire but stays in Broadwell during the week. The population of the school has changed. The boys have EBD, Educational Behaviour Disorders, mainly Autism Spectrum Disorder. There has been an increase in the number of referrals of boys between the ages of 11-18 years. There are 46 boys currently and they have varying degrees of autism. The school have a two weekly boarding arrangement and every other weekend the school is closed. During the week the boys are out and about with the staff which gives them the opportunity to be independent. The children learn a lot about role play and use these skills outside. The children have poor social interaction and communication skills. KH explained that one boy has gone onto university and another goes to Banbury College. Some children go to college with support which is hugely expensive. The last Ofsted inspection was three years ago but there will be another soon as there has been a change in leadership. Looking at referral patterns a few years ago, no boys stayed at the school beyond the age of 16. Now there are nine boys over the age of 16. The school try to get the boys outside as much as possible to try and prepare them for life after school.

KH suggested that the children's GCSE artwork could be placed in the hall which may help the village understand what goes on at school. DP and MS mentioned that there has been trouble in the past with children running away. KH noted that the school has to be very careful because of safeguarding and child protection.

All the boys have statements and are away from their homes. The school have a duty of care to look after them. MF referred to the annual football charity match which is played on Boxing Day in the school grounds. It has been a tradition for the last 5-6 years and there has always been a good atmosphere. KH will listen to suggestions about how to integrate the school and the village and offered to give a talk to everyone.

MT asked if the children go home to their families. KH explained that the majority go home and some go to foster homes. It is important for the children to maintain sibling and parent relationships and the school work very closely with the parents. The school and families try to follow the same routines. If the children were separated from their families for a longer period of time this relationship could break down. In the past all the children have experienced levels of educational failure such as bullying. The biggest class size is five children with six adults. The provision that the school provides is well resourced and there is a lot of space. There are speech and language therapists and psychologists to give a level of structure and advice. However it is getting harder with Local Authority budget cuts as it is hugely expensive for the boys to attend this school. The current cost is £98K per child which is paid for the by the Local Authority.

MS asked if there was suitable provision for staff parking as there had been previous parking problems and the Barn was being used as an overflow car park. KH explained there are 136 staff who work over a seven day period. The only days there would be a problem would be for four days a year when all staff are in school together.

KH then discussed the recent planning application which had been submitted, change of use from residential to admin/classroom space at Lodge Cottage, The Square. Lodge Cottage has stood empty for three years. A lot of work has been carried out inside the cottage such as painting, new carpets and a new boiler. The maintenance team will be tidying up outside next. The school have looked at two options. The first is to use the cottage as a base for the therapists and use as a resource base as the school are tight on office space. The second option is to use the area as a teaching base. There are more boys in sixth form now and the school would like to use a different building for this teaching. This would make the children feel they were being treated differently. It would be used for teaching during the school day only. An internal path has been laid to Lodge Cottage. Access would be from school and five students would use the rooms downstairs during the week 9-3.45pm under total supervision. There is only one toilet so this would limit the number of people using the rooms.

MF asked what would the school do if the planning was refused on both counts? KH answered that they would have to look elsewhere in the grounds such as outbuildings or build something new. There is currently not enough space and there would be no additional costs to use this current option. They would like the space now to provide the best possible learning environment.

On other matters, KH has identified parts of the outside wall which need rebuilding and the maintenance team are working on them. MT asked what the policy was on other boundaries as the school have put fencing up at the horse arena end. MT said there are more natural types of fencing such as laying a hedge which would be cheaper.

He agreed to pass contact details to KH for this.

The Vice-Chair then thanked Mr Hingorani for coming to the meeting.

## **7. Winter Planning**

OCC Highways have advised that they will only fill the grit bins at the beginning of the winter period. They are proposing to deliver a free tonne bag of salt at a location to be agreed by the Parish Council. The secure location was agreed and the Parish Clerk will notify OCC Highways. It was agreed that a plan of action should be made in case of a bad winter again. OCC Highways have organised a 'Snow Day' on 8<sup>th</sup> October at Deddington and DP agreed to attend. He will look at the cost of a grit spreader. This item to be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

## **8. Planning applications**

Three planning applications had been received since the last meeting,

- 11/01110/F, *Change of use from residential to admin/classroom space at Lodge Cottage, The Square.* The council discussed the application and had concerns about the change of use. The building is Grade 2 listed and the councillor's felt it should remain residential. There are other opportunities that the school could consider within the school grounds. The council agreed they would object on the change of use as a purpose has not been defined.  
*Action: PB to inform Mr Hingorani.*
- 11/01188/F, *Removal of trees and shrubs for proposed new stables and hay barn at Home Farm, Park Lane*
- 11/00181/TCA, *fell 1 beech tree at Lime Tree House, Main Road*

## **9. Financial Report**

The following payments were approved at the meeting:

£194.00 to Gerry Melvin (grass cutting)

£223.13 to Parish Clerk (hours)

£11.58 to Parish Clerk (expenses)

£60.10 to Parish Clerk (mileage to meetings during 2010/11)

## **10. Correspondence**

- CDC, Electric Blanket Testing Campaign 2011. Details put on the notice-board.
- Berks, Bucks & Oxon FWAG, Parish Council Funding.
- Local Government Boundary Commission, Electoral Review of Oxfordshire, Draft Recommendations. Details on the notice-board.
- Sue Ryder, Women of Achievement Awards 2011.

## **11. Councillors Reports**

- It was noted that the mirror outside Swalcliffe Manor has not been removed although building work has finished. MS has spoken to OCC Highways and the Enforcement Officer at CDC but the council are not aware of any action being taken.  
*Action: The Clerk to write a letter to Mr Anderson.*

- DP spoke about the lack of a children's play area and there being land next to the Barn which could be used although permission would be needed. A suggestion was made to ask Duncan Jack if he could lease an area of land to the Parish Council.  
*Action: MT to speak to Duncan Jack.*
- PB noted that a mirror has now been placed at the end of Swalcliffe Lea. There had been previous problems with cars not giving way.
- A villager has asked JG about waste bins for dog poo but she suggested they use the existing green bins.
- It was noted that the website is showing out of date meeting minutes.  
*Action: The Clerk to send the files to David McLindon.*

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

Tuesday 18th October at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting Closed 10pm