

SWALCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

AN ORDINARY MEETING HELD 17th FEBRUARY 2009 AT 7.30PM IN SWALCLIFFE VILLAGE HALL

Councillors Present

Julie Carpenter (JC)

Patrick Bradshaw (PB)

Mike Stanley (MS)

Mike Taylor (MT)

Jane Gallick (JG)

Dan Parish (DP), Christine Coles, Parish Clerk (CC)

1. Apologies

Mick Foley

2. Welcome of new councillors and signing of paperwork

JC welcomed Dan Parish and Jane Gallick to the council as co-opted councillors. They both signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms and took the Register of Interest forms to sign.

3. Declarations of Interest

MS declared an interest in the village hall.

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

4. Minutes of last meetings held on 6th January 2009.

The minutes were not signed as PB disputed the wording of page 3, no 7, paragraph 3. The Clerk to reword the paragraph and the minutes to be signed off at the next meeting. The new paragraph to read as follows:-

'PB then went onto say that the letter sent from the Parish Council, which objected to his application, was damning and in his opinion, the council's decision was spineless. A member of the council asked PB to withdraw the comment but he did not. PB felt there was a huge difference in opinion between the site meeting and the Parish Council meeting held soon afterwards. He felt he was disadvantaged by being a Parish Councillor. Circulars distributed by a member of the village who opposed the application were considered to be inappropriate by the Council. In response the general feeling from the councillors was that they had been very honest in front of him at the last meeting. They openly spoke about their own concerns which were minuted. The council took a very balanced view of the neighbours views and also considered their own views. MT noted that although he was absent from the last meeting he felt the council had to be very careful in their judgement of the application especially as PB is a councillor. The Parish Council do have a duty to represent the village when advising of their final decision and had thought about it very carefully'.

5. Matters Arising from the previous meeting

Registration of Swalcliffe Common - This is ongoing.

Main Road markings - OCC Highways have advised they will put cats eyes along the new white line as in Tadmarton.

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

CDC, Village Traffic Calming - Portable Speed Indicator Signage - There is no further news.

Village Hall Update - MS noted that the village hall committee intend to replace the curtains around the hall and on the stage as they are no longer fire retardant. Doug Seymour would also like to look at making the parking area more withstanding as it is currently muddy.

Upkeep of church garden planted by Betty Panks - Mark Parsley has confirmed he will do the work and will have a look when the weather gets better.

Work at Jesters - Work has finished now but the whole of the garage area is in a state. A letter had been sent by the Clerk asking them to restore it to how it was found before their work started. Doug Seymour advised that they are blaming the new retaining wall which was built at the back of the village hall as being responsible. MS has agreed to arrange for holes to be drilled in the wall to assist with drainage despite the view that the heavy vehicles compacting the ground had been mainly responsible. As the Stantons have only just moved back in the council will give them time to do the remedial work and we will review the situation at the next meeting in six weeks time.

Bench by bus stop - This was destroyed recently by a car which skidded in the icy weather. The Clerk to ask their insurers if they are covered on their insurance policy.

Parish Pit - MS has found out that Laurie of 1 The Green planted the vegetables on the pit. A new letter from Ladders has advised that no further claim on the plot had been made yet and the council need to act fast with their own application. MS asked why the 'without prejudice' letter was not sent but it was felt this would now be inappropriate. JC had visited the archive office in Oxford and there is no map with the enclosure award. JC and PB to get together and sort out all the information to be sent to the solicitors which will include old and new statutory declarations. For the benefit of the new councillors, MT noted that it is vital the Parish Council try to maintain its ownership of the land in case any more building work is required to enhance the village hall.

Wall outside Backwater - There is no further news.

School Sign - Mr G Lewis, Head of the School has advised that a smaller sign is now going to be put up and they will put the larger sign elsewhere in the school. They have offered the use of a meeting room in the school. Mr Lewis is hoping to attend a future council meeting to introduce himself.

Christmas Lights - These are now stored in the village hall.

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

Removal of Sycamore Tree o/s Rock Cottage - MS to obtain relevant planning paperwork.

Garage Rental/Access payments - All rent has been paid except Mick Foley and Gillian Brookes. The council received a letter from Mick Foley expressing his concern over the fact that the garage area had been such a mess and his access often blocked by contractors for the better part of a year. The council, as previously discussed, agreed as a goodwill gesture to offer him a rebate by reducing this years rental to £70.00 from £100.00. The Clerk to write to him to see if this would be acceptable.

Meeting dates for 2009 - The Clerk to email all councillors and Doug Seymour with new meeting dates.

6. Renewal of general council insurance

The Clerk presented the renewal policy at a cost of £852.52. It was proposed this be accepted. MS proposed that the Clerk ask NFU next year for a quote.

7. To consider a donation request for the production costs of the Link

It was agreed a donation of £75.00 is to be given.

8. Planning Applications

A new application had been received since the last meeting:

09/00013/F, Erection of farm office and plant room, store, garaging and stables associated with existing farmhouse at Upper Lea Farm, Swalcliffe Lea

9. Financial Report

- £105.00 to Swalcliffe Village Hall (for council meetings)
- £242.19 to CDC, Site inspection of village hall
- £172.44 to Parish Clerk (hours)
- £7.35 to Parish Clerk (expenses)
- £852.53 to Came & Company (general council and village hall insurance)
- £75.00 to the Link (production costs)

The Clerk confirmed that a letter has been received from Lloyds TSB in relation to the new account set up for the money received from Betty Panks.

10. Correspondence

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

- Thames Valley Police, leaflets on front counter opening times
- Macmillan Cancer Support, fundraising request
- CDC, Cherwell Rural Strategy - Final Proposed Draft
- CDC, Report of the Parish Remuneration Panel

11. Councillors Reports

DP reported the 30mph sign which has been knocked over o/s Gerry Melvins house. The Clerk to report to OCC.

MT noted that he helped clear snow from some of the village approach roads this year but may not be able to in the future for health and safety reasons.

JG reported the need for a 'Park Lane' road sign.

The Clerk to update the list of councillors for the noticeboard.

12. Date and time of next meeting

7th April 2009 in the village hall. The Parish Council will start at earlier time of 7pm followed by Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed 8.50pm.