

SWALCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 22ND OCTOBER 2013 AT 7.30PM IN SWALCLIFFE VILLAGE HALL

Councillors Present

Patrick Bradshaw, Vice-Chair

Mike Taylor (MT)

Mick Foley (MF)

Charlotte Watkins (CW)

Christine Coles, Parish Clerk (CC) and five villagers

1. Apologies

Cllr's Julie Carpenter and Jane Gallick

2. Declarations of Interest

PB declared an interest in the planning application at The Mount, Green Lane and Barnwell Cottage, Main Road.

MF declared an interest in the planning application at Barnwell Cottage, Main Road.

MT declared an interest in the planning application at Grange Farm.

3. Minutes of last meeting held on 3rd September 2013

The minutes were approved and signed.

4. Matters Arising from the previous meeting

Registration of Swalcliffe Fuel Allotment - For the benefit of the villagers present MT explained that Swalcliffe Charities are responsible for the fuel allotment. The charity receives a small income of £100.00 every three years from the owners of Bacon Farm and the charity give money to the needy. The charity are currently looking for trustees. Currently the land is unregistered and the Parish Council are hoping to be able to register the land in the near future.

White gates to mark entrances to the village - The Clerk has ordered the new 30mph speed signs on yellow backing boards and sent off the cheque for the purchase of the new white gates. MT noted that the overhanging hedges along the Main Road will be cut back by the person who cuts his hedge.

Plant for wellhead - JC is going to a shrub sale at Ells Farm on 27th October.

Parish Pit - PB and CC to draft a letter.

Bus Shelter - To carry forward to the next meeting.

Bench outside the church - The cost for a new bench is £2352.00 including VAT and the cost to re-varnish the existing bench is £216 including VAT. It was agreed not to proceed with the purchase of a new bench.

Trimming of trees on the Green and in front of the school - JC has completed the paperwork and sent it off.

Vacancy on council - There will be elections in Swalcliffe on 22nd May 2014.

Work to put gravel on village hall car park - This is complete now.

Registration of Area in front of school - It was agreed that, although there are no statutory declarations or paperwork to support the application, JC should submit the paperwork and apply for possessory title.

Trimming of overgrown vegetation - Gerry Melvin to trim the vegetation when he is able to.

Home to School Transport Policy 2015 - A new consultation will start on 4th November. Sue Moon of the Action Group has offered to come and speak at a council meeting to advise of the new proposals. It was agreed to invite her to the next meeting.

Cutting of the village and churchyard - The Parish Clerk has spoken to Gerry Melvin to confirm he will cut the village and churchyard for 40 hours each between the months of April and September.

Highway Fund - The Parish Clerk to complete the paperwork and pass to Cllr Reynolds.

Overhanging hedgerow - Another note to be put in the Link.

Dogs off leads - MF noted there was a situation in Green Lane five weeks ago with a dog being off a lead. He has spoken to the CDC Dog Warden about the matter in general. The situation has to be handled very carefully. A note to be put in the Link reminding owners of their responsibilities. MF to circulate the note to councillors.

6. To discuss Parish Plans

Sibford Ferris Parish Council have forwarded their parish plan which they completed two years ago. For the benefit of the villagers, CW explained the purpose of a plan which is to give the village a voice and a way of wanting to change things.

7. To discuss highway issues

JC has reported potholes and road edge erosion. The Parish Clerk to report three potholes in Bakers Lane.

Flooding in Park Lane was discussed again. Last year the drains did not take the flood water away that came from the fields. An email and photos were sent to OCC Highways in November 2012 but no response has been received. A simple and cheap solution would be to dig out a gully to take the water away.

Action: MF/Parish Clerk to draft another email to OCC Highways to make this suggestion.

8. Planning applications

Five applications had been received since the last meeting:-

- *13/01288/F, Change of use from farm building to single dwelling at Blacksmith Cottage, Swalcliffe Lea. No objections.*

MT left the room whilst the councillors discussed the Grange Farm planning application.

- *13/01295/F, Continued use of land at Grange Farm for equestrian training and competition purposes and construction of two all-weather sand arenas, together with associated access improvements, vehicle parking and site landscaping at Swalcliffe Park Equestrian, Grange Lane. The Clerk explained that this application was received and circulated in between meeting dates. Two councillors could not vote as they had interests. Four councillors voted. One objected with observations and three did not object but they made observations. The observations were about noise, traffic and the state of roads. From the floor Mrs Boycott asked if the village were aware of the impact of this application. Councillors were not sure. MF advised that anybody could turn up on the day the Planning Committee discuss the application and speak. Mrs Boycott noted this will have a huge impact on the community long term. She has been happy with everything that Grange Farm have done so far and tolerated it up until now. Mrs Boycott may put an article in the Link.*

MT was invited back into the room.

- *13/01479/F, Construction of two storey dwelling with slate roof at the site of Manor Cottage following demolition after fire damage. Councillors have advised they have no objections with a slate roof.*

PB left the room whilst the councillors and villagers looked at the plans for The Mount.

- *13/01532/F, Two storey extension to link existing houses to existing garage block at The Mount, Green Lane. This application is to link up to existing buildings and does not affect anyone. To be considered. The Parish Council to respond by 4th November 2013.*

PB came back into the room. Two villagers left the meeting.

- *13/01545/F, Change of use of land to garden. Construction of garden railway at Barnwell Cottage, Main Road. To be considered. The Parish Council to respond by 5th November 2013.*

7. Financial Report

The following payments were approved:
£181.00 to Gerry Melvin (grass cutting)

To approve and accept the Annual Return 2012/13

The Annual Return was presented to the council and approved. The appropriate notice would be put on the board. There was no invoice to pay.

8. Correspondence

- ORCC Review
- OCC, Entry to primary or infant school - September 2014. Details on notice-board.
- Castle Preschool, North Newington
- ORCC, Talking Rural Oxfordshire Event on 21st November

- Sue Moon, Urgent School bus proposals
- CDC, Community Emergency Events
- CDC, Date of Local Government Elections 2014, 22nd May 2014
- Sibford Ferris Parish Council, Parish Plan

9. Councillors Reports

MF noted that Doug Seymour is leaving the village and suggested that the Parish Council arrange a farewell party and involve the whole village.

A discussion took place about the decision to not buy a Christmas tree this year but light the trees up on the Green. MF to speak to the pub about using the power from the pub sign and icicle lights to be put around the village hall.

MF suggested that the Head of Swalcliffe Park School is invited to a meeting in the New Year to give an update.

From the floor, Sue Salter suggested that a small working party gets together to alleviate the flooding problems in Park Lane. The Parish Clerk and MF to contact OCC Highways once more and see what their response is.

Sue Salter asked about the new sign for Tithe Barn. The Parish Clerk to speak to JC.

10. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 3rd December 2013 at 7.30pm.

Meeting Closed 8.50pm