

SWALCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 25TH JUNE 2013 AT 7.30PM IN SWALCLIFFE VILLAGE HALL

Councillors Present

Julie Carpenter (JC), Chair
Patrick Bradshaw (PB), Vice Chair
Jane Gallick (JG)
Mick Foley (MF)
Charlotte Watkins (CW)
Christine Coles, Parish Clerk (CC)

1. Apologies

Mike Taylor

2. Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

3. Minutes of last meeting held on 21st May 2013

The minutes of 21st May were approved and signed.

4. Matters Arising from the previous meeting

Registration of Swalcliffe Fuel Allotment - Carry forward to the next meeting.

White gates to mark entrances to the village - A cheque payment (£1729.06) has been raised for the gates but has been put on hold for now whilst the positions of the 30mph signs are sorted out. The Clerk emailed Anthony Kirkwood of OCC Highways to ask the procedure to move the 30mph sign at the Sibford end of the village. He replied and asked where the Parish Council wanted the sign moved to. He is going to do a site visit on Monday 1st July.

Action: The Clerk to ask what the criteria would have been when the signs were put in. The Clerk to ask if bigger signs can be put in place and to ask what the legal and financial implications will be should the request be unsuccessful.

Plant for wellhead - JC has sought advice but the suggestion given was for plants that grow quite high. JC to look again at smaller shrubs that are more suitable and require less maintenance.

Parish Pit - JC confirmed that Melanie Haynes is the registered owner of the freehold property which is breach of the original agreement. The Parish Council will continue to maintain the area.

Action: PB to seek legal advice and contact the Land Registry.

Work to land behind village hall - Mr and Mrs Stanton have paid their invoice and Mike Taylor has submitted his invoice for the work.

Bus Shelter - JC sent an email to Peter Beddowes after the last council meeting and the Swalcliffe Village Fund Committee have put a notice in the Link asking for views on the subject.

Bench outside the church - MF has spoken to Mark. The idea about the additional bench raised at the last meeting was discussed again. It was agreed the size and design should be the same as the other one.

Trimming of trees on the Green - JC met with John Badger and he has suggested some crown lifting and thinning of the lesser branches. The trees will always be big but they could be lightened a bit. Mowing underneath would be easier if the undersides are kept clear. JC also looked at the area in front of the school which is in a mess. Some trees are dead and need taking away and there are others which are inappropriate. There are trees on the school side which are overhanging.

Action: JC to complete the forms with the help of John Badger.

Flooding in Park Lane - There is no further news from OCC.

Condition of Main Road which is sunken in some parts - There is no further news. Other highway issues were reported such as the tarmac by the Green which is churned up and the state of Park Lane.

Action: JC to take photos.

Neighbourhood/Parish Plan - The Clerk showed the councillors the appraisal document that Tadmerton have put together. Tony Baldy MP had sent an email about Neighbourhood Plans and there are grants available to help with the cost. CW noted that a lot of parishes in the south of the county have published plans.

Action: The Clerk to contact other parishes and ask advice from OALC.

Vacancy on council - Another less formal notice to be put in the Link.

Work to village hall car park - Doug Seymour had advised that the stones would be raked out but it was felt the stones would end up on Green Lane.

Action: The Clerk to ask if they can be rolled and what the cost would be.

Area in front of school - James has now retired and Gerry has mowed the area. A discussion took place about registering this piece of land which would cost £40.00. The area has been maintained by the school on behalf of the village.

Action: JC to complete the forms and speak to Doug Seymour as proof of ownership will need to be shown.

5. To agree and adopt Model Standing Orders (with amendments)

In general the councillors were happy with the document. The Clerk is to make a couple of small changes and update the planning process flow chart.

Action: Clerk to circulate amended pages.

6. Planning applications

The council had received two new planning applications:-

13/00835/AGD, Erection of steel portal building at Swalcliffe Grange. It was agreed that no objections would be raised.

13/00769/F, Proposed garden room to rear courtyard at Sparrow Hall, The Square. It was agreed that no objections would be raised.

Planning Decisions

13/00581/CAC, Proposed demolition of existing fire damaged cottage (party walls structures with adjacent Forge to be retained) at Manor Cottage, Main Road. CDC have granted permission.

13/00667/F, Reconstruction of two storey dwelling following fire damage and demolition at Manor Cottage, Main Road. This application has been withdrawn.

7. Financial Report

The following payments were approved:

£1729.06 to OCC (purchase of white gates)

£313.00 to Gerry Melvin (grass cutting)

£120.00 to Taylor Farms (work in front of garage area)

£80.00 for Punch and Judy Show at Swalcliffe Fun day on 8th Sept

£212.63 to Parish Clerk (hours)

£24.05 to Parish Clerk (expenses)

£6.00 to Julie Carpenter (Land Registry searches)

The Clerk to look back through old invoices to see how much it is costing to cut the churchyard.

8. Correspondence

OCC, Winter preparation

OALC, AGM on 1st July

Tony Baldry, Neighbourhood Planning

ORCC, News Bulletin

The Clerk highlighted one item of correspondence:

OCC, Winter preparations. Community Resilience - Oxfordshire County Council has run Depot Open days for the last two years but attendance has been poor. They are looking to hold Community Resilience road shows and combine on market days to attract more people. Dates and locations to be confirmed. Salt bags - A free bag of salt is being offered to each village again. It was agreed to order another free bag. Salt Bins - Orders to be placed for new bins as soon as possible.

9. Councillors Reports

MF reported that there is to be another meeting on 8th July at the Gate Hangs High Public House with other villages to discuss pub closures, broadband, affordable housing and churchyards.

JC noted that there is an OCC Proposed Home to School Transport Policy 2014 consultation document out at the moment. The proposals are to stop free bus travel for families which will have lots of implications. Families will be forced to pay for buses or use their own cars. The general feeling was that schools and parents should be responding. If schools wanted extra support they could contact the Parish Council. Responses are to be in by 5th July.

CW spoke about the Register of Local Assets letter received recently from Cherwell District Council. Sibford have registered the Bishops Blaize.

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

3rd September 2013 - Parish Council meeting at 7.30pm

Meeting Closed 9.00pm