

SWALCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

AN ANNUAL MEETING
HELD 26th MAY 2009 AT 7.30PM
IN SWALCLIFFE VILLAGE HALL

Councillors Present

Julie Carpenter (JC)

Patrick Bradshaw (PB)

Mike Stanley (MS)

Mike Taylor (MT)

Mick Foley (MF)

Jane Gallick (JG)

Dan Parish (DP), Christine Coles, Parish Clerk (CC) and District Councillor George Reynolds

1. Elections

1a. Election of Chair

JC was elected to be Chair and all the councillors voted in favour.

1b. Chairs Declaration of Acceptance of Office form

JC duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form and this was passed to the Clerk for filing.

1c. Election of Vice-Chair

PB was elected to be Vice-Chairman and all the councillors voted in favour.

2. Apologies

None

3. Declarations of Interest

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

4. Minutes of last meetings held on 7th April

This was agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

5. Matters Arising from the previous meeting

Registration of Swalcliffe Common - MS reported that the Common (9 acres) cannot be registered as Swalcliffe Charities do not have the finances to pay for the registration costs. The consequence if it is not registered is that someone else may try to register it. The Parish Council would not be able to apply for adverse possession on behalf of Swalcliffe Charities but they could apply themselves. JC suggested the council wait until the situation with the parish pit is resolved and she would talk to Maurice Cooling in the meantime.

Children At Play Sign for Bakers Lane - To be carried forward. The Park Lane road sign also needs to be replaced. PB to get advice from OCC Highways as to the correct wording for it. MT agreed to look for an old sign that used to be in place to see the wording of it.

CDC, Village Traffic Calming - Portable Speed Indicator Signage - There is no news at present. DP noted that Gerry Melvin was a candidate to attend the NAG meetings and would speak to him directly. The Clerk to get meeting dates. The Clerk to find out a price for a permanent speed indicator sign for the village.

Upkeep of church garden planted by Betty Panks - MS to speak to Mark Parsley.

Work at Jesters - Work is still ongoing and the area is muddy. MT suggested that the concrete area in front of Mrs Brookes garage could be removed which should improve drainage issues. It was agreed the council would wait until the work is completely finished before deciding what to do.

Bench by bus stop - MF was approached by Mark Hutchinson who has generously offered to build a replacement bench. The Parish Council agreed with the proposal and will pay for the materials. MF to liaise about the style and a plaque etc.

Parish Pit - The council have sent a 'Without Prejudice' letter to Graham & Rosen (Melanie Haynes solicitor) advising that they believe the land to be an invisible part of the parish pit given to the parish under the Enclosure Award 1772. The Parish Council wish to retain the land to be associated with the recently refurbished village hall for the benefit of the village as a whole. The Parish Council have offered to dedicate the plot to Mr Haynes in the form of a memorial garden, details to be agreed at a later date with Melanie Haynes. The council feels this satisfies Ms Haynes association with the village. Last week JC did receive a phone call from Graham & Rosen but she asked them to reply via letter as she could not comment on behalf of the Parish Council over the phone. For the records PB mowed the area on 23rd May.

Wall outside Backwater - The area looks a mess and has not been resolved. The wall is on public land which acts as a barrier to flood water. MS to pass all the accident details to PB as a matter of urgency as the accident happened over a year ago.

Freedom of Information - The Clerk to put together the guide to information charges. MF to speak to David McLindon about a possible website which would help with the amount of council information that could be made public via this way. JC to ensure highlights of our meetings are also sent to the Banbury Guardian in the village section.

Removal of Sycamore Tree o/s Rock Cottage -MS noted that the Tree Officer has been to the village and the tree can be removed. It will be replaced with a field maple and resited 10 feet away. Maurice Cooling is aware of what will happen.

Garage Rental/Access payments - Mrs Brookes has now paid & this completes all payments.

6. **Planning applications**

The Council had received two new applications to consider since the last meeting.

- 09/00571/F, Removal of rear lean-to extension and replacement with new room. Restoration of rear external wall of building and boundary wall at 2 The Green. The Council would not object.
- 09/00428/F, Conversion of two farm outbuildings to two dwellings at Upper Lea Farm, Swalcliffe Lea. The Council would not object.

09/00341/F, Horse Stables at The Mount, Green Lane. This has been approved. The original position of the stables was changed slightly to allow for screening to be put up. It was agreed that JG would assist MS with any new planning applications that come in.

7. **Financial Report**

The following payments were approved at the meeting:

- £158.21 to Julie Carpenter (Parish Pit application expenses)
- £142.00 to Gerry Melvin (grass cutting)

8. **Correspondence**

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

- OCC, Review of Subsidised bus service in Banbury and surrounding areas, new timetable on notice-board. The Clerk to email the new timetable to all.
- CDC, Details of Summer Cherwell Parish Liaison Meeting on 17th June 2009 and copy of Cherwell Rural Strategy 2009-2014
- CDC, Event Recycling
- CDC, Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2008/9
- OCC, Home 2 School Newsletter
- CDC, Legal Services for Parish Council's
- Thames Valley Police, Open Day on 8th August at Thames Valley Police Training Centre in Sulhamstead near Reading, details to be put on notice-board
- CDC, Banbury & District Show on 14th June, details to be put on notice-board

9. **Councillors Reports**

- MS had received a complaint about the noise from the cross country horses.
- The bin outside the church was reported as being full and needs emptying. The council are unclear as to whose responsibility it is to empty it. The Clerk to ask CDC and MT will have a look to see if it can be removed easily.
- Cllr's Taylor and Parish attended a Forum at Steeple Aston recently. Notes from the meeting will be circulated to all.
- MF has been asked if there is an allotment plot available. The Chair replied that she thought the council are under no obligation to provide allotments unless a number of villagers write to ask for one. The council then have to write to all landowners to see if any land is available. The Clerk to check the correct procedure.

- DP reported the triangular piece of land by Forge Cottage. The kerbstones around the area were knocked down sometime between 2nd and 10th May and have been replaced but rather badly. The Clerk to contact CDC.
- MF asked if there was an update on the tarmac and wall outside the Green which needs fixing. JC has spoken to Mr McNally and he was waiting for the weather to get warmer. Now it is warmer JC will speak to him again.
- The tree by the Old Bakehouse was reported as looking as though it is getting close to the electricity wires. It is not known who owns the tree although it is on Highways land. MT to give the Clerk contact details for EON who may be able to trim it. It may be that it needs to be removed.
- JC had been asked by a villager if a no parking sign could be put up outside the village hall when a function is on. This would allow hirers and guests of the hall to be able to park outside.
- The Chair reported the vegetation on Bakers Lane on the path to the Square. MS agreed to have a look.

10. Date and time of next meeting

Brief Audit meeting 16th June 2009 at 7.30pm in the village hall

Ordinary meeting Tuesday 7th July 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Meeting Closed 9.30pm