

# SWALCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 19th JANUARY 2010 AT 7.30PM IN SWALCLIFFE VILLAGE HALL

### Councillors Present

Julie Carpenter (JC)  
Mike Stanley (MS)  
Mick Foley (MF)  
Jane Gallick (JG)  
Mike Taylor (MT)  
Dan Parish (DP),  
Christine Coles, Parish Clerk (CC) and two villagers

### 1. Apologies

Patrick Bradshaw

### 2. Declarations of Interest

MF declared an interest as he rents a garage from the Parish Council.  
DP declared an interest in the traffic issue on the Main Road.

### 3. Minutes of last meetings held on 1st December 2009

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

### 4. Matters Arising from the previous meeting

*Registration of Swalcliffe Common - Work is on hold at present.*

*Children At Play Sign for Bakers Lane - Ongoing.*

*CDC, Village Traffic Calming - Portable Speed Indicator Signage - Gerry Melvin has the NAG meeting dates and the next one is on 21<sup>st</sup> January which he has agreed to attend.*

*Upkeep of church garden planted by Betty Panks - Ongoing.*

*Work at Jesters - o/s garage area - The area looks much better since the extra stone was put down by MT.*

*Action: MT to produce an invoice for his labour costs.*

*Bench by bus stop - Mark is going to add another bolt for security and the plaque is to be arranged.*

*Parish Pit - Various emails have been exchanged. PB has been in touch with Ladders Solicitors and Graham & Rosen who had asked what was happening. Ladders have been asked to check the wording of the Memorandum of Agreement.*

*Wall outside Backwater - This is collapsing even more now.*

*Removal of Sycamore Tree o/s Rock Cottage and trimming of Yew trees overhanging land between Bakers Lane and the Square* -The yew trees have been trimmed and the sycamore tree outside Rock Cottage has been removed. A note of thanks was received from Maurice Cooling.

*Action: The Clerk will ask Maurice Cooling if a copy of his letter can be sent with the cheque payment.*

*Tree by the Old Bakehouse* - This has not been removed yet, MS looked back at the paperwork which he signed in August 2009.

*Action: MT to chase Fountains.*

*Village website* - MF and JC agreed to get together to look at the website. The website for the Church Tower Appeal will be removed soon once the fund raising target is reached.

*Action: The councillors to take photos of themselves and send to JC for inclusion on the website.*

*Village Hall update* - It was reported unofficially that the Village Hall Committee have received notification of funding for the audio equipment.

*Christmas lights* - The lights are going to be dismantled this coming weekend, 23<sup>rd</sup> January in the morning.

*Wall around the Green* - Mr McNally to visit once the snow has gone. More damage was done to the wall in the recent bad weather.

*Loose stones on the wall up the hill towards Sibford* - The Clerk has reported this but has not heard back from OCC Highways.

*Application 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.* This application has now been approved.

*Swalcliffe Park School* - An email had been received from Gareth Lewis who has agreed to update the Parish Council with any progress. He has offered the use of their meeting room for council meetings and suggested the AGM is held there and they will put on refreshments.

*Action: The Clerk to ask Gareth for details of the legal references that he spoke about at the last meeting concerning the smoking problem.*

*Church Tower Appeal* - A donation cheque of £1K was raised and sent to Peter Beddowes.

*Cutting back of forsythia bush overhanging the footpath between the Square and Bakers Lane* - MS to cut back.

5. **To discuss traffic problems and occurrence of accidents during recent bad weather**

The meeting was attended by two villagers, Gerry Melvin (GM) and Anna McLindon (AM) who felt very strongly about speeding and the accidents that had happened recently due to the bad weather. GM felt there was a big problem with speed and there needed to be a solution to slow the traffic down. He suggested that this could be done by placing two chicanes, one near to his house and one outside Cllr Parishes house although the final decision would have to be made by OCC Highways. Three cars that were parked on the Green were hit during the recent bad weather. GM suggested that a motorway style barrier is put up by the parking area on the Green, it may look ugly but would prevent this from happening again. MS noted that he would prefer deeply sunk 6" x 6" posts on the Green instead of a barrier which could be linked with chains.

Most councillors felt there was a problem with speed through the village. The speed limit between Tadmarton and Swalcliffe will not be reduced to 30mph because that is the only piece of road where cars can overtake safely before getting to Swalcliffe, but a reduction to 50mph is currently being considered by OCC Highways.

The Clerk has contacted OCC Highways to ask them to assess the camber, to advise what measures could be taken to reduce speed, provide a report and attend a future meeting. The road has sunk and if work has to be done to the road OCC Highways could redo the white line opposite the Manor so that there is enough room for a footpath to walk along which was the original intention.

The Chair had spoken to June Couch who was unable to attend the meeting. She has lived in her house on the Main Road for twenty six years and the most problems have been in the last two years. In her opinion people are driving too fast for the conditions. MS noted there has not been a lot of heavy snow for a number of years but car tyres now have less grip than they used to have.

It was agreed that another salt bin should be ordered to be placed behind the telephone box. The cost is £150.00 & VAT. This would be in addition to the one on the Green which emptied very quickly during recent snowy weather.

*Action: The Clerk to order a salt bin with OCC Highways.*

*Action: It was agreed that DP would collate all the information relating to the accidents which had happened in the last six weeks to pass to the Chair. MF spoke about a petition which could be signed and passed to OCC Highways, the M.P and local paper. This was passed to GM for action. The Clerk to Contact OCC Highways to arrange a site meeting.*

6. **To set precept for 2010/11**

The precept last year was £5K and the current and reserve accounts are healthy. It was agreed by all that the precept would remain at £5k for the coming year 2010/11 as there are no big projects to focus on this year.

*Action: The Clerk to return the completed form to CDC.*

7. **To discuss the garage rent and access payments**

MF stayed in the room but did not take part in the discussion.

The Clerk advised that garage rent for 2009 had been set at £100.00 for a single garage and £150.00 for a double garage.

This year the council have spent £350.00 on the purchase of stone and labour costs. There is more work to be done and it was agreed an increase needs to be made each year as the existing rents are presently well below market value. It was agreed that for 2010 the rental charge for a single garage should be £115.00 and a double garage £165.00.

It was agreed the access charges of £50.00 to Maurice Cooling and £40.00 to Mrs Bowen should remain the same.

*Action: The Clerk to send out leases and letters.*

## **8. Planning applications**

- ✓ 09/01771/F & 09/01772/LB, Internal and external alterations to outbuildings, associated landscaping proposals, and a replacement swimming pool at Swalcliffe Manor, Main Road. JG to look at the plans.
- ✓ 09/01846/F & 09/01847/LB, Erection of oak framed garden room at Slade House, 5 The Tithings. JG to look at the plans.

## **9. Financial Report**

The following payments were approved at the meeting:

- ✓ £379.50 to Treetech (felling of sycamore tree o/s Rock Cottage and crown lift of yew tree)
- ✓ £125.00 to Swalcliffe Village Hall (hire of hall for 2009)
- ✓ £402.50 to ABC Advertising (setting up of website)
- ✓ £105.46 to K Foley (expenses from Christmas party for children)
- ✓ £75.00 to the Link (donation)
- ✓ £838.62 to Broker Network Ltd (council/village hall insurance)

*To consider renewal of Parish Council/Village Hall insurance*

The renewal of the insurance is due in February and the premium due is £838.62. The Clerk had contacted the NFU but they do not quote for fidelity cover. It was approved that the premium of £838.62 from Broker Network Ltd be accepted.

*Action: The Clerk to speak to Doug Seymour to ensure that any new audio equipment that is purchased for the village hall is added to the insurance policy.*

*To consider making a donation towards production costs of the Link for 2010*

It was agreed a donation cheque of £75.00 would be given.

## **10. Correspondence**

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

- ✓ ORCC Review
- ✓ ORCC, Parish Transport Representatives Handbook
- ✓ Marie Curie Cancer Care, Support for Marie Curie Cancer Care Great Daffodil Appeal. Notice to be put on the board.
- ✓ CDC, Review of local Validation Checklists

- ✓ Oxfordshire Association for the Blind, Donation Request
- ✓ OCC, Temporary Road Regulation Order

**11. Councillors Reports**

- MS thanked the local farmers for all their work in clearing the snow.
- Thank s was given to MT for getting the Christmas tree. The cost is £50.00 and MT agreed to source one for this year hopefully from the same supplier.
- JC advised that the children's party was a great success and attended by 28 children. It was organised by Kate Foley and was paid for by the Parish Council.
- A suggestion was made to extend the parking area by the Green, to level one end and tarmac and paint white lines to separate the bays. The council to think about this idea.
- MF asked for clarification on the placing of sky dishes. It was felt that in the conservation area they are not allowed to be put on the front of houses. The planning department at CDC would know the correct answer.

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

Tuesday 2nd March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Meeting Closed 9.45pm