

SWALCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD 6TH JULY 2010 AT 7.30PM

IN SWALCLIFFE VILLAGE HALL

Councillors Present

Julie Carpenter (JC)

Mike Taylor (MT)

Mick Foley (MF)

Jane Gallick (JG)

Dan Parish (DP),

Christine Coles, Parish Clerk (CC) and two representatives from OCC Highways.

1. Apologies

Mike Stanley and Patrick Bradshaw

2. Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

3. Minutes of last meetings held on 18th May 2010

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

4. Matters Arising from the previous meeting

Registration of Swalcliffe Common - Ongoing.

Children At Play Sign for Bakers Lane - Ongoing.

Upkeep of church garden planted by Betty Panks - Ongoing.

Parish Pit - PB has the paperwork but is on holiday at present.

Tree by the Old Bakehouse - This has not been removed yet. CC to speak to Fountains.

6 Brick Row - A retrospective planning application has been received and the council are waiting for a final decision from CDC.

NAG meetings - The Clerk had emailed Sgnt Evans to gain more information on the NAG. They advise that a single representative is sent for consistency as meetings are held every six weeks. The NAG is subject to a constitution and confidentiality clause so they do not like people turning up on the night. The Clerk suggested that DP speaks to Angela Maddams in Tadmarton who regularly attends the meetings.

Action: The Clerk to pass her phone number to DP.

Dog Fouling - This has improved.

Website - The local business who expressed an interest in advertising is not going to take this further for the moment. The google maps are on the website now.

Internal Audit - This was carried out and audit notices put up.

BT, removal of payphone - A second letter was sent which was unanswered. The details have now been emailed to BT.

Mirror on wall by Swalcliffe Manor - The Clerk has written a letter to the owners and OCC have also advised the placing of the mirror is illegal. They have arranged for an enforcement officer to have a look.

5. **To discuss highway and speeding issues through the village**

The meeting was attended by Peter Ronald and Louise Wilson of Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) Highways. Louise Wilson is the local representative and responsible for traffic issues. Peter Ronald is responsible for managing two teams in Kidlington and their role is to ensure there is a consistency in their approach when dealing with traffic issues. There are three hundred parish councils in the area who all have traffic issues. The County Council are able to put in signs and lines and carry out minor improvements which are low cost and easy to do. The County Council has access to various budgets; Accident and Remedial Budget which is assessed by Central Government, the Better Ways to School budget which is not accident led or connected to speeding issues. Up to five years ago Parish Councils were able to approach OCC about speeding concerns and the budget could be used wherever on a first come first served basis. There is no budget for improvements now. If a member of the public reports a problem the request is dealt with and minor investigations are carried out. When an enquiry comes from the Parish Council, this is looked at in more detail. The problem will be identified and investigations made. Speeding is looked at by speed assessments. Two surveys are carried out over a one week via a black radar box put on a pole and are placed where the problem is. The criteria that has to be met is during peak hours, 25% must exceed speeds of 30mph or during the 12 hour day from 8am-8pm, 40% must exceed the limit.

From the recent survey carried out at the top of Bakers Lane the following figures were obtained:-

Eastbound 10% during morning peak
 12% during evening peak
 23% during 12 hour day

Westbound 15% during morning peak
 25.3% during evening peak
 18.1% during 12 hour day

There is a clear problem westbound and there are solutions that can be implemented such as lining and signing within OCC's budget. OCC could remove the middle line throughout the village which has already been done in 12-15 other villages. The whole appearance of the road changes and speeds will slow, some have shown a reduction of 10-15% in speeds. OCC would then come back in one years time to do another speed survey. The question was asked why OCC wait a year, the reason being the lines take a long time to wash away and enough time has to be given for motorists to get used to the road without the centre line.

OCC drew attention to the many properties along the Main Road which had overhanging hedges and were very dangerous for people walking trying to walk along the pavements. PR spoke about flashing speed signs which cost about £4.5K (Parish Council cost). In his opinion they are only effective if non locals use the road on a daily basis. If locals are using the road all the time, which they do here, they have little impact. PR spoke about other physical measures such as speed humps or cushions but there would have to be street lighting in place. PR also mentioned the parking on the Green, which in his opinion, is extremely dangerous. He suggested that another area is made available to prevent cars reversing back onto the Main Road (Parish Council cost).

PR spoke about wooden gates or white plastic recycled gates which roughly cost £500.00 a pair and have a high impact when entering a village (Parish Council cost). Sharks teeth could be applied on the road at the terminal points (OCC cost). 30mph signs can be put on yellow backing boards to make them stand out. There are two 30mph repeater signs which are missing and make the road currently unenforceable. OCC advised they could put 30mph limit roundels on the road next to the repeater signs which could be put on yellow backing boards (OCC cost). The adverse camber sign could be removed completely (OCC cost).

PR spoke about the proposed traffic calming plan which the Parish Council had presented to them. For a priority working system to work there has to be good visibility and a two way traffic flow. There needs to be lots of signing and street lighting as the design would have to be visible at all hours. LW noted that a coloured surface would not be approved and rumble strips have to be placed 250m from the nearest building.

DP spoke about the survey results and felt there was a speeding issue on the bend although the adverse weather conditions were partly to blame for some of the accidents earlier in the year. LW did agree that many of the B roads were not salted during the cold weather and this was a major cause of the accidents. The accidents were not injury related and no fatalities have occurred. The village currently benefit from the Speed Indicator Device (SID) which comes every six weeks and the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) which visits every eight weeks. The Parish Council could consider the placing of marker posts as suggested by OCC by the Green and can be wooden or plastic although their purpose is not to act as a barrier.

MT asked if a high kerb could be placed along by Lime Tree House and Manor Cottage. AT first PR said no it could not be done but then agreed it could prevent cars driving too close to this area during bad weather. The Parish Council would have to pay for the work and it would have to be approved by OCC. Another visual measure could be to mark out an area with hatching at the top of Bakers Lane (prior to permanent building up of the kerb) to help highlight the corner and to discourage parking (OCC cost).

Thanks was given to Peter Ronald and Louise Wilson for attending the meeting. LW agreed to send a list of treatments that had been discussed tonight and they both left.

MT felt it was important that the Parish Council try to get the kerb put in place before the next winter.

MF spoke about parking on the Green, extending the area so that cars could park at 45° and lines put in to mark parking spaces. This will be considered by the Parish Council. Thanks were given to Rob West for all his help with the presentation which was submitted to OCC.

Action: The Parish Council to look at all the treatments advised by OCC from this meeting and decide the best way forward.

6. Planning applications

New application:-

10/00778/F, Single storey rear and side extensions at Stratford Lodge, Main Road.

Decision notices had been received on the following applications:-

- 10/00494/F. *Extension of time limit of permission 06/01672/F for conversion of redundant agricultural barns to 1 no dwelling. Single storey extension to south elevation of existing dwelling (the Dovecote), together with alterations to roof and new porch at Farm Buildings & The Dovecote, Swalcliffe Lea. This application has been withdrawn by the applicant.*
- 10/00645/LB & 10/00644/F, *Internal and external alterations to outbuildings, associated landscaping proposals, and a replacement swimming pool - proposed amendments to 09/01772/LB & 09/017771/F at Swalcliffe Manor, Main Road. Approved.*
- 10/00728/F, *Single storey extension to side at 4 Old Forge Yard. Approved.*
- 10/00280/F, *Single storey rear extension to garage at 7 Brick Row. Approved.*
- 10/00129/TCA, *Removal of trees at Jesters, Main Road. Approved.*
- 10/00127/TCA, *Removal of trees at The Mount, Green Lane. Approved.*

7. Financial Report

The following payments were approved at the meeting:

- ✓ £176.25 to Ladders Solicitors (legal work)
- ✓ £105.00 to Gerry Melvin (grass cutting)

8. Correspondence

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

- ✓ Notes from Cherwell Parish Liaison meeting held on 9th June
- ✓ NHS Oxfordshire, Talking Health with your local NHS
- ✓ Thames Valley Police, details of meeting on 6th August
- ✓ CDC, Planning Futures Newsletter
- ✓ Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust, donation request
- ✓ Chiltern Railways, changes taking place during 2010
- ✓ CDC, Planning for our Futures, Cherwell's Housing Strategy for Older people

9. Councillors Reports

- MF spoke about properties which have overhanging hedgerows. There are weeds between the wall and pavement of the Church wall.

Action: The Clerk to ask OCC Highways if they are responsible for clearing weeds. MT to ask Ray if it can be sprayed.

- There have been several incidents in the village recently relating to children at the school.

Action: MF to email the Chair with exact details first before Gareth Lewis is contacted.

- The Chair and PB attended the recent Parish Liaison meeting held on 9th June. They listened to an interesting talk on Tree Preservation Order's.

10. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 7th September at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting Closed 9.50pm