

SWALCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING **OF 20th SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 7.00PM** **IN SWALCLIFFE VILLAGE HALL**

Councillors Present

Jenny Bell (JB), Chairperson
Ben Benson (BB)
Lizzie Melvin (LM)
Ryan Smith (RS)
Mike Stanley (MS)
Victoria Taylor (VT), Parish Clerk and fifteen villagers

1. Apologies

None

2. Declarations of Interest

CLlr Melvin declared an interest in the payment to Gerry Melvin for grass cutting.

3. Guest speaker, Stacey King of BT to talk about Community Fibre Partnership

BT had written to communities to offer to help bring fibre broadband to areas not covered in the national rollout scheme. The Chair had written to BT to ask if the broadband service will improve. Stacy King (SK) of BT advised that they are working with communities to provide community fibre broadband. Two thirds of the country have been upgraded with their own money and the final third is with competitors' money. Each county was allowed to run their own procurement. Oxfordshire went with BT and started the 'Better Broadband For Oxfordshire' programme. The other provider was Gigaclear but they are not coming to the county now. OCC have now agreed to bring Swalcliffe and Sibford Ferris into the programme and two cabinets will be upgraded. A target date for the end of 2017 has been given but this is not guaranteed.

From the floor Mr Hill spoke about the cabinets and the problem with the local copper loop connections. There is corrosion when copper and aluminium meet with moisture. A copper network cannot deliver. He asked what investment there will be to update the copper network. SK advised that if the copper network has to be upgraded it will be. Mr Hill asked for it in writing and SK advised that this is in the contract already.

Many villagers spoke of constant problems with the cabinets and phones. Sometimes two vans can be in the village at the same time, fixing one problem and then creating another.

Mr McLoughlin said the current service is unreliable. He felt there was a much better service ten years ago. SK agreed to take these comments back to BT Openreach.

Mr Beddowes noted that in the recent Community Plan 85% of the village said they have broadband. Of these, 55 % were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. It is the biggest single issue. He agreed to email a copy to SK. It was also noted that there is little information sent from the 'Better Broadband for Oxfordshire' programme team. He asked about guaranteed speeds. SK replied that the service provider will determine speeds.

SK said that BT have to go through a lot of hoops to use the state aid money. The change request has come from OCC to BT Openreach but the papers have not been signed. Once the paperwork is signed, BT will need to carry out a survey, which is why the target date is still tentative. A lot of work has been done already and it is hoped there will be no major problems.

CLlr Benson asked if he could call BT and ask for older information from when he has had problems. Customer Service will have a fault history for each customer.

Villagers should complain to their own service providers if they have problems. SK agreed to return to Swalcliffe in six months' time. The Chair thanked Mrs King for attending the meeting and she left the room.

Mr McLoughlin has seen a microwave transmitter put on a church tower in another part of the country and wondered if that might be possible in Swalcliffe. Gay Harris agreed to get advice from the Deanery. Each possibility will have their own set of infrastructures to deal with and will take time to sort out.

Mr McLindon said that Virgin have agreed to come to the village if enough people are interested. It was agreed a co-ordinated approach is going to be the best way to approach this. Mr McLindon agreed to put an interest form on the website and then a special meeting could be arranged at a later date. Cllr Benson suggested a co-ordinated approach with neighbouring villages such as Tadmarton, Broughton and Sibford Ferris.

The Digital Connectivity Group will also meet soon.

4. **To approve the minutes of the meetings of 5th July and 2nd August 2016**

The minutes of 5th July 2016 and 2nd August 2016 were approved and signed.

5. **Open Forum**

There were no matters to discuss.

6. **Matters Arising**

Update on defibrillator – The consultation between BT and CDC is still underway.

Update on garage area – There is little news. A draft lease has been circulated to Councillors.

Review of Conservation Area – The Parish Clerk sent a response before the deadline in August. She will chase Jenny Ballinger of CDC for an update.

Wayleave payment from Bacon Farm – The Parish Clerk to invite Maurice Cooling, Chair of Swalcliffe Charities to the next meeting.

Grass cutting – The Parish Clerk to try and get the village maps from OCC.

'20 is plenty' signs – Cllr Taylor is getting prices for six signs.

Vegetation cutting – Thanks was given to Mr Foley who rang the school about overgrown vegetation in Park Lane.

7. **To discuss the Woodland Play Area and next steps**

Mr Foley confirmed that Cllr Lizzie Melvin has been appointed as the Management member from Swalcliffe Parish Council. Virginia Merritt and Christine Coles have agreed to join the Management Group. The last meeting of the Management group was on 17th August 2016 and the next meeting is Wednesday 21st September 2016. Copies of all minutes to be emailed to Christine Coles, Parish Clerk for info. Swalcliffe Parish Council have agreed to separate the money within the PC Accounts. The Management Group to prepare a formal budget. Funding -Swalcliffe Village Fund to agree to transfer funds to Swalcliffe Parish Council. A letter of support for the project has been received from Nicole O'Donnell of the Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association. The Management Group have agreed to prepare requirements for formal submissions to CDC Planning. Separate planning applications will be required, one for the Woodlands Project, the other for the public pathway that will be positioned in front of the school boundary wall. Update agreement to lease from Swalcliffe Park School to Swalcliffe Parish Council. The lease has been agreed in principle. It is hoped the lease can be signed in the next few weeks. An ecological report is required. One quote has been received for £500.00. Proposed timing is to be open early Summer 2017. A villagers' working party are to have a site meeting on Sunday 2nd October 2016.

Virginia Merritt asked how far the group were with the final design. Mr McLindon replied that a presentation was made to the Parish Council in June. The designs are not formal yet as it depends on the land topography.

The Chair thanked the group for all their work.

Action: Mr Foley to circulate the letter of support from Nicole O'Donnell.

8. To discuss the Councillor vacancy

There is still a vacancy. Another notice has been put in the Link.

9. To receive an update on the culvert in Brick Row

OCC have now sent a second letter to the residents of Brick Row. The drainage engineer has looked at the gardens from the communal pathway and concluded that the the watercourse is essentially blocked through a significant length. A plan needs to be taken forward now to re-establish a suitable flow in some form. OCC have also written to the farmer to see whether an edge of field ditch is possible and to ask him to clear the pond as it is fundamental to holding surface water back and restricting the rate of flow down towards Park Lane.

10. To receive an update on speeding

Cllr Taylor is to speak to Tadmarton as they have shown an interest in sharing the cost of purchasing speed equipment. Thames Valley Police have not given any dates for future Speedwatch sessions. It was noted that speeding through the village has recently become a problem again.

Action: Cllr Taylor to ensure the speeds signs are clear of moss and dirt.

11. Planning

Two applications had been received since the last meeting:

- 16/01552/F, Variation of Condition no 5 (noise management plan) of Application 14/01762/F at Swalcliffe Park Equestrian, Park Lane. This application arrived whilst the Parish Clerk was on holiday. She circulated detail s to Councillors via email on 22nd August. Two Councillors declared interests at the time, Cllr Taylor and Cllr Benson and did not vote. The remaining Cllr's agreed to raise no objections with an observation, to include a further step to measure the actual noise levels at A, B and C. A decision will be made by CDC planning on 27th October.
- 16/00180/TCA, Tree work at Barnwell Cottage. No objections.

12. Finance Report

The following payments were approved:

- £432.00 to Brethertons Solicitors (checking of Woodland Play Area lease)
- £304.00 to Gerry Melvin (grass cutting)
- £384.78 to Parish Clerk (hours)
- £38.62 to Parish Clerk (expenses)

13. Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received:

- CDC, Local Enforcement Plan. Copy given to each Councillor.
- OCC, Advance notice of Grant Thornton Study publication 'Review of Future Options for Local Government in Oxfordshire'
- OCC, Prospective Cllr Open Evening. Circulated.
- Community First Oxfordshire, Voluntary Recruitment for Primary School Children (notice-board)

14. Councillors' Reports

Cllr Stanley reported the current No 50A bus service is being replaced with a No 3 bus service. The new service will start on 24.10.16. The bus will stop in Swalcliffe but it is not listed on the timetable as it is not a timed spot. Mr McLindon agreed to put a copy of the timetable on the website.

Cllr Benson noted that highway work will begin in Grange Lane on 26th September. Everyone was encouraged to

report highway problems on 'Fix My Street'. There are potholes outside the pub to report.

A new Liaison service has been set up by OCC for the Parish Council to report matters that are affecting the community. Potholes and street lights should still be reported to 'Fix My Street' and the street light reporting system.

15. Date, time and place of next meeting

Tuesday 1st November 2016 at 7pm in the village hall

Meeting closed at 9.20pm