

SWALCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 21st OCTOBER 2019 AT 7.30PM IN SWALCLIFFE VILLAGE HALL

Councillors Present

Neil Urquhart (NU), Chairperson
Ben Benson (BB)
Ken Hodkinson (KH)
Ryan Smith (RS)
Victoria Taylor (VT)
Christine Coles - Parish Clerk, and four villagers

19/75. Apologies

None.

19/76. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Smith declared an interest in the Children's Christmas party.

19/77. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2019

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

19/78. Public Participation Session

A villager spoke about broadband. He gave a background to the wireless broadband service The village had a low bandwidth fixed broadband service and looked for a different solution. A local company called Sugarnet were approached and they installed a radio transmitter/receiver on the church tower. 15 people signed up but this figure was lower than hoped. Sugarnet were sold to a larger company called Voneus. The service has got progressively worse and customers saw repetitive failure behaviour. The villager has kept a log and written a complaint letter to the CEO. Some equipment is being replaced soon and it is hoped the service to the eastern sector will improve. The villager thanked the Parish Council for its offer of support but felt there was no benefit in getting involved at this stage.

19/79. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only

Village map – This has now been put on the notice-board. A complaint was received via the Facebook page about the information on the map. The Chairman noted that it was all open source information on the map.

Swalcliffe Park School - Cllr Smith has spoken to the school. The ramp work is in hand. The barrier will only be programmed to work in the middle of the day.

Foliage behind defibrillator – The Chair has met with the villagers who live near it and they will cut the top of the foliage.

Bottom speed camera - Cllr Taylor to speak to the person who changes the batteries.

19/80. To discuss the grass cutting contract

The grass cutting contract was discussed. It was agreed that Green Lane and Park Lane should be included in the contract. Two cuts should be made, the first in April and the second cut in August. It was agreed that the contractor should cut to the village sign at the Banbury end and 5m beyond the village sign.

Action: The Parish Clerk to liaise with the contractor.

A complaint was received from a villager via Fix My Street but their concern is for outside of the village.

Safety has to come first and clear visibility is a priority for drivers and pedestrians within the village 30mph limits.

19/81. To receive an update on the village hall

Concern was raised at the last meeting about part of the floor area. From checking the surveyor report, an area of weakness by the double doors was identified. Remedial work has now been done which is sufficient.

Discussions then took place about the future of the hall. There were statistics obtained when the village survey was carried out.

Action: Miss Stoertz to send a summary to the Chair. The Chair to provide a summary document.

Ideas for primary and secondary users and facilities were discussed and written down. There is still the question of whether work takes place on an old existing building which is out of date or knock the hall down and start again. The Parish Council own the building and it is the view of the Chair of the Village Hall Committee that they drive the project forward. Ideally it would be great if there was someone who could look for grants but the Parish Council have to manage with existing resources and money. They are all working people and although are responsible for village funds, must use the money wisely.

Shutford Village Hall Committee have a new village hall and it would be useful to get information from them on grants and costings. Swalcliffe Park School also purchased a modular building last year. Once the Parish Council have comparative detail and costs, a village meeting can be arranged.

Action: Mr Hill to forward contact details of Shutford VHC to the Chair.

It was agreed there are areas of the hall which require immediate attention as the hall is unattractive to hirers e.g. heating, toilets, floor, internal decoration and lighting. The stage could be demolished as it is wasted space. To be discussed further at the next meeting.

19/82. To discuss the website and the accessibility statement

Some work has taken place in updating and improving the website.

A draft accessibility statement was circulated. It was agreed to accept the statement.

19/83. To discuss Councillor Responsibilities

Following the resignation of Tom Woolston, his responsibilities were reassigned. Due to another pending resignation, responsibilities will be looked at again.

19/84. To discuss Assets of Community Value

When a nominating body nominates an asset to be put on the community value register, Cherwell District Council have 8 weeks to consider the nomination form and decide whether to include the asset on the register. If the asset is put on the register the owner/occupier is informed and they have a right to review the decision. They have 28 days to lodge a request for a review. If the property gets put onto the register it will stay on for 5 years and be renominated after that period.

Action: Councillors to consider assets that could be registered.

19/85. Financial Report

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:

£360.00 to Moore (external audit)

£240.24 to CDC (emptying of dog bins)

£195.43 to Parish Clerk (hours)

To note the completion of the external audit

The external audit is complete. The notice is on the notice-board.

19/86. To receive an update on Planning

One new application had been received since the last meeting.

19/00186/TCA, Tree work at Langsat House, Main Road. No further comments or observations by CDC.

Older applications:

19/01086/LBC, Replacement front door and adjoining side window to front elevation in timber stained walnut at 1 The Tithings. Refused by CDC.

19/01556/TCA, Tree work at St Peter and St Pauls Church. No Further comments or objections.

19/87. The following correspondence was received and circulated:

CDC, 'A Thriving economy, a thriving place' workshop on 12th November.

19/88. Councillors' Reports

The Childrens Christmas party was discussed. A draft budget based on 30 children attending with adults was circulated. It was agreed to raise a cheque for £150.00.

Cllr Benson advised he would be resigning at the end of this meeting.

Cllr Taylor agreed to organise the Christmas tree.

19/89. Date and Time of next meeting

Monday 2nd December 2019 at 7.30pm.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.30pm.