

SWALCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 2nd MARCH 2020 AT 7.30PM IN SWALCLIFFE VILLAGE HALL

Councillors Present

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

20/11. Apologies

Cllr McCallum (work)

20/12. Declarations of Interest

There were no interests to declare.

20/13. Co-option of New Councillor

Steve Gandy was co-opted onto the Parish Council. He signed the Acceptance of Office form and was welcomed onto the Parish Council.

20/14. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2019 and 20th January 2020

The minutes of both meetings were approved and signed as true record.

20/15. Public Participation Session

No matters were raised.

20/16. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only

Annual Inspection of Woodland Play Area – This was completed and passed.

Digital Connectivity Group – A questionnaire has been put on the village Facebook page.

20/17. To receive an update on the Community (Village) Hall

Cllr Gandy gave a presentation on the future of the community (village) hall. More detail will be given at the Annual Parish Meeting. The Chair noted that a lot of work has been done since the last APM and he was pleased that the aim for the future is high. The following actions were agreed:

- The Parish Council are happy with rebuilding on the current site. The Parish Council have a responsibility when using public money. The cost of refurbishment will need to be looked at to justify a new build.
- The initial spec is ok. A discussion took place about tendering and best value.
Action: The Parish Clerk to forward any national guidance on tendering.
- Funding was discussed. There may be grant money available through CDC.
Action: The Chair/Cllr Gandy to make contact with Sarah Burns at CDC. The Parish Clerk to pass them the contact details.
- Planning consent will be required as the hall is in the Conservation Area. Pre-planning advice can be obtained from CDC.
- The Parish Council will pay for any initial work and the VHC will organise fund raising events. There is a fund raising working party consisting of Mick Foley and Peter Beddowes.
Action: An allocation of PC money is to be agreed at a later meeting.

The car parking area was discussed. The area could be bigger. The gravel is not ideal as it moves onto the road. A landscape architect would be engaged. Electric car points are to be considered. The carbon footprint of the hall is important and an efficient heating system is to be thoroughly investigated.

The mission statement will be re-worded. It was felt the timescale for feedback of 10 days was too tight. This will be reviewed. The gutters need clearing. This will be done on the day of the litter pick. It was agreed that while the new build is progressed, there will be minimum spend on the village hall.

20/18. To consider the Cherwell Community Lottery

This is a CDC initiative. There are no set up costs or admin fees. Supporters buy tickets and have a chance to win £25K. The charity would receive 50% of all ticket sales. It was agreed this was more suitable for a charity.

20/19. To review Parish Councillor responsibilities

The list of Parish Councillor responsibilities will be updated in light of change of Councillors.

Action: The Chair to circulate.

20/20. To discuss the Parish Report for the Annual Parish Meeting

A draft leaflet has been produced and various speakers contacted. There will be reports from the Parish Council, PCC, Swalcliffe Park School and the Village Hall.

20/21. To agree a date for Village Litter pick (Spring Clean 2020)

It was agreed to hold a village litter pick on Sunday 5th April at 9.30am. The event will be advertised through Facebook.

20/22. Financial Report

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:

£278.96 To Parish Clerk (hours)

£24.60 to HMRC

£91.80 To Parish Clerk (mileage 2018 and 2019)

£35.76 to Parish Clerk (expenses)

£10.40 to OALC (Good Cllr Guide Book)

20/23. To receive an update on Planning

There was nothing to report.

20/24. Councillors' Reports

Cllr Smith gave an update from the school. The front wall at the school has fallen down. It will be fixed on Monday 2nd March. The barrier is now in permanent use. There are plans to improve the site such as reducing carbon emission, single use plastic, being more sustainable, solar panels and insulating buildings.

Speedwatch will start once the mornings and evenings are lighter. There are a team of volunteers who were previously involved.

A tree has fallen down at the bottom of the Common. The matter will be dealt with by the Clearance Group.

20/25. Date and time of next meeting

20TH April, Parish Council meeting at 7pm followed by Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.