

SWALCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A REMOTE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 18TH MAY 2020 AT 7.30PM

Councillors Present

Neil Urquhart (NU), Chairperson
Steve Gandy (SG)
Lee McCallum (LM)
Ryan Smith (RS)
Victoria Taylor (VT)
Christine Coles - Parish Clerk

20/29. Elections

Election of Chairperson

It was proposed by Cllr McCallum that Cllr Urquhart be Chair. Seconded by Cllr Smith.

Signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office form by the Chair

The form will be signed.

Election of Vice-Chair

It was proposed by Cllr Gandy that Cllr Taylor be Vice-Chair. Seconded by Cllr Smith.

20/30. Apologies

Cllr Hodkinson (poor internet signal)

20/31. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Smith declared an interest as a Governor at Swalcliffe Park School.

20/32. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on of 2nd March and 31st March 2020

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

20/33. Public Participation Session

No matters were raised.

20/34. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only

Digital Connectivity Group – There have been a few more replies to the Facebook post. Cllr McCallum has had no issues with Voneus but the good weather has made a difference with internet signal.

Speedwatch – The equipment is with Broughton PC and is on hold currently.

Tree on the Common – This has been dealt with and cut up.

20/35. Financial Report

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:

£140.42 to OALC (subscription)
£47.51 to ABC Advertising Ltd (website)
£240.24 to CDC (dog bin emptying)
£18.00 to SLCC (membership)
£600.00 to Andrew Bathe (grass cutting)
£7.20 to R Smith (copying)
£42.00 to OPFA (membership)

20/36. To authorise changes to the banking arrangements

It was agreed that the Parish Clerk should be added as a bank signatory so that online banking can be progressed.

Two Councillors are to authorise expenditure up to £600.00 and three councillors over £600.00. Before payment all payments will be approved at a scheduled meeting or, if urgent, by email between meetings to then be confirmed at the next meeting.

20/37. To confirm changes to Parish Councillor responsibilities

The Chair had circulated an up to date Councillor responsibility list which was agreed.

20/38. To receive an update on the Village Hall and to authorise a budget of up to £2500.00 in FY 2020/21 on associated professional fees

The Parish Council have been pursuing a solution to upgrade the village hall but little progress has been made in the current situation. The options are to replace the existing structure with a modular building or a traditional construction, emphasizing an eco/sustainable approach. A refurbishment has to be looked at too. Funding could be an issue and there may be a delay. The working party remain in favour of replacing the structure even if it takes longer. There is little energy for a refurbishment that may consume funds but not achieve the objectives. A spec has been produced to address the deficiencies with the option to improve the internal layout. The plan is to approach 2/3 local builders to cost the options and provide input. The survey carried out last year is the basis for this requirement. In parallel, Cllr Gandy has revisited the spec for a new building. The purpose is to reduce the scope in size to find a balance between functionality and cost. Previous issues raised in the last survey highlighted better heating and airing. The guttering was blocked but that has now been cleared. Cllr Gandy was thanked for doing this.

There is another idea to consider. Swalcliffe Park/Grange Farm have a building which the PC could lease. They could offset this cost by providing additional parking in the village on the current site of the hall including vehicle charging facilities. There are pros and cons to this idea.

The aspiration remains to build a new community hall but it will take longer than first thought. It was agreed that some refurbishment may be necessary to keep the hall useable whilst enough money is raised for the new build. Some investment could be recouped with a new structure.

Councillors agreed that some work should be done whilst the hall is closed. Detailed structural surveys should wait as they may time out if done too early. It was agreed to authorise expenditure up to £2500.00 for associated professional fees including a topographical survey at £975.00 & VAT.

Action: Cllr Gandy to get costings.

Cllr Gandy is to look at Terms of Reference for the VHC. Thanks were given to Cllr Gandy for all his work on this project.

20/39. To receive an update on Planning

20/00942/TCA, Tree work at The Tithings. No further comments or observations by the PC.

20/00492/TCA, Tree work at Tithe Barn House, 5 The Tithings. No further comments or observations by the PC/CDC.

20/01113/F, Installation of a ground mounted solar photovoltaic array at Swalcliffe Park School. It was agreed to support the application.

Action: The Parish Clerk to respond to CDC.

20/01166/LB, Removal of an internal wall in kitchen area at Swalcliffe Park School. The school have brought in an external catering company. The kitchen is being opened up to make a bistro. It was agreed to support the application.

Action: The Parish Clerk to respond to CDC.

20/40. To receive the following correspondence:-

Swalcliffe Park School – Speed bump installation. The barrier is now in use all the time. It was noted that there are four boys currently in full time education. The Council noted that a section of the perimeter wall is being rebuilt and commented that the school are looking after the estate very well.

20/41. Councillors' Reports

A vote of thanks was given to Martin and Jenny Bell for all their efforts in co-ordinating help within the village during the current Covid-19 outbreak.

Thanks were given to Colin Hill for digitising the parish records.

20/42. Date and time of next meeting

Monday 29th June 2020 at 7.30pm

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

DRAFT