

SWALCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 21st MARCH 2022 AT 7.30PM IN SWALCLIFFE VILLAGE HALL

Councillors Present

Neil Urquhart (NU), Chairperson
Martin Collett (MC)
Steve Gandy (SG)
Ken Hodgkinson (KH)
Karen Riordan (KR)
Ryan Smith (RS)
Victoria Taylor (VT), Vice Chairperson
Christine Coles - Parish Clerk and one member of the public

22/15. Apologies

None.

22/16. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Riordan declared an interest in the planning application at 5 Bakers Lane.

22/17. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 31st January 2022

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

22/18. Public Participation Session

There were no matters to discuss.

22/19. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only

Garage rent/access payments – All payments have been received.

Precept for 2022/23 – CDC were notified of the new amount.

Repair of Christmas lights – Cllr Smith to get quotes.

Grange Lane road signage – Highways will sort out the correct signage 'Except for Access' nameplates in the new financial year.

Speedwatch – A new rota has been sent out. A neighbouring parish is communicating with the Community Speedwatch Communicator at the Roads Policing Unit in Amersham.

Repair to notice-board – This is ongoing. The Parish Clerk to ask Gay Harris about access to power in the church.

22/20. To receive an update on the village hall project

The quotes and specification for the hall have been refined. When work begins the focus will be on the toilet area and back of stage. The main insulation and heating will be looked at in the summer. Cllr Gandy is waiting for a response from the National Lottery re the funding application submitted. It was agreed to wait for this response before any work begins. There will be a shortfall. The Parish Clerk is waiting to hear from Cllr Reynolds re a grant from his Councillor Priority Fund and the Chair will contact Banbury Charities.

At the Annual Parish Meeting, Cllr Gandy will address the village and advise of phases of work and where the funding is coming from. The VHC are hesitant to ask villagers for donations as there is a lot going on already with the Ukraine Crisis and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. The idea of a theme night in the village could be a fund raising opportunity to consider later on.

22/21. To receive a progress report on the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Work is ongoing. There is an insert going out with the next Link detailing the four events. The Church service on 3rd June is at 4pm. The Parish Council will be promoting each event. The beacon lighting takes place on 2nd June. The Reverend Bowler will lead parishioners to the beacon and Richard Taylor has offered the use of a tractor and seating trailer for those requiring assistance.

Nicholson Nurseries have supplied a tree which has to be planted in March or in the Autumn time. A tree will be planted at a low key event with the vicar on 31st March. A seat to fit around the tree will be made by a villager. A budget of £1K has been given for the seat. The seat will be unveiled on the day of the Jubilee Lunch. The Trustees of the Tithe Barn have agreed in principle to the planting on the grass outside the Barn, but approval is still awaited from other interested parties. We will therefore consider an alternative location.

The committee are looking for more volunteers. CDC have confirmed there is a grant.

Action: The Chair to apply for the Jubilee Grant.

22/22. To discuss preparations for the Annual Parish Meeting in April

The Chair will welcome and introduce everyone. He will give an overview of the accounts and Councillors will note key points.

The school and PCC have been invited. The Woodland Play Area Committee and Village Hall Committee will both give a report.

Action: The Chair to invite the Swalcliffe Society.

22/23. Financial Report

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:

£72.00 to Parish Clerk (payment for two brown bins to be collected)

£29.95 to Parish Clerk (condolence book)

£150.00 to OALC (membership)

£56.49 to A Smith (Christmas party receipts 2021)

£38.50 to A Smith (Christmas party receipt 2019)

£250.00 to K Riordan (tree for Platinum Jubilee)

22/24. To receive an update on planning

The following update was given:

22/00510/F, Single storey rear extension at Wisteria Cottage, 5 Bakers Lane. Under consideration.

22/25. To receive Councillors Reports

Filming is taking place in the village hall, Sibford and Broughton.

The annual programme of woodland management work on the Common has been completed.

There has been communication within the village about helping with the refugees in the Ukraine crisis. The Chair attended a recent webinar on the subject. Information will be circulated once it is received and a website page will be set up.

There will be Parish Council elections on 5th May 2022. Nomination papers have to be submitted to CDC between 29th March and by 4pm on 5th April.

A resident has asked if the verges on Green Lane and Park Lane can be left uncut. This was agreed last year. The rest of the village will be cut on a regular basis. The first cut will take place on 1st April.

There was a recent incident of fly tipping on a back road. Councillors discussed how to help residents and point them in the right direction to report waste matters.

Action: Cllr Hodkinson to find out contact names.

A litter pick will be held on 9th April. A village spring clean will be organized for a later date. This will include the varnishing of the bench outside the church.

Action: The Parish Clerk to email the completed equipment order form to CDC.

Cllr Collett will look at funding for electrical charging points. A feasibility project could be carried out looking at where the points can be sited and the cost to put in and manage them. The project will look at when demand will materialize and the capital costs associated and ongoing costs to manage.

22/26. To note next meeting date and time

Monday 11th April 2022, Parish Council meeting at 7pm followed by Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm.

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