

SWALCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 9TH JANUARY 2023 AT 7.30PM IN SWALCLIFFE VILLAGE HALL

Councillors Present

Martin Collett (MC) – Vice Chairperson
Ken Hodgkinson (KH)
Karen Riordan (KR)
Ryan Smith (RS)
Victoria Taylor (VT)
Christine Coles - Parish Clerk and six members of the public

23/01. Apologies

Cllr Gandy (personal)

23/02. Co-option of New Councillor

The vacancy was publicised following the resignation of Neil Urquhart. Stephen Warrington was welcomed and co-opted onto the Parish Council. He signed the Acceptance of Office form.

23/03. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Smith declared an interest in the payment to Mrs A Smith for the Children's Christmas party.

23/04. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 5TH December 2022

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

23/05. Public Participation Session

Members of the public were at the meeting to discuss speeding. Some have lived in the village a long time, walk a few times a day and noticed the increase in speed of traffic in the last 12-18 months. There have been a few near misses. Visitors and local people visit the children's play park and Tithe Barn which are both positioned on the Main Road.

Cllr Taylor provided an update on actions that the Parish Council were undertaken already in relation to speeding concerns, including the proposal that Speedwatch was due to recommence in the Spring. It was noted that a meeting should have been held today in relation to Speedwatch, but was cancelled at the last minute. More volunteers are needed to help and those putting themselves forward are required to undertake a short training course. Additional signage will be needed.

There are limitations as to what can be done without proper street lighting. Premature acceleration of vehicles was felt to be a problem, but it's an expensive process to move the current 30mph signs further out of the village. Enquiries were made some years ago and costs would need to be funded by the parish.

The current VAS require new batteries. 20mph limits were briefly discussed but need more research. *Action: The Parish Clerk to find out the Speedwatch training details and an appeal for more volunteers to be progressed. Cllr Collett to contact Colin Hill for advice on replacement batteries for the existing VAS. A note will be sent to Highways sharing concerns about speeding and asking for advice on what might be possible to address these.*

Mick Foley spoke about the garage area which is in a bad state of repair. Previously it had been backfilled with stone but he asked if a working party could organize something instead. The area has been flooded recently. Councillors will look at the area.

Action: Cllr Collett to discuss concerns with Cllr Gandy and a site meeting to be convened involving garage owners to review solutions.

23/06. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda

The Christopher Cooke Charity which was mentioned at the last meeting has been closed. The John Loggins Charity is still an active charity. It was started 170 years ago and serves six parishes. It has a modest income and mainly helps the poor. It was understood that there have been no applications from Swalcliffe in the last few years. Cllr Warrington was now aware of the charity through his separate Parochial Church Council position.

Plaque from broken bench on the Green – This will be passed to Colin Hill.

Action: Cllr Riordan to arrange for plaque to be passed to Colin Hill.

Village Hall – Cllr Collett is continuing to look at the governance and this will be an agenda item in February.

Fund raising for the village hall – This will be an agenda item in February.

Garage rent/access payments – Emails were sent out and some payments have been received.

23/07. To receive an update on the placement of the Platinum Jubilee Bench

This is ongoing. The Parish Council have been chasing OCC for permission for one year now. It's very frustrating as the village would like to see it in position. It was agreed that if there is no progress from OCC before the next meeting a new location will be considered and agreed.

23/08. To discuss ideas for the Kings Coronation in May

The Kings Coronation will be a lighter touch compared to the Platinum Jubilee last year. Another street party on 6th May could be organised and include fund raising for the village hall.

Action: Cllr Riordan to ask the pub if they are celebrating the occasion.

23/09. Financial Report

£30.23 to ABC Advertising Ltd (emails)

£130.00 to Swalcliffe Village Hall (hire of hall)

£86.37 to Mrs A Smith (Christmas party expenses)

To set the precept for 2023/24

Figures had been circulated to show spend and income for the next financial year applying a 5% assumption increase to the precept. Estimated income was noted as £10,409.00 and estimated expenditure £9,372.00 leaving a surplus of £1,037.00. The Parish Council discussed the need to rebuild the current low-level of reserves to a more reasonable level to safeguard parish finance against financial risks that could emerge should some large expenditure become necessary. After a discussion which noted inflationary cost pressures, the need to enhance reserves and the importance of any increase being reasonable given the pressure on household finances, it was agreed to increase the precept by 7% and set it at £8524.00 for 2023/24. This would increase the estimated surplus at the end of year to £1595.00.

Action: The Parish Clerk to notify CDC.

To agree the donation for the Link

The amount (£100.00) for January 2023 was set in January 2022. It was agreed to pay this amount. Feedback from the producers of the Link suggested that this donation is not enough to cover printing costs although the Parish Council have not seen the latest accounts yet and noted that the publication was now to be every other month. It was also noted that commercial advertising within the Link secured revenue in addition to contributions from both Swalcliffe and Tadmarton Parish Council. In exchange for the donation, the Parish Council would like to request a regular feature to report details on its activity.

The Village Hall will be approached to see if they would also like to make a £40.00 donation, to increase the overall contribution from Swalcliffe Parish to £140.

Action: The Parish Clerk to ask to see a breakdown of the Link accounts and ask the Link for a designated PC page each edition to display information.

23/10. To receive an update on planning

One older notification had been received.

22/03411/TCA, Tree work at Church House, Main Road. No comments or objections by CDC.

23/11. To receive Councillors Reports

It was agreed to send a letter of thanks to the Stags Head for allowing the Christmas lights to be plugged in. The pub is of huge value to the village.

Action: The Parish Clerk and Chairperson to liaise over wording and send to Stamatis and Faith Trivizas.

The Christmas lights have been taken down but one length does not work.

Action: Cllr Smith to get a price.

The Children's Christmas party, held in December, was a great success and attended by 14 children. They watched Mistletoe Farm which was filmed locally and had a visit from a special person.

Cllr Smith reported the defibrillator which is currently faulty and out of action. The Ambulance Service are aware. Last time a loan unit was sent out. Cllr Smith has produced a user guide which he will circulate for comments. It will then be distributed by hand to each household.

23/12. To note next meeting date and time

Tuesday 20th February 2023 at 7.30pm.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.