

SWALCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 20TH FEBRUARY 2023 AT 7.30PM IN SWALCLIFFE VILLAGE HALL

Councillors Present

Martin Collett (MC) – Vice Chairperson
Ken Hodgkinson (KH)
Ryan Smith (RS)
Victoria Taylor (VT)
Stephen Warrington
Christine Coles - Parish Clerk, District Councillor Douglas Webb and one member of the public

23/13. Apologies

Cllr Gandy (personal)

23/14. Co-option of New Councillor

The vacancy was publicised following the resignation of Karen Riordan. Thanks was given to Karen for all her work as a Councillor. Nicola Borkmann was co-opted onto the Parish Council. She signed the Acceptance of Office form.

23/15. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Taylor declared an interest in the planning application at the Old Grange as a neighbour.

23/16a. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2023

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

23/16b. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda

State of Garage area – Cllr Gandy had made contact with the garage lessees and a site meeting will be arranged.

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

Item 23/23 was brought forward as Cllr Douglas Webb was at the meeting to discuss this plan.

23/23. To discuss the Local Cycling and Walking Consultation plan

Cllr Warrington attended the consultation afternoon held in Banbury. It is an extensive long term ambition and being extended out to Bloxham, North Newington, Broughton and Wroxton. The plan is to get cars off the road and encourage more people to walk and cycle. There are potentially environmental and health benefits attached to the idea should it work as intended.

The following points/concerns were raised:-

- The prospective demand/usage is opaque e.g. applying Dutch propensity to cycle data to Banbury, assumed purchase of electric bikes to cope with the hills. It is not apparent the topography and demographics of the area have been factored in.
- No cost to implement estimates have been provided.
- The potential impact of reduced road capacity for motor vehicles where space is cannibalised for cycle and footpaths.

- The bigger picture issue of potential loss to Banbury's economy and social fabric. Will road congestion and longer journey times deter people to visit other places such as Chipping Norton or Stratford Upon Avon?

After a discussion it was agreed the Parish Council do approve of the principle and the health benefits attached. However, they had concerns about the business case supporting the proposals and whether they were using taxpayer money in a way that delivers good value? There seems to have been no consideration of the population living in the wider rural hinterland. It was agreed that the Parish Council respond to the consultation and share this with parishioners so that they are aware. The deadline is 26th February. Villagers are to be encouraged to respond too.

Action: Cllr Collett to respond on behalf of the PC. Cllr Smith to write share details on the website and social media.

23/17. Public Participation Session

There were no matters raised.

23/18. To discuss and receive an update on Speedwatch

A pre meeting was held at 6.30pm and was well attended. Sue Leech from Broughton came along and spoke about the experiences of their local Speedwatch Group. It was noted that all site positions have to be registered with Thames Valley Police and all volunteers have to be trained. There was an update on the electronic speed signs, where batteries had been ordered for one that was now operational and Colin Hill was investigating the second, to establish if this could be made operational again.

Action: Cllr Hodgkinson to register road positions and arrange training for the volunteers. The Parish Clerk to thank Sue Leech for coming over. Village signage to be ordered before sessions take place.

23/19. To receive an update on the Village Hall Governance

Cllr Collett had circulated a Governance document giving future options for the village hall and a question and answer paper from September 2022. Each Councillor was asked for their views on this, the consensus being that resolving existing uncertainties through a clearer approach moving forward would be preferable and also have the potential to help all village assets. There will also be better opportunities to attract more grant funding. Option 2 was preferred to establish a wider village charity to take ownership of the village hall and establish new governance arrangements alongside this. Cllr Borkmann asked if any villages had explored this option. It was noted that engagement with the village hall committee would be essential to progress this option and also consultation with parishioners.

Action: Cllr Collett to ask the Village Halls Advisor and work with Cllr Borkham to expand proposals further.

23/20. To confirm Councillor Responsibilities

Governance and Charitable Status	Cllr Collett, supported by Cllr Borkmann
Development Plan	Cllr Warrington, supported by Cllr Gandy
Environmental Plan	Cllr Borkmann, supported by Cllr Gandy
Village Communication Plan	Cllr Smith, supported by Cllr Smith and Cllr Hodgkinson
Highways and Speedwatch	Cllr Hodgkinson supported by Cllr Taylor and Cllr Borkmann
Planning	Cllr Taylor supported by Cllr Gandy
Budget/Precept and Financial Reporting	Cllr Gandy supported by Cllr Collett
Community Hall development	Cllr Gandy supported by Cllr Taylor

Liaison Responsibility

Swalcliffe Park School	Cllr Smith
Playpark Committee	Cllr Smith

Village Fund/Swalcliffe Events
Swalcliffe Society
Village Community Hall
PCC

Cllr Collett
Cllr Gandy
Cllr Taylor
Cllr Warrington

23/21. To receive an update on the placing of the Platinum Jubilee Bench

The latest update is that OCC have spoken to their in house lawyers and believe the planting of the tree and positioning of the bench should not concern English Heritage as the “listing” of the Barn on the Historic England website map does not cover the area concerned. However the landlord believes that English Heritage consent is required. This needs to be discussed with OBT. Both OCC and the Museum Service Manager for the Barn are working in the background to progress the position and obtain formal permissions. OCC have draft Heads of Term for the license but OBT will require an input into these before they can be sent out.

A second position was discussed again. It was agreed to ask Highways if the bench can be placed outside the play area should this become necessary.

Action: The Parish Clerk to contact Highways. Cllr Collett to contact OBT direct to explore delays. The Parish Clerk to add the bench to the insurance policy.

23/22. To discuss ideas for the Kings Coronation in May and to acknowledge a Celebration grant

Cherwell District Council have offered a grant of £200.00 which can cover certain expenditure. The pub have proposed organising a pig roast and show the concert on screens on the Sunday. The Parish Council agreed to support and promote the event, including making a financial contribution to cover eligible costs. The Monday is a volunteering day.

23/24. Financial Report

To approve the following payments:

£107.40 to Mr C Hill (battery for VAS)

£405.66 To Parish Clerk (hours)

£101.40 to HMRC

£29.70 to Parish Clerk (mileage)

To approve the insurance renewal

The Parish Clerk had asked for a second quote from BHIB to compare. It came out very expensive compared to the current company. It was agreed to accept the quote of £1793.79 from Gallagher.

To approve the printing costs for the defibrillator protocol

150 copies will be printed to be distributed around the village. It was agreed to spend £200.00 on the printing.

23/24. To receive an update on planning

One application had been received since the last meeting.

23/00263/TCA, Tree work at Swalcliffe Cottage, Main Road. It was agreed to give no comment.

A second application was received after the agenda had been issued.

23/00233/F, Demolition of existing extensions and erection of new extensions to dwelling with associated landscaping at The Old Grange. The Parish Council to comment there is a public footpath which is visible.

Action: The Parish Clerk to respond.

23/25. To receive Councillors Reports

Local Plan 2040 – Cllr Warrington has looked at the draft plan. He complimented the work and said it had been put together well. Swalciffe is a smaller village with no housing planned. Selected infills will be allowed within the existing boundary.

Cllr Warrington will be looking at producing a Village Development Plan. The objective is to make Swalciffe the best it can be and to be guided by the preference of the residents and in the context of all the stakeholders requirements and constraints. A survey will be carried out. The matter will be discussed further at the Annual Parish Meeting in April.

A litter pick will be organised in the next month or two by Cllr Smith.

Cllr Borkmann asked to see a map of areas that are cut by the grass cutting contractor.

Action: The Parish Clerk to forward it to her.

Cllr Smith is meeting David McLindon to discuss a communication plan. He will put a paper together detailing the pros and cons and circulate. It was noted that a more formal (but proportionate) approach to GDPR will become necessary as the extent of Parish Council activity increases.

The defibrillator tripped out again recently but Cllr Smith was able to reset. He will keep an eye on it.

23/26. To receive the following correspondence

- Email from villager and OCC Countryside Service, Parish footpath 6. The landowner had reported the rotten bridge. Both the hand rails and one beam were found to be in an unsatisfactory condition. They were removed with the help of the landowner and new ones ordered. Work is currently behind at the moment.
- Thames Valley Police, Local Coronation Plans. The Parish Clerk to notify TVP that a low key event will be held on the Green in conjunction with the pub.
- The Link, Donation thank you letter.
- CDC, Cherwell Local Plan 2040 Update. An update given under item 23/25.

23/27. To note next meeting date and time

Monday 17th April 2023, Parish Council meeting at 7pm followed by Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.