

Swanbourne Parish Council

Meeting held 9th September 2015

Minutes of the Swanbourne Parish Council meeting held in Swanbourne Village Hall on Wednesday 9th September 2015 at 6pm.

Present:

Tom Finchett (Chair)	TF	Clare Barker (Clerk)	CLB
Clive Rodgers (Vice-Chair)	CR	Helen Cleaveley	HC
Jean Tuer	JT	David Blunt	DB
Linda Sirett	LS		

11/15 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Simon Hitchings (SH) and Janet Blake (JB)

12/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

TF declared a business and financial interest on behalf of the Swanbourne Estate, in any matters where the Estate had a direct involvement.

13/15 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 13TH MAY 2015

The minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting, having been circulated and read, were approved and signed by TF. It was pointed out that Jenny Hilton was present at the Assembly but was not included on the list of villagers in attendance.

ACTION: *CB to add her name to the list.*

14/15 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING OF 13TH MAY

06/15 2.1.1 Dragons Teeth and Gates

All damaged gates have now been replaced with plastic ones, which are much easier to clean. DB pointed out one was smaller than the others and he also said how disappointed that the wording on the signs entering the village still said "Please drive carefully" rather than "Please drive slowly". Dragon's teeth will be repainted when the road is resurfaced. Buckinghamshire County Council's safety audit team has compromised on the cat's eyes and white lines, which will now run from the white gates as far as 17 Mursley Road.

ACTION: *TF to discuss with David Letts*

06/15 2.1.3 Access to a defibrillator

JT commented that the village had already contributed towards the money raised by Jeanette Timms for an area defibrillator that is not located in Swanbourne. A new machine would cost

about £1,200 and training about £300 (£1,500 could be funded by a LAF grant). The village school have confirmed they would be happy to have it located at the front of the school.

ACTION: *LS to email JT details of a company who provides the machines/training to see how much it would cost for us to go ahead.*

06/15 2.1.9 Maintenance

- The drains at the bottom of Cemetery Hill have been cleared but not yet connected.
- The camber at the bottom of Nearton End will not be re-aligned before the winter.
- Verges at Nearton/Tattams – TF said granite sets could be placed along part of Nearton End and Barrack Row in Smithfield End.

ACTION: *TF to obtain a price from J and S Contractors; then*

ACTION: *SH to take estimates to the LAF to see if funding may be available.*

- At the Council bungalows in Tattams Lane, Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust has agreed to create more parking.

ACTION: *TF to ensure the parking area is not on the grass opposite. SH at LAF to discuss sets.*

07/15 War Memorial

CR advised the plaque would cost slightly more than originally anticipated at £788 plus VAT plus £25 carriage. TF confirmed that the Parish Council were happy to buy this. CR would circulate the names and suggested wording for the plaque to the PC to ensure everyone was in agreement. Roger Parker has done a lot of work tidying up the garden and you can now walk round the back of the monument. Tom Fremantle has agreed to have a bench dedicated to Lady Fremantle in the garden which it was thought should look out over the Park field. TF said the Estate would be prepared to trim back the hedges. JT thought it might look best at the front of the monument providing the size fits.

ACTION: *CR to take forward and organise the wording. TF explained that the Estate already had planning permission to cut back some of the trees.*

08/15d Sidesman Work

An agreement with Trudy Timms for tidying up around the village has now been agreed and drawn up and is now in place.

15/15 MATTERS ARISING FROM PARISH ASSEMBLY MINUTES 20TH MAY 2015

5. Smithfield End sign and Footpath at Neal's Farm

The sign has now been repaired, and the footpath needs to have a kissing gate put in place.

ACTION: *TF to speak to Pete Boddily at Neal's Farm.*

9. **Poor's Land** – no report yet from Jane Smith for last year. DB pointed out that the Church land and the Poor's Land do not bring in much revenue and it may be in their interests to sell the land to the farmer at North Hill who is the sitting tenant and who has shown an interest in buying the land.

ACTION: *CLB to follow up missing report. TF to look into the status of the Poor's Land and CB to contact Marion Lowe to see if she knows where the original Charity Documents are (will have to contact the Charity Commission if Marion doesn't know).*

16/15 FINANCE REPORT

CLB circulated a list of cheques and payments made since the last meeting (13th May 2015) which had been approved by TF.

TF explained he is due to review detail of actual spent against budget.

The second precept payment has not yet been received.

ACTION: CLB and TF to review the budget and circulate to PC members.

17/15 PLANNING

- a. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS** - Nearton End Farm – no determination yet. TF has spoken to the Planning Officer who says that planning would probably be permitted where there is B1 use on the main barn but that does not extend to the rest of the site. CLB informed the meeting that Adrian Hoy has instigated an appeal for non-determination. Planning has been approved for two trees to be cut down; Sheila Nuttall - silver birch at 1 Charlton Close and Steve Hunt - silver birch at 18 Smithfield End; and there is a decision pending for Swanbourne Estate - leylandii conifer at 16 Smithfield End.
- b. **VILLAGE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS** - CR attended a Neighbourhood Planning meeting on 12th August which was led by JB. Neighbourhood Plans already completed locally (e.g. at Winslow, Great Horwood and Marsh Gibbon) have to be taken in to account by AVDC but cannot come entirely into effect until the AVDC five year housing supply plan has been approved by the government. In the meantime, speculative planning applications have to be considered under the NPPF criteria. AVDC are hoping to re-submit and have approved a new District Plan by Summer, 2017, and if the housing targets proposed within the new plans are accepted by the government, the Neighbourhood plans in place (and future ones) would become fully operational. CR pointed out some advantages e.g. by drawing a settlement boundary we could draw up an outline of the village to help restrict speculative building outside the village and designate favoured sites within the boundaries. Up to £8,000 worth of grants may be available to help to fund the process, and JB is in favour of a Neighbourhood Plan. The village would need a new Neighbourhood Plan Website and a Steering Group would need to be set up to include stakeholders from the village, the Parish Council and the community as a whole. A Website would need to be commissioned for the project. Providing it is in Word Press, CR is happy to manage a future site which could eventually evolve into a general Parish Council Website. A yes/no referendum is a requirement before any completed Neighbourhood Plan can be implemented (requiring a simple majority 'yes' vote).

ACTION: CR will continue to investigate in order to provide a feasibility study with a suggested timetable for Swanbourne, and bring it to the January 2016 meeting to discuss further.

18/15 VILLAGE MATTERS

1. Maintenance

- a. In order to maintain cleanliness of footpaths within the village, LS requested a dog poo bin to be sited at the junction of Smithfield End and Winslow Road – this was agreed.

ACTION: TF to pursue with AVDC.

- b. The bench at the junction by the Church is broken.

ACTION: TF to look and see if it can be mended.

- c. JT referred to the road pot holes in Nearton End – only the holes marked were filled despite there being other potholes in the road. There was talk that repair of potholes would be devolved to parishes, but this was considered extremely unlikely.

ACTION: TF/DB to follow up.

2. **Village Hall** - JT said that David and she would very much like to step back from the Village Hall Committee. Mark Oldfield therefore needs a Vice Chairman and a Treasurer to facilitate the day to day running of the hall. There is a need to find volunteers to take over these roles as soon as possible.

ACTION: All to ask around.

3. **Playing field** – David Thrower is getting quotes for the fencing and play area. There are lots of good ideas going forward, including a new picnic area. TF said the Estate would cut the hedges, as this can be done more cheaply than the current proposals.

ACTION: TF to chase fencing quotes to make the field dog proof.

4. **Devolved Services - Verge cutting.** One more cut is to be carried out mid September. DB said that some areas of the village are being cut too often and some not cut enough. There are some areas where mowers struggle to cut and where strimming may be more appropriate. Also review where is being cut – DB thought the verges going out of the village for about 25 metres should be included and this was agreed. TF said there will be a meeting in October with David Letts (Stewkley Enterprise Agency) to review the first year and this will be discussed. LS will attend the meeting on behalf of Swanbourne PC.

In addition, Charlie Baldwin is not keen to carry on so we need to find a replacement. Josh Timmins is responsible for road strimming.

ACTION: LS to attend meeting and discuss Swanbourne issues, and to help TF recruit a replacement for Charlie.

5. **Other - Hedges and Verges.** DB said that some of the residents in the village needed to be encouraged to tidy up their hedges, e.g. the house at the end of Ridgeway. Also, the tree needs pruning back outside the Old House where the MVAS sign is, as the sign can't be seen until it is too late. The verge opposite Deverells Farm is slowly being worn away by people parking there. DB preferred to build up the verge to protect it with more topsoil, just leaving the parking for the cottages. DB commented that New Walk also needs strimming.

ACTION: CLB to contact Trudy concerning the New Walk strimming. TF to look into the work required for the tree pruning and verges.

6. **Other - Notice board and parking outside the village shop.** Notice Board had been removed to improve the entrance and parking for the shop, but needs to be put back up. The new parking area has been successful. When the road is re-surfaced it is planned to move the bus stop further along to ease the parking outside the village hall.

ACTION: TF to organise and ask Nick Sirett if he will varnish it.

19/15 **MVAS**

HC said there was a new Speedwatch timetable but more volunteers were still needed. HC was told there was a socket opposite the Estate Office and she said she would move the MVAS there on its next re-siting. The socket on Mursley Road has been damaged by a mower and the Allen key no longer fits in. TF will have a look and get it repaired. The socket on Cemetery Hill - HC needs help to set the machine up – TF will assist with this.

ACTION: *TF to pursue repairs.*

20/15 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- a. **Betsey Wynne** - TF informed the meeting that Ashley Sutherland had now left the Betsey Wynne and that the Trustees were looking to lease the pub out as soon as possible.
- b. **Broadband** – TF has had meetings with Andrew Mills who is helping to organise ultra fast broadband in North Marston and Granborough, on behalf of Aylesbury Vale Broadband. If this is successful the next phase may include the erection of masts on the Granborough and Swanbourne church towers, and bringing the supply to the cabinet in Swanbourne. Cables could then be run from there across the village. TF to keep the Parish Council informed of developments.
- c. **Transparency Code** - CR has brought to the attention of the Parish Council the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities (including Parish Councils) which from 2015 means that the PC accounts do not require an external audit. Instead, there are guidelines concerning procedures of financial transparency with deadlines that need to be met. CR felt that at the moment some of the guidelines and deadlines (referred to in the transparency booklet) were not being met.

ACTION: *TF and CB to refer to the guidance table within the transparency booklet to ensure the requirements are met, and report back to the next meeting.*

21/15 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Date of next meeting: 13th January 2016 at 6pm Swanbourne Village Hall

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting which closed at 8.15pm.