

Swanbourne Parish Council Meeting

A meeting of the Swanbourne Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on 1st July 2014 at 6pm.

Present: -

Tom Finchett (Chairman) TF
Phil Timmins (Vice Chairman) PT
David Blunt DB
Jean Tuer JT
Trudy Timms TT
Clare Barker (Clerk) CB
Clive Rodgers CR

Apologies were received from Caroline Baldwin and Janet Blake JB (Bucks County Councillor)

1. Declarations of interest

TF declared a business and financial interest on behalf of the Estate.

2. Minutes of the AGM (23rd April 2014)

The minutes of the AGM having been circulated and read and were approved and signed.

3. Matters arising from the AGM

- (a) Dragons Teeth and Gates - It was noted that the Dragons Teeth on the Mursley Road have not yet been repaired, and the gates at the entrance to the village by the Pub have fallen off and await repair.
- (b) Water running down Station Road - Matt Wincup from Bucks County Council has spoken with TF and the capital works will definitely be carried out this year, hopefully before the winter; this includes the French drain outside Tucks and the ditch.
ACTION: - TF to chase repair of pot holes
- (c) Cemetery Hill Footpath - TF said a hard surface path across the park and round the edge of the cemetery to some steps leading down into Nearton

End would start soon. The Estate is drawing up an agreement with the PCC for a permissive footpath.

- (d) Access to a defibrillator – The issue of the lack of a defibrillator in the village was discussed.

ACTION: - JT to speak to Alex Richardson about accessing a defibrillator.

- (e) Dodley Hill Farm site - TF said Dodley Hill development is progressing well and the Estate would soon be marketing its rental. There is now a paint balling business and gun shop.

- (f) MVAS – funding approved, sites approved, deposit paid, but no indication when it would go through.

- (g) Playing fields – TT is cutting the play area with a strimmer. Roy Sherwood has been mowing the playing field as an unremunerated favour, so the PC expressed its thanks as it looks much better now.

4. Parish Assembly (14th May, 2014)

TF said that there was very good turnout and lots of feedback from villagers. Ken was thanked for all his hard work regarding Cemetery Hill footpath. The minutes of the Parish Assembly having been circulated and read were approved and signed.

5. Matters arising from the Parish Assembly

- (a) Drains - The problem of blocked drains was discussed. ACTION:-TF to get in touch with Matt Wincup Bucks County Council, the drains on the corner near Neal's Farm need sucking out as blocked as well as the drains at the bottom of Cemetery Hill.

- (b) Damaged verges – Smithfield End, granite sets are needed to protect the verge but Bucks CC will not fund these. Opposite JT the water box in road keeps coming off. We can either apply for funding or the PC will pay. Granite sets are very expensive but there are some second-hand ones at the reclamation plant at Verney Junction. Bletchley Turf also has some.

ACTION: - TF to contact J&S Contractors to quote for the work.

- (c) Parked cars - Continuing parking congestion by the schools was discussed. *ACTION: - TF is going to speak to the new Head at the Pre Prep regarding parking on the road opposite the Church.*

- (d) Deveralls Farm development – TF is trying to take on board the concerns of the villagers that there should be a mix of rental and saleable houses, rather than all rentals. The Estate had preferred to maintain the greater control provided by an all rental development. Due to planning regulations each house must have a number of parking spaces. The plans are to build bigger units due to the limited space available for parking. It is hoped that the planning application will be submitted shortly.
ACTION: - TF to look at the plans again.
- (e) Speed watch – Helen and Ken are out with the machine regularly and have asked TF to get the figures from the counter from Matt Wincup so we have an accurate figure for cars travelling through the village at present.
ACTION: - TF to provide figures from Matt Wincup.
- (f) Village School – DB reported that there are 112 children at the village school at present with places for 120. With the appointment of the new Head Teacher children are coming back to the village school but this is a slow process. Little Horwood is in the catchment area.
- (g) Retirement of Parish Clerk - The PC acknowledged the valued work of Tony Hilton over many years.
ACTION: - TF/DB will send Tony Hilton a thank you card and wine.
- (h) Audit Query - David Gray has spoken to TF regarding recording the clerks invoice for expenses and has said that as CB is self-employed it would be better if she invoiced for the work done within the year as the auditors could query this.
ACTION: - CB to invoice the PC on work done as appropriate.

6. Councillors Responsibilities

The following responsibilities were agreed:-

DB – Village maintenance including verges. To liase with Matt Wincup.

CR – Planning, village website, playing fields, SCA

JT – liase with Village Hall Committee

PT – to attend LAF meetings, as very useful

TT – footpath maintenance

7. Planning

No plans have been submitted recently within the village. Planning has been approved for the wall to be replaced outside the Old Tearooms. Village School

will be submitting plans for a new classroom shortly. The Estate will be applying for a new entrance at Dodley Hill because of the new offices and Gun Shop

8. Village Hall

Mark Oldfield has agreed to be Chairman with JT as Vice. JT will look after maintenance. Brett from Aquafoss will come and have a look at the damp problem; probably a need for an eight foot high waterproof skin. TF to forward to JT Brett's number. AGREED: - The PC will cover the cost of redecorating as a grant, will cost circa £1750.

9. Playing Fields

- (a) Suspicious persons - A suspicious man has been hanging round the playing fields, and TT has reported this to the Police.
- (b) Tennis courts - The option of going back to renting out the tennis courts (frequently used by outsiders to the village) was considered, as the rental could be used to help pay for maintenance. However, this was thought to be difficult to implement. The fencing round the courts in some areas is in disrepair, there a pot holes on the court. Some branches need cutting down by the swings and general tidying up.
ACTION: - CR and TT to meet with Nick Odell, and identify what needs doing.

10. Affordable Housing

- (a) Housing Plans and options - TF said that in total, nine surveys have been completed and returned to him. Estate and PC are looking to go ahead with the development with 75% being affordable housing. Looking to build three bedroom houses, but the village needs smaller units which could be for rental. DB said there was a lack of modern rental properties in the village, and thought that we might consider buying back the bungalows down Tattams Lane. In discussion, it was clarified that the intention was to build seven affordable houses. The possibility of forming our own housing association has been seriously considered after the banking crash made mortgages difficult to obtain. However, the situation has now improved, so we could probably go back to shared ownership with local people if preferred. It was felt that there was enough interest to take the project forward.
ACTION: - TF will produce a document on housing options to discuss at the next meeting.

11. Devolved Services

Grass cutting – TF explained that going forward we will now be doing our own grass cutting. Josh Sirett, Josh Timmins and Sam Greenwood have all shown an interest in carrying out the work. We need to look at the village as a whole and decide which areas need mowing/strimming and which areas to leave. David Letts from Stewkley has agreed to oversee the start-up of the project including getting funding. All invoices will therefore go through David Letts.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting which closed at 8pm.