

Swanbourne Parish Council

Meeting held 13th May 2015

Minutes of the Swanbourne Parish Council meeting held in Swanbourne Village Hall on Wednesday 13th May 2015 at 6pm.

Present:

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

Apologies were received from Janet Blake (JB)

In attendance:- Steve Hunt

1 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. SH declared an interest as Headmaster of Swanbourne House School.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

DB proposed Tom Finchett as Chairman and JT seconded

JT proposed Clive Rodgers as Vice Chairman and TF seconded

3. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS AND DUTIES

TF explained that this would be a short meeting as we have the Parish Assembly next week. TF went on to explain that last year we had divided up the duties of the Parish Council in order to spread the work load. The future duties for each Parish Councillor were agreed as follows:-

LAF Funding/Grants (3/4 meetings a year in Winslow)	- SH
Liaison with village organisations	- CR
Planning matters	- CR
Highways (liaising with BCC)	- DB
Devolved Services	- LS
Speed watch/MVAS	- HC
Village Hall	- JT

4. MEETING INTRODUCTION – TF

TF explained that we run through a similar format every meeting, approving the minutes of the last meeting, matters arising and any action needed, CB runs through finance, CR planning summary, then group discussion on various agenda items. Meetings usually take two hours. Four meetings a year (January, April, July and September) plus the Parish Assembly. At the January meeting the Parish Precept is set, in conjunction with Budgets for the forthcoming year. In April the AGM is held. All planning issues are dealt with by email via CR.

5 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 15th APRIL 2015

The minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting, having been circulated and read, were approved and signed by TF.

6 2.1 B/F MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING OF 15TH APRIL

2.1.1 (2.1.1)* Dragons Teeth and Gates

Cemetery Hill Gate has now been repaired, but there are two gates that remain broken on the entrance to the village and the Dragons Teeth have not been painted. AVDC will be resurfacing the road through Swanbourne and to Mursley and have confirmed their intention to paint the Dragons Teeth at the same time. TF said the cat's eyes and white lines will not be replaced as part of the planned psychological traffic calming measures.

ACTION: TF & DB will be meeting the Local Area Technician, Matt Whincup of Bucks County Council on 20th May.

2.1.3 (2.1.4)* Access to a defibrillator

JT advised that she felt there was no need to buy a static defibrillator as Alex Richardson has one in his car and is a first responder. Liz Mcleish has now finished her training but needs £1500 to buy her own defibrillator. JT suggested that a contribution of say £500 could be made. SH advised that SHS has its own defibrillator and a nurse trained to use it.

ACTION: To be discussed at the Parish Assembly.

2.1.5 (2.2.2)* Parked cars outside the Pre-prep and along the Winslow Road

Parking outside the Pre-Prep still a problem.

ACTION: SH said he will remind parents and staff not to park there.

2.1.7 (4.1)* Dodley Hill Farm

The public footpath minor route amendments close to Dodley Hill Farm (previously approved) are intended to be implemented within the next few weeks.

ACTION: TF to oversee.

2.1.9 (7.1)* Maintenance

The drains at the bottom of Cemetery Hill have been cleared. The camber at the bottom of Nearton End needs altering to change the flow of water to stop it flowing out onto the bottom of Cemetery Hill.

ACTION: The Local Area Technician, Matt Whincup at Bucks County Council is aware of this, but will be reminded by TF at their next meeting on the 20th May.

2.1.10 (7.2) * Village Hall

TF has emailed Mark Oldfield with his duties, responsibilities and liabilities for which he was grateful. Emma Saddington has agreed to take over as Treasurer from David Tuer.

2.1.11 Maintenance

- a. (i) Verges at Nearton/Tattams - These verges are in a very poor condition, particularly in the vicinity of 25 to 31 Nearton End. At the Council bungalows in Tattams Lane, residents are parking on the grass verges as there are too many cars for hard standing parking. LS said that BCC had talked about putting in parking space but DB advised there was now no money to do this.

ACTION: TF & CB to write to Aylesbury Vale Housing Trust to put a case forward for additional parking.

- (ii) Verges at Smithfield/Duck End – TF has spoken to Mr Faisal Aziz and the car has been moved. Rocks have now been placed on the verge to add substance and impede parking.

2.1.13 Fibre Optic Broadband for Swanbourne – the way forward

CR said there was still no news and would be monitoring the situation until June and see the outcome of the next round of AVDC funding announcements.

ACTION: CR to monitor AVDC funding announcements and will follow up unanswered emails with telephone calls.

6.1.14 Devolved Services

TF said the boys mowing have now been issued with their anti-vibration gloves. JT pointed out that the verges along Tattams Lane are being mowed by both residents and the boys and that the grass was being left at different heights making it look untidy. LS commented that the mowers cut quite high.

ACTION: DB suggested that perhaps a discussion was needed between residents and the boys to try and keep the grass at the same height.

6.1.15 Playing Field

Once the playing field is a dog free zone Swanbourne C of E School would be keen to start using it for athletics and other activities. David May (Deputy Head) is willing to join the committee and extend the school's involvement.

ACTION: TF to contact Nick Odell to enquire as to whether he wishes to continue as Chairman and to enquire as to other possible committee members.

6. PLANNING

TF advised that the planning application for the development at Deverells Farm may be withdrawn in its current form before submitting a new application.

Steve Hunt (18 Smithfield End) explained he was moving back into the village and was looking to put two parking spaces along the side of the extension (just approved) to make the front of 18 Smithfield End more attractive. TF & CR said they had no objections to this. Steve Hunt is also going to apply for consent to have a Silver Birch tree felled at the top of his garden. CR was happy for this going ahead. CR has also applied for consent to have the top 1/3 of his Silver Birch cut down in Charlton Close.

ACTION: DB asked if CB/CR could find out when Nearton End Farm's agricultural tie was lifted (probably last August) as the PC was not aware of being notified.

7. WAR MEMORIAL

CR advised the plaque would cost slightly more than originally thought £780 + VAT. It would be made of more zinc than brass and come with appropriate fixings. The memorial is now being considered by Historic England as a listed monument. CR has received £200 donation from the SCA for flowering shrubs for the entrances to the village and the War Memorial. CR is looking to tidy up the existing trees and shrubs behind the War Memorial, paint the chains and clean the supporting stones. Trudy Timms has offered to help.

ACTION: CR to organise.

8. VILLAGE MATTERS

- a. CR is also hoping to promote a Swanbourne in Bloom during June and encourage all the residents to plant colourful shrubs/flowers to brighten up the village. Some plants could go on the entrances by the gates. TF said that he thought we should plant native species such as honeysuckle and wild roses. It was suggested that winter heather could be suitable at the War Memorial, but it may not meet the criteria of 'native'. Volunteers will be needed to help with the planting.

ACTION: CR to follow up. Advice from Phillip Dalton, gardener at the Old House, will be sought for appropriate plants.

- b. The boys are doing a great job mowing the grass. DB suggested that we try and reclaim the verge opposite Deverells Farm as grass as it looks untidy as a parking area. The gates to the village look awful they are of a poor quality wood and haven't been painted properly.

ACTION: TF & DB to speak to Matt Wincup next week.

- c. There is much litter in the village at the moment. LS suggested we should have more rubbish bins. DB said he thought most of the litter was from passing cars so bins wouldn't help. The dustman should empty the village bins but rarely do. LS also said that we need more dog poo bins in the village as there are none at Smithfield End side of the village and there is a lot about. Particularly outside Deverells Farm round to Swanbourne C of E School and also the New Walk.

ACTION: to be discussed at the Parish Assembly.

- d. Trudy Timms – Sidesman Work – TF says that an official agreement needs to be drawn up to formalise her role and payment terms

ACTION: TF and CB to prepare an agreement.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

CR to put in Parish newsletter a reminder not to park on the grass verges in the village.

LS asked whether the Swanbourne Village sign and gates could be moved past the Swanbourne Nursery as would help traffic calming out of the village on Winslow Road – TF and DB will speak to Matt Wincup next week.

CR will be showing a PowerPoint at the Parish Assembly covering Affordable Housing, suggested last year's accounts were included – CB to action.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Parish Assembly to be held at 7 for 7.30pm in Swanbourne Village Hall on 20th May 2015.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting which closed at 7.32pm.