

Swanbourne Parish Council

AGM – 23rd April 2014

Present were:

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

The meeting was opened by Tom Finchett, who thanked everyone for coming and in particular Tony Hilton, who had stepped down as Clerk on the 31st March.

1. Apologies for absence: none received as everyone present. Janet Blake from Bucks County Council was also present.
2. Declaration of interest: TF – Swanbourne Estate and Swanbourne Home Farm, CB – Church and Playing Field
3. Approve and sign minutes of previous meeting: Approved by JT and seconded by CB. TF signed.
4. Matters arising:
 - a. DB and TF met Dave Smith, (BCC Highways on Call) – and inspected various highways maintenance issues around Swanbourne. A new drain will be installed on Station Road to deal with the flooding issues. The potholes would also be repaired. BCC advised that granite sets could be installed on Smithfield End but that the PC would have to fund this.
 - b. Grit boxes – in place but not needed this year.
 - c. Dragons teeth – These have been repainted and road markings re-done, despite to the agreement with BCC that these would not be replaced to aid psychological traffic calming. BCC will not now remove these but will note that no further painting should take place.
 - d. Gritting – The weather has been milder this winter so limited gritting was carried out. BCC were still not gritting Cemetery Hill as not on a bus route. It was agreed that a case should be put to BCC for gritting the road up from the A413. CB offered to research and speak to Police. ACTION CB Janet Blake said the winter gritting programme comes into force in October so a case should be put forward asap.
 - e. Stewkley Devolved Services Scheme – The next meeting is to be held on Wednesday 30th April. From past discussions, it was suggested that if the

Parish is going to take part in the scheme to cut the verges will need heavy duty mowers and strimmers. As well as having control of when the verges are cut, and direct accountability, an aim of the scheme is to involve youngsters in the village (16 years +). Tony Hilton has a Parish strimmer which needs to be collected and stored with the other equipment, once purchased. TF to chase BCC to get verges mowed. Janet said there was funding from BCC for Stewkley Project. TF to attend the meeting and report back. ACTION TF

- f. Water down Station Road – BCC will be installing a new pipe in to take water and run off direct to the ditch. The work is on the capital works programme, but with no time frame yet.
 - g. Cemetery Hill Footpath – we have received funding and the path has been well received.
 - h. DB has investigated diverting the footpath through the cemetery so it goes round the edge of the adjacent field. It will cost circa £2000 in fees. It has been decided therefore to let the footpath grow over, the stile will not be repaired and a permissive path round the edge of the Estate field be established. TF offered to organise through the Swanbourne Estate. ACTION TF
 - i. TF said where the path crosses over Cemetery Hill the view is blocked by trees – TF to look at getting them cut back if they prevented the vision from on coming traffic ACTION TF
 - j. Defibrillator – CB and JT to contact Alex Richards to gauge his advice on having one in the village
 - k. Listed Building Consent had been applied for rebuilding the tea room wall.
 - l. Estate has planning permission to develop Dodley Hill, the gym may no longer be an option so the Estate is considering a conversion to offices under the original application.
 - m. Village work party – thank you to all who turned up
 - n. Mobile vehicle signs, survey for sites approved. TT offered to speak to residents where signs will be located. TT will speak to Pete & Michelle at 17 Mursley Road and residents along Winslow Road. ACTION TT
5. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman: Clive Rodgers was co-opted onto the committee, proposed by CB and seconded by JT, following the resignation of Sheila Nuttal. TF thanked Clive for coming on the Council. TF will continue as Chairman proposed by DB and seconded by JT. Phil Timmins will continue as Vice Chairman proposed by DB and seconded by TT. TF explained that he still planned to step down as Chairman. However in the meantime, and moving forward it was felt appropriate that each Councillor should have an area of responsibility within the village, a 'speciality'. TF to email suggestions. ACTION TF
6. Finance
- a. Approve Cheques Issued. TF went through list of cheques paid out in the last quarter and they were approved. Proposed by DB and seconded by PT.
 - b. Review of finances – Clare B will send out by email as she is not in possession of bank statements yet. David Gray has agreed to audit the accounts again this year.

7. **Planning:** It was agreed that the PC must make sure we comment to AVDC on all planning applications. Janet Blake then spoke about Aylesbury Vale housing plans. for the AVDC local plan had allowed for 7,500 houses but after consultation plans for a further 6,000 were put forward (a total of 13,500 houses in the vale) The Plan was thrown out by the Inspector as AVDC had not consulted with neighbouring Councils regarding their growth, in particular Luton. Plans have therefore to be reviewed within 18 months and fulfil the criteria. Janet went on to say that Buckinghamshire is very exposed to a large amount of house building, in particular the possibility of one of the Governments proposed Garden Cities which may locate to North Bucks, possibly Winslow because of the railway line opening – which might mean 30/50,000 houses being built.
8. **Maintenance**
 - a. DB & TF had met BCC to discuss patching roads.
 - b. The work party had cleaned signs and carried out a litter pick.
 - c. Playing field – grass desperately needs cutting.
 - d. Dog mess – lots about. CR to include a piece in Swanbourne News highlighting the issue again. JT suggested going in the school and educating the children of the health dangers of dog mess. Possibly put up some signs at the entrance to the playing field, Clare B to take picture of rugby club sign. If not resolved may have to ban dogs from the playing fields and Millennium Wood.
 - e. Village Hall – no formal Chairman at the moment. JT looking after. JT will speak to Anthony Walker to see if he would do it. To be included at Parish Assembly to see if anyone interested. David Neeves is a possibility.
 - f. Playing Fields – with Pete Timmins away for the summer we need someone to take over the running of it - TF to speak to Nick Odell to see if he would run it. Clare B to check we have a current ROSPA licence for the playground equipment. Roy Sherwood may do cutting again. TF to speak. ACTION TF Playing fields and Millennium Wood need mowing now – TT was asked if she would cut the grass around the slides and play equipment.
 - g. Public Liability Insurance – playing fields – Clare to check this is in place. ACTION CLARE B
 - h. Affordable Housing – TF outlined the draft constitution; Swanbourne Village Trust would have complete control over the project. Surveys went out via email/newsletter – only one reply so far. Will be promoted at the Parish Assembly. There is still dispute over the nomination rights if the Trust were to proceed. TF to speak to AVDC Housing. ACTION TF Can always extend the deadline.
9. **Traffic Calming:**
 - a. Simon Pidgeon (TVP) is carrying out speed traps on a regular basis. Vehicle activated signs will soon be installed. DB to research the possibility of getting Tattams Lane speed limit reduced to 20mph as still being used as a rat run through the village.
 - b. Congestion – at the Village School – TF to speak to Head teacher as teachers cars being left on road. Village Shop/Hall – parking behind the shop is now not going to proceed. Long term it was suggested that the village hall could be relocated to the Playing Fields if funding could be sought.

