Swilland and Witnesham grouped Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs Sarah-Jayne Bailey, 38 Weyland Road, Witnesham, IP6 9ET Email: swill-witpc@outlook.com Phone: 07719176917

Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 20th January 2016 at Witnesham Village Hall

MINUTES

- 1. Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting
- 2. The Code of Conduct: To receive Councillors Declarations of Interest. None
- To receive apologies from Councillors not attending Mrs Pace and Mr Darell-Brown. In attendance Mr Everett, Mr Stanley, Mrs Camp, Mr Rush, Mrs Shaw, Mr Lightfoot, Dr Nicol, Mr Templeman, Mr Hindle, Mr Wilks, Mr Laughlin.
- 4. To approve Minutes from the meeting held on 18th November 2015 *910* proposed Mr Wilks and seconded Mr Everett.

Mrs Bailey Parish Clerk has resigned with effect from 21st December 2015. Post has been advertised and Mr Steve Barron has agreed to take up position and will take over as clerk with effect from 21st January 2016. He has experience of clerking meetings and the democratic process etc. and is a member of local community. Proposed Mr Hindle and seconded Dr Nicol and agreed unanimously.

Mr Barron will retain all the same parish council e-mail address and contact number as Mrs Bailey.

- County Councillor report Mr Bellfield was not in attendance.
- 6. District Councillor report

Mr Whiting gave Councillor Bellfield's apologies. There is still money in county locality budget for use this financial year. Mr Rush to write to Councillor Bellfield and Councillor Whiting to apply for funds to support the play area update. Mr Whiting confirmed that the District Community Enabling budget has only £800 left which is potentially committed. This could come to us if not used by current applicant.

Village Hall application appears to have been successful for the £1000 from Community Enabling budget.

PCSOs – Mr Whiting mentioned an idea being promoted by Suffolk Constabulary to joint fund PCSO with neighbouring Parishes which could cost approx. £2000 for each council.

The Moon and Mushroom planning application to separate the Button from the Public House is likely to be referred to the planning Committee which Mr Whiting has supported also.

7. Finance Update

Clerk as RFO

16/3/16

- a. Current Account £13,703.90
- b. Ipswich Building Society £8,060.43

8. To approve the following payments:

Printer Cartridge £9.00 Clerk's November Salary £189.94 Tree removal, Hall Lane £60.00 Mole removal £70.00 Village Hall hire £20.00 Clerk's December Salary £207.22 TAX to HMRC £54.60 Maintenance School Field £283.54 Maintenance School Field £286.24

Clerk explained issue with grass cutting payments to Vertas. This has been queried as we have never paid these amounts before. Await response from Richard Garnham at Vertas. Payments approved except those to School Field Dr Nicol and seconded Mr Lightfoot.

Dr Nicol confirmed that the Finance group had met before Xmas and then went on to outline the current year's budget position. Dr Nicol explained that due to some large unplanned expense to repair the play area surfacing potentially before the end of the financial year this year's budget is likely to be overspent which will need to be made up from the Parish Council reserves in the combined accounts. An application has already been submitted for a grant towards the costs of the Play area surfacing which is still awaited and following Mr Whitings suggestion further applications will be made to the Locality Grant scheme also and if successful this will reduce the net amount required from the reserve account. Dr Nicol also tabled the 2016/17 budget plan which requires a small increase in the precept of £250.

The budget proposal and Increase in the precept to £12 750 for 2016-17: proposed Dr Nicol, seconded Mr Hindle, was subsequently approved.

9. Footpaths

Footbridge has been damaged TM190534 near Swilland Water Tower reported by parishioner – Mr Hindle confirms this is in hand. Kissing gate between Hall Lane and Cockfield Hall Lane has not been installed and neither has replacement style but Mr Hindle will chase. Chairman thanked Mr Hindle for arranging Boxing Day walk.

10.Planning

Mr. Wilks confirmed that there has been three meetings since we last met. New Dwelling planning application on site of barn in Mill lane has been withdrawn. Proposal to build new house at end of Tuddenham Lane, this was not supported by Parish Council and at a recent meeting an application by Talitha Koum project at White House Farm to provide a small services building was supported.

11.Police Report

SNT have not submitted a report and not in attendance. Likely Kesgrave SNT will close in near future but team will still cover area from another location. Police and Crime Commissioner Election is due in May.

12. Highways

Mr. Everett reports that SAVID has proposed to purchase some Vehicle Activated Signs which it has asked the Parish Council to consider being involved in by having dedicated post Installed at a position/s approved by Highways. Mr Everett explained that this was purely a consultation exercise at the moment and the costs of Installation of a post and equipment although quite high were estimates only but Parish would be expected to fund including Insurances as well as a share of the £2500 device cost. He went onto to advise that these would be similar to those signs along the Woodbridge bye pass. The general feeling was that the flexibility of the Speed Indication Devices (SID) which the local Speed Watch team are regularly using do seem to be more suitable given these can be used in any location. A resident present at the meeting, who is a member of speed watch, also felt that it would be a positive thing to have more devices like the ones that speed watch have. Chairman will respond to SAVID and would like more dialogue with them and also speed watch before a final decision is made. General feeling that speed watch and SAVID should liaise.

Action: To put on agenda for next meeting.

B1077 – Mr Everett has had a positive reply from Tony Buckingham. Design has been completed for culvert replacement across the road which will entail a road closure which is likely to happen April/May.

Mr Hindle has written to Mr Oldham about condition of Sandy Lane the build-up of vegetation along the centre and the mud which has made some of the passing places almost impossible to use.

Mr Rush confirmed that he had met with Derek Oldham the Highways Manager on several occasions and he had now advised that at long last the pavement path clearing from the Barley Mow to the School will be undertaken by Highways by the end of February.

13. Playing Field Management Committee

Play area inspections - Mr. Stanley inspects the recreation area and Mrs Pace inspects the school play area. Mr Stanley reports metal cross bar and some wire ropes needs removing from the hedge row at the recreation ground which Mr Rush will arrange.

There has been some vandalism, knife cuts to the goal nets and Basket swing which have now started to fray which is a great shame. Residents are urged to keep watch of anything suspicious of the really well used area.

Clerk to contact Carol Poulter at SCDC concerning the clothing bank that has been left full at the School site.

14.VHMC

Mrs. Shaw has nothing further to report. Dr Nicol (Finance) outlined the importance of all major expenditure that is committed by Village Hall must go through the Parish Council who should place orders and deal with Invoices. VHMC are agents to provide Business Plans for the Village Hall to plan projects to enable funding to be allocated in advance of budget setting. Mr Rush to arrange a meeting with Village Hall Chairman to discuss further.

Clast 16/3/6

15.Tree Officer

Mr Darrell-Brown – not in attendance and Mr Rush to check on status of Hall Lane Tree issues

16. Allotments

Mrs. Camp – reported there is still one vacant plot and there are still two people who have not paid their rent in spite of reminders.

17. Community Group

Mrs. Camp reported that the Flower Show is in July and the Queen's birthday celebration in June and Barley Mow are planning a party. Information regarding lighting a Beacon for Queen's birthday has been forwarded to Parish Council which Mr Templeman noted.

18.AOB

Litter Pick – Caroline Sherrod secretary of the WI outlined that the Witnesham, Swilland and Asbocking WI would be taking part in the "Clean for the Queen" Initiative being undertaken by the Suffolk WI to clean up local area during the week of 4th-6th March which is a national campaign for people to tidy up their local area. Mr Hindle informed Mrs Sherrod that bags, gloves, hi-vis jackets could be available from district. It would also need to be arranged for the rubbish to be collected from district. Recreation ground should be included. The Chairman wished the group well with this project which would be well received and thanked Mrs Sherrod for her time.

Meeting closed at 9pm