

Swilland and Winesham grouped Parish Council

Clerk: Mr Steven Barron

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Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 18th January 2017 7:30 pm at Winesham Village Hall

MINUTES

1. Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Mr Hindle for organising the Boxing Day walk.
2. The Code of Conduct: To receive Councillors Declarations of Interest. None.
3. To receive apologies from Councillors not attending: Mrs Pace, Mr Madge and Dist Cllr Whiting

Present: Mr Everett, Mr Lightfoot, Mr Rush, Mrs Shaw, Mrs Camp, Mr Templeman, Mr Hindle, Mr Wilks, Mr Stanley, Dr Nicol

In attendance: SCC Cllr Vickery (left at 8:10), Mr Elmy (VHMC)

4. To approve Minutes from the meeting held on 16th November 2016: Prop Mr Hindle, Sec Mrs Shaw: Carried.
5. County Councillor Report: Cllr R Vickery

Cllr Vickery reported that the new 40 mph speed limit on Ashbocking crossroads was "Live". Also the requested extension of this 40 mph speed limit to include B1078 Gibraltar Crossroads was not progressing with SCC Highways who were not keen. Chairman was to arrange a meeting due hopefully 17th Feb to include District Council, Police, Cllr Vickery and rep from Otley PC.

Flooding issue in Coopers Close: Cllr Vickery was to supply email address of the Draining Team at Ipswich to the Parish Council so this could be progressed. Chairman advised that he had also been in regular contact with SCC flood line department who would be checking drain for blockages. The £2.2k grant funding for the Play area adjacent to Winesham School was imminent.

Northern Bypass: Cllr Vickery informed the meeting that the Ipswich Northern Routes Study information was available on SCC web site and three possible proposed routes were in the report.

Mr Hindle asked Cllr Vickery if there would be early consultation with Parish Councils. Cllr Vickery responded that things were at a very early stage with multiple issues which needed considering before a proper case could be produced. Cllr Vickery, when asked, informed the meeting that MP Dr Poulter was strongly opposed to any Northern Bypass. Chairman asked Cllr Vickery for early consultation when possible.

C. R. L.
15/3/2017

Mr Hindle expressed his concern for road safety to Cllr Vickery about SCC Highways white line policy (maintenance, upkeep and replenishment) potential downgrade. Both the Chairman and Cllr Vickery supported this view. Chairman would raise this under item 12 for debate.

Cllr Vickery reported that the SAVID (safer Village Driving) VAS (Vehicle Activated Sign) grant was made available now for SAVID member villages and also SCC Highways had announced that there would now be no charge for the posts required for VAS.

6. District Councillor Report: Cllr R. Whiting

Not present.

7. Finance Update

Clerk as RFO

Current Account: £16,530.50p

Ipswich Building Society £8,217.38p (received £76.35 Annual Interest in Nov 16)

(Above balances as of 31st Dec 2016)

Budget 2017/18 : Dr Nicol presented hard copies of the budget spreadsheet to the meeting. The apparent under spend and grant anomalies were clarified for the meeting by Dr Nicol. It was pointed out that an additional line for potential SID (Speed Indicator Device) purchase had been added for next year, which the Chairman would add detail to later in the meeting for consideration.

Mr Wilks informed the meeting that next year there was to be potential funding for the council from CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) and the criteria for spend options detail was pending as were any amounts.

Precept 2017/2018: Dr Nicol reported that the Finance Committee, which met on 10th Jan, did not feel it was necessary to increase the precept this year, unlike previous years. SCDC had written to Parish Councils informing them of the withdrawal of Council tax Support Grant from April 2017, and advising to set a precept which would not increase tax charge for residents, resulting in a precept of £12,987.20p for Swilland and Witnesham.

It was proposed by Mr Hindle that council agree to a precept of £12,987.20p, seconded Dr Nicol: carried

It was proposed by Mr Everett that the council accept the budget as presented for 2017/2018, seconded Mr Stanley: carried.

Dr Nicol informed the meeting that there would be some further loose ends to ratify at the March meeting and the Clerk would circulate the appropriate documents to all councillors shortly.

8. To approve the following payments:

C/Rush 15/3/17

a) Administration Nov	£154.34
b) Tree cut back Play Area	£160.00
c) Administration Dec	£154.34
d) HMRC Tax	£125.40

Payments were approved: proposed Mr Lightfoot, seconded Mrs Camp: carried.

9. Footpaths

Further to dog fouling issue raised at last PC meeting and reports from residents, Mr Hindle had fitted "clean up after your dog" signs at the top of Mill Lane, Weyland Road and also on Footpath 12.

A resident in Weyland Road had emailed the Parish Council after SCC declined to take action over a reported slippery pavement issue. Mr Hindle would respond by email on behalf of the Parish Council.

10. Planning

Mr. Wilks reported on two recent planning applications and their progress with SCDC:

Rose Cottage Witnesham :Permitted
Brookfield High Road Swilland:Permitted

There are still two enforcement cases in progress (Wades Lane and Ex Anglia Cleaning site). The Anglia Cleaning site still has ongoing issues with disturbance to residents living nearby caused by ambulances and coaches arriving, departing and parked with engine running in early hours and late at night. Light pollution from flashing beacons is also apparent. Mr Wilks would continue to press SCDC on behalf of the Parish Council to get this resolved.

11. Police Report

Mr Templeman had attended an Area SNT meeting on 24th November 2016 and reported that the main issues discussed were speeding and anti-social behaviour. The Parish Council still has a demand for more detailed crime reports.

12. Highways

Mr Everett reported that the 40 mph limit at Ashbocking Crossroads was now in place. There was a 30 mph repeater sign up keep survey due in Swilland and Witnesham by SCC Highways.

Mr Everett informed the meeting of the potential prices for a SID, bracket and battery charger which varied from £2.25k to £2.5 k excluding VAT.

Mr Rush expressed the view that a portable SID was preferable and flexible and asked council for comment.

It was proposed by Mr Rush that Mr Everett and Mr Madge should continue to study SID options further, then feedback to the Finance Committee. CSW would be included and consulted with, seconded Mr Lightfoot: carried

Mr Hindle proposed that the Parish Council should ask Cllr Vickery to express the Parish Council's concerns to SCC Highways and that white lining

C Rush. 15/3/2017

should continue to be maintained and not allowed to diminish particularly on rural roads, seconded Mr Everett: carried

13. SAVID (Safer Village Driving)

Mr Madge was not present. Clerk advised that there would be a meeting of the SAVID Community Group at Witnesham Village Hall on 25th January.

14. Playing Field Management Committee

Mr Rush reported that the next PFMC meeting was Thursday 2nd Feb.

15. Play Area Inspections

Mr Stanley reported that the Recreation Ground was all looking good.

16. Recreation Ground

Mr Rush reported the work on the Play Area next to Witnesham School had begun and Clerk confirmed that it was expected to complete by Friday 20th January. The work to replace the gate had been quoted for, accepted but no date as yet for the work to be done, despite Clerk chasing the contractor.

17. VHMC

Mr Elmy, Chairman of the VHMC, reported recent maintenance on the Village hall included external rendering, gutters and fire door repairs. There had been an electrical fault on the lights which had been fixed. During some of the work, it was discovered that the insulation in the roof was not adequate by modern standards. The new heating system was turned on in November. The electricity bills for November and December had been exceptionally high, far more than should be the case with the upgraded heating system. Subsequently the system was being investigated by electrical contractors to see what is causing these unexpected high bills.

18. Tree Officer

Mr Darell-Brown was not present.

19. Allotments

Mrs. Camp confirmed that all Coopers Close allotments were now taken and there was one vacant in Hall Lane. Clerk had sent advert to In Touch and had emailed residents about the vacant plot.

Clerk confirmed that all tenancy payments had been received and had been banked for the year.

20. Community Group

Mrs Camp explained that the Community Group had folded and the Village Show Committee had since taken over the funds.

21. Correspondence and any proposed items for next meeting.

The Chairman advised that he had e-mailed the Barley Mow expressing his thanks for all involved in the November firework display. This had previously been a Community Council event not the Parish Council's and he had suggested, with some ten months to go, some kind of fund raising by the Barley Mow, Community Group or those organising might be worthwhile

to help reduce the financial burden on the Pub as this was always a popular event.

Meeting closed at 9:30 pm