

Swilland and Witnesham Grouped Parish Council

Clerk: Mr. Steven Barron

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Parish Council Meeting

Weds 17th July 2019, 7.30pm at Witnesham Village Hall

MINUTES

1. Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.
Present: Mr Rush (Chair), Mr Templeman, Mr Collings, Mr Stanley, Mr Everett, Mrs Shaw, Dr Williams, Dr Nicol and Mr Hindle. (Mr Hill joined the meeting as councillor after item 4) In attendance: SCCllr Robin Vickery, ESCllr Tony Fryatt and four members of the public.
2. The Code of Conduct Declarations of Interest – None
3. Apologies: Mr Henley
4. Election for Co-option Candidates -
After chair invited a prospective candidate to address council, **it was proposed, seconded and agreed that Mr Hill (Witnesham) be co-opted on to the council.** A signed "Declarations of Acceptance of Office" was completed and Mr Hill joined the meeting.
5. To approve Minutes from the meeting held on 8th May 2019 - **Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.**
6. Suffolk County Councillor report – SC Cllr Robin Vickery
Mr Vickery reported that he was in favour of having a new road within the proposed Ipswich Northern Route (INR) Public Consultation process. Chair commented that he was disappointed to hear this. Exit poll figures verbally obtained prior to the meeting from Stop! campaigners, indicated that a vast majority of public attendees to the consultation event in Witnesham opposed the INR. Comments and questions followed from councillors which included:
The view was expressed that confidence had been lost in Mr Vickery over his contrary stance on the INR.
Mr Vickery was asked, in light of the INR being considered as the biggest challenge for the vast majority of constituents for a very long time, how do they and the PC get represented at SCC? It was vitally important to find out how the PC can have communications through SCC to object to the INR if Mr Vickery is not supportive. Mr Vickery agreed to find out and get back to the PC.
Mr Vickery was also informed of errors observed within the online questionnaire and it was felt that it should be retracted.
It was remarked that the figures quoted within the INR consultation were pure conjecture and did not add up. Doubt was cast on the accuracy of the document.
7. ESC District Councillor report – ESC DCllr Tony Fryatt

Mr Fryatt reported that he was opposed to the INR Public Consultation scheme and his view was that there was a need to look at the real traffic problems we are facing and how to solve them. Mr Fryatt was thanked for objecting to the INR. Mr Fryatt stated he was not empowered. ESC was not involved in setting up the consultation and in his view it was flawed.

Mr Fryatt gave a verbal report which included:

- He advised the meeting of a loophole in the new referral process for planning applications. This is that PCs need to ask for referral to ESC Planning Committee, should the officer go against the PC's objections on any planning application, within their written response to ESC, and CC Mr Fryatt in the email.
- Sizewell C JLAG Stage 4 was open. Nothing was now proposed to use rail and 80% of road traffic was expected from the South of the site. A leaflet was handed to the clerk with consultation dates.
- An Economic Regeneration Team had been setup to help support local business.

The full report is available from the PC website.

Mr Hindle raised a concern over objections submitted by the PC on the ESC Local Plan final draft which had not been listed, in particular an objection regarding 30 dwellings on a green field site. The information from ESC was that the PC could not attend the hearing. Mr Fryatt asked that Mr Hindle email ESC again and copy Mr Fryatt in. When asked, Mr Fryatt informed the meeting that he held a locality fund of £7.5k across all parishes. He indicated that the PC could apply for £1k towards their Play Equipment Project.

8. Police Report (Newsletter PC Website) -

Clerk reported that the June Police Newsletter had a new format and would circulate via PC website link. Dr Nicol had attended the June SNT meeting at Woodbridge. He reported that the big problem was drug dealing. Police resources were still tight. The next meeting would be Thursday 22nd August. Chair thanked Dr Nicol for continuing to represent the PC at the SNT meetings.

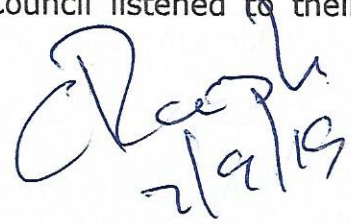
9. Planning -

Mr Hindle reported that there had been two meetings since May 8th. Applications consulted on included:

- A new dwelling on land adjacent to Meadowsweet, Wash Lane was objected to by PC and refused by ESC.
- Street Farm had been granted by ESC Planning Committee with conditions.
- Barn Cottage Hall Lane LBC for replacement windows was supported by PC and granted by ESC.
- Tree Tops Hall Lane proposed extension was supported and awaiting ESC decision.

At the last planning meeting an agent and a planning consultant had asked to share their ideas regarding the potential development of the brown field site at Witnesham Wood Yard for 30 dwellings. Council listened to their presentation and expressed no views.

10. Highways -



- a) To acknowledge receipt of the Public Consultation Notice on the proposed Ipswich Northern Route and to agree how we as a Parish Council, wish to take this forward –

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that council will oppose the INR scheme on all three routes.

It was then discussed how do we, as a PC, respond to the consultation? How do we engage as much as we can, including support of The Stop! Campaign backed by MP Dr Dan Poulter?

Clerk informed the meeting that from SALC advice received, council were legally allowed to use S137 power to spend on support of Stop!, provided every effort has been made to seek local views, including the holding of a public meeting. The absolute maximum amount of allowed spend under S137 for 2019-20 would be approx £6.4k.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that £5k of council reserves should be earmarked for a potential S137 funding towards INR opposition.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that a public meeting be arranged for Weds 7th August to gauge the support of the parishioners and listen to their concerns. This would be followed on the same night, 7th August, by an extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council to debate and decide actions to be taken.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that if, following a public meeting, a clear majority of resident's opposition exists against the INR scheme, then council are to consider allocating funds to INR opposition from earmarked reserves.

Further questions posed included:

Do council formally sign up to "Stop!"? If so do they want more help from us? How are they pressurising council groups? Is there a possible legal challenge?

The meeting was informed that "Stop!" were due to call a second meeting for Thursday 25th July. **It was agreed that the above points be taken to that meeting on behalf of the PC.**

It was suggested that a press release could be considered after the meetings on 7th August. **This would be an agenda item for that meeting.**

- b) Gibraltar Crossroads –

The paid for work due by SCC Highways had been delayed due to "operational difficulties" and ETA was 10 to 12 weeks time. This also applies to the 30 mph initiatives in Swilland and Witnesham. A letter sent to MP Dr Dan Poulter about the Gibraltar crossroads had been acknowledged and Dr Poulter would add this to his list of issues to be looked at and taken forward. Mr Everett informed the meeting that there had been an RTC on the B1078 last week and Police were in attendance. **This would be looked into to confirm details.**

11. Footpaths –

Mr Hindle reported that there had been a sign repaired in Strugglers Lane.

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There had been notice of a Public Consultation on Green Space received very recently. Mr Hindle agreed to scrutinise this and advise. Clerk was encouraged to send the email link out to residents.

12.SAVID (Safer Village Driving) – Mr Henley was not present

13.Playing Field management Committee –

Mr Stanley reported that there had been a first meeting for eighteen months or so on 13th June. Richard Gooderham was acting Head Teacher and had been present. No one from WASPs was present. There had been a question regarding ownership of the large gate between the Playing Field and the School which had been resolved as owned by the School.

14.Play Area Inspections –

Mr Stanley reported that due to lack of time, Mrs Shaw and Mr Stanley were still due to meet up for going through the Play Area Inspection process.

15.Recreation Ground –

Chair reported that grants were still pending and he would progress when he could.

16. VHMC –

Mrs Shaw had not been briefed for a report. She raised concerns about the Village Hall Car Park and potential funding assistance from the PC. Chair advised Mrs Shaw that at the VHMC meeting next week, a clear request from the VHMC should be formulated with costs and be presented to the PC for consideration. Mr Hindle thanked the VHMC for their initiative in procuring the new tables.

17. Tree Officer-

a) Ash Tree in School Car Park –

A quote had been received of £1120.00p plus VAT for complete removal of the tree. **It was agreed that a second opinion of options and quotes should be obtained. Clerk to progress.**

18. Allotments

Clerk reported that one plot at Coopers Close had been given up by a resident due to ill health. Clerk reminded the chair that there was still a councillor vacancy for Allotment Responsibility. **Mr Hill offered to take up the vacant position and this was agreed by the meeting.**

19. Correspondence – None

20.Consideration of Defibrillator Provisioning –

Dr Williams had obtained two quotes for £1824 and £1650 including VAT. There would be an 8 year warranty and no maintenance costs. It was recommended going for the £1650 quote. A potential donation either towards funding, or gifting a defibrillator had been received. **Clerk would progress this opportunity.**

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that council would agree CIL expenditure of £1650.00p for one defibrillator and progress the offer received of a donation for a second defibrillator at £1650.00p.

It was recognised that any two sites chosen would both require power. Provisionally it was suggested one at The Barley Mow and the other at The Moon and Mushroom should be sought, pending landlord's permission and agreement. **Dr Williams will speak to the two landlords to check that the defibrillators could be connected to their properties before order.**

21. Consideration of a No Cold Calling Zone (NCCZ) in Weyland Road –
The process as outlined on the SCC website was debated. It was felt better to offer "No Cold Calling" signs for doors and gates to a potentially small number of residents who felt they required them. **Clerk would respond to the resident and attempt to find out how many signs might be required for those concerned residents and feed back to council to consider funding for.**

22. Finance Update – Clerk as RFO (balances as of 16th Jul 2019)

a) Current Account	£25,895.87p
b) Ipswich Building Society (IBS)	£8368.27p

- c) To approve Internal Audit Report (IAR) 2018-19

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to approve the IAR 2018-19.

- d) To review the effectiveness of the IAR 2018-19

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that council were happy with the effectiveness of the IAR.

- e) To appoint an Internal Auditor for 2019-20

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that Heelis and Lodge be appointed as Internal Auditors for 2019-20.

Current financial situation -

Clerk stated that this was still good. Signatories for Barclays needed updating as did IBS account. Chair asked Mr Stanley if he would become a signatory to IBS account, which was seconded and agreed.

23. To approve the following payments (all inclusive of VAT where appropriate)

a) Administration May	£219.82
b) Administration June	£219.82
c) Tree stump removals Hall Lane	£360.00
d) HMRC PAYE Q1	£164.80
e) Councillor Briefing Training x 1	£27.60
f) Bottle bank signage	£90.00
g) Hall hire May and July	£44.00
h) Printer Ink	£15.96
i) Mob Phone top up	£15.00

The above payments were all approved by council.

Dr Nicol wished to thank the clerk for all the finance work on the audit.

24. Matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council –

Mr Stanley reported that the Village Show had over 500 entries and the new tables were perfect for the event.

Mr Collings reported that Fido bins were full in Hall Lane. Clerk informed the meeting that the issue had been reported to Norse on 15th July.

Meeting closed at 9:50 pm

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