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 16th September 2015 at 7.30pm at Witnesham Village Hall

MINUTES

- 1. Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting
- 2. There were no declarations of interest.
- 3. In attendance, Mr Rush, Mr Hindle, Mr Everett, Mr Darell-Brown, Mrs Shaw, Dr Nicol Mr Stanley, Mr Templeman, Mrs Camp, Mr Wilks, Councillor Whiting, PCSO Krista Robertson Apologies from Mr Laughlin, Mr Lightfoot and Mrs Pace.
- 4. Minutes from the meeting held on $15^{\rm th}$ July 2015 approved as accurate. Proposed Mr Wilks, seconded Dr Nicol
- 5. County Councillor report Mr Whiting confirmed that he was covering Mr Bellfield's responsibilities on behalf of County Council. Devolution: bid submitted at the beginning of this month to look at changes to transfer powers and responsibility from to Local Government from Central Government. This process, if successful, could take 2 years to implement. There could be devolution from county level down to parish level. Mr Whiting confirmed that he had access to the Community Enabling budget and would be happy to consider applications for funds for local projects.
- 6. District Councillor report. Mr Whiting advised that there have been issues with the traveller community in Kesgrave and reminded owners of easily accessible sites to consider gating of some kind if they had concerns. He suggested that the potential of a transition site was being considered by the District and County Councils.
 - Mr Everett raised the issues of speeding along the B1078. Mr Rush reported that he and Mr Everett had attended a meeting at Ashbocking Parish Council at which their County Councillor Matthew Hicks and District Councillor Tim Passmore were in support of a 40 mph speed limit on section on B1078 covering Asbocking crossroads. Mr Rush confirmed that Swilland and Witnesham PC have also supported this but requested that the limit be extended to cover Gibraltar crossroads and ideally down to Otley College also and asked Mr Whiting also to support. Mr Whiting has spoken to the highways department and agreed to continue the dialogue particularly as the eastern area highways department have in the past not considered this request favourably.

Mr Rush also asked Mr Whiting to provide some feedback on the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) sites that the Parish has previously suggested but has yet to receive any feedback.

Action: Mr Whiting to chase Councillor Fryatt with respect to this.

- 7. Finance Update
 - a. Current Account balance currently £11,586.71
 - b. Ipswich Building Society balance currently £7,980.62

Clerk mentioned the 'Transparency Code' which has implications for budget management. All financial transactions over £100 should be on Parishes website. In addition, all audit information including end of year accounts, bank reconciliation and variances document. The website is currently up to date with this information. Clerk also confirmed that from 2016/17 the Parish will have to audit ourselves and to prepare for this it was agreed to engage the services of an accountancy practice recommended by SALC to monitor this process from financial year 2015/16. The Chairman asked that the current auditor be thanked in the meantime for the many years assistance provided.

8. The following payments were approved:

Hall hire £40 Clerk's salary June £162.26 SALC Good Councillor guide £3.58 Clerk's salary July £172.84 Replacement gate post at playing field £102 External audit £120 EFMS Grass Cutting playing field £286.24 Grass Cutting Oct 14 (missed) £159 Fido Bins x 2 £384 Litter bin (rec) £258 Bench repairs £10.05 Grass Cutting (July) £192 Election Fee £125 Grass Cutting (April) £384 Grass Cutting (May) £384 Grass Cutting (June) £384 Grass Cutting (August) £192 Clerk's salary August £114.67

Proposed Dr Nicol and seconded Mr Everett.

- 9. Footpaths Mr Hindle has been chasing repairs to styles. New gates at Newton Hall are due to go in imminently. Footpath at Cockfield Hall Lane has had a new kissing gate and there will be repairs to the style there also. Overhanging tree issue at junction 38/39 Hall Lane to Cockfield Hall Lane reported by Mr Stanley which will be cleared.
- 10.Planning Mr. Wilks reported that there have been 4 meetings since July. Decisions by SCDC: New dwelling Willow Cottage, Rose Hill and front extension to dwelling Church Lane Swilland had been refused. Newton Hall application had been considered by PC and supported. Witnesham Nursing Home amendments to previous application for rear extension not supported by PC. Some discussion about Neighbourhood Plan and whether this is beneficial to the Parish Council given the changes to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding potential, PC agreed The Planning Committee to look at some examples and have further discussion.
- 11.Police Report PCSO Robertson is now responsible for Swilland and Witnesham. There have been a couple of surgeries which have been well attended. There will be a 'priority meeting' looking at issues such as speeding and school parking on 14th October 7pm Tuddenham Village Hall. Mr Rush mentioned SNT report item about sensible parking and advised that there are areas in the village where vehicles are being parked on

pavements. PCSO Robertson confirmed that if on or obstructing a path the vehicle owner could receive a warning and/or ticket and subsequent fine if not removed which she would continue to monitor. Mr Rush thanked the Police regarding their assistance with the issue of fly tipping at allotments in Coopers Close which has raised awareness locally. Mrs Camp reports that sadly this is still happening but to a lesser degree.

12.Highways - Mr. Everett reported that footpath near Swilland end telephone box has been patched up. Verges in that area have also been trimmed back. B1078 there was an article in EADT on 26th August confirming that consideration was being made regarding speeding restrictions. SAVID (Safer Village Driving) – consideration now being given to purchase of Vehicle Activated Signs VAS or Speed Indicated Device SID which could be used in local villages. The cost is £2750 + VAT for the device and £250 installation costs. A mobile device used among the villages may be more cost effective and more useful at different locations. Clerk asked to check insurance liability implications if we had one of these to cover indemnity. Next SAVID meeting 23rd October Mr Everett to report back. Dr Nicol reported there are several pot holes in Hall Lane that need attention.

Action: Mr Everett to report this to Council.

Mr Hindle mentioned footpath opposite Barley Mow still needs Highways department to attend as its width is very restricted. In addition there is a broken manhole cover on Juby Hill.

Action: Mr Rush to contact Highways Engineer Derek Oldham to report and press for urgent attention as well as asking for update on planned drainage repair on the Asbocking Straight just north of the village.

Mr Hindle also mentioned water leak on Rose Hill.

Action: Clerk to write to Anglian Water to report and question amount of time it has taken to fix leaks.

- 13.Playing Field Management Committee Mr. Wilks reports no meetings since the last meeting. Mr Wilks confirmed that issue of football parking raised by Mrs Pace had been conveyed to WASPS by Mr Rush asking that bollards and off road parking whenever possible be put in place.
- 14.Recreation Ground Mr. Rush reported that he has carried out checks of the equipment which all seems fine and confirms that the area is being well used. He also mentioned that we had received an invite from Rushmere Parish Council to attend a Playground equipment Inspection course which Mr Stanley agreed to attend on behalf of the Parish Council. Mr Hindle asked that an additional seat be provided which was agreed and Mrs Pace would arrange. Mr Wilks asked whether the Recreation Area should be gated but it was felt this would be hard to maintain. Rabbit holes are becoming an issue again around the football area and Mr Templeman agreed to fill these holes with top soil.
- 15.VHMC Mrs. Shaw reported that £1000 has been offered by Mr Whiting from Community Enabling Budget for improvements to the village hall heating which gives a total of £3,000 with a further £4000 still. Parish Council was asked to give consideration to funding. Mr Rush has confirmed funds had been provided over the last two years to lighting and car parking improvements and other sources would need to be considered for funding

also and asked that 3 quotes be obtained as usual for consideration. Dr Nicol suggested that there needs to be a development plan provided by the VHMC for Village Hall projects to enable budget planning to be made in future years rather than ad hoc requests. **Action: Mrs Shaw to feed this back to Mr Elmy.**

- 16.Allotments Mrs. Camp reported that two tenants had been sent a letter requesting them to tidy patches, one of which has been tidied the other has not. November is the renewal period and they need to be left tidy and free from debris as part of the hiring agreement. Mr Hindle said that he has cut the allotment area grass in Hall Lane but feels that this needs to be added to the itinerary for contractor grass cutting next year.
- 17.Community Group Mrs. Camp reported that the Music Festival will be on 28th November, profits will go to charity. Chairman of SCDC will be attending Messy Church. Clerk to represent Parish Council.

18.AOB

- Mr Hindle mentioned that Trees taken down at Baptist Church have made quite an impact on village and Parish Council had not been made aware. Mrs Camp reported that some of the trees were diseased. Mr Hindle asked whether some trees be replaced. Action: Clerk to register Parish Council concern and seek clarification and ask that replacement planting be undertaken.
- Mr Hindle also mentioned Daffodils which are ready to be distributed in the village and he was happy to receive requests. Planting session possible in Weyland Road and recreation ground to be arranged.
- Mr Rush clarified that Mr Darell-Brown had agreed at the previous meeting to take over the Tree Officer role and would like to do a survey of which trees the Parish planted and which trees are problematic. Action: Clerk to look at putting this on villages' website.
- Mr Rush mentioned insurance quote from Came and Company. 3 quotes obtained and Hiscox are recommended which was agreed.
- East Suffolk Line Community Rail Partnership Suggestions for improvements - car park at Westerfield Station utilising large wasted sidings area would be really useful. Action: Clerk to respond accordingly.
- Clerk reminded everybody that she does asks for agenda items in advance of meeting and it would be helpful to receive these from Councillors in future whenever possible.

Meeting closed 9.10pm