# Swilland and Witnesham grouped Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs Sarah-Jayne Bailey, 38 Weyland Road, Witnesham, IP6 9ET

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# **Parish Council Meeting**

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at 7.30pm held at Witnesham Village hall

### **MINUTES**

- 1. Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. In attendance Mr Henley, Mrs Camp, Mr Everett, Mr Wilks, Mrs Shaw, Mr Hindle, Mr Tyrrell, Mrs Pace, Mr Lightfoot and Mr Rush. Chairman welcomed back Mrs Shaw after a long illness and also welcomed Councillor Hudson who is not standing for reelection. The Chairman confirmed that Mr Tyrrell was not standing for reelection after 40+ years on the Parish Council. Chairman thanked him on behalf of the Parish for his commitment and interest in village affairs for so many years. Mr Henley also confirmed that he too would be stepping down but happy to carry on with the Historian roll. Chairman also thanked Mr Henley for his work on the Parish council.
- 2. Apologies received from Dr Nicol, Mr Darell-Brown and Mrs Bartolome.
- 3. Minutes from meeting 21<sup>st</sup> January 2015 agreed. Proposed Mr Hindle, seconded Mr Wilks.
- 4. Elections

Chairman asked for confirmation of individuals nominations for re-election and explained the nomination forms must be completed and given to the clerk by 27<sup>th</sup> March. Clerk has appointment at SCDC 9.30 28<sup>th</sup> March to deliver the forms. Electoral numbers can be obtained from Clerk.

- County Councillor reportMr. Bellfield has given apologies but hopes to back in circulation soon.
- 6. District Councillor report

Councillor Hudson reported that Council tax will be frozen for the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row which is an achievement and confirmed that SCDC are moving head quarters to site in Melton. Regarding planning, developers are getting approval for developments which exceed recommended level on original plan and this is causing unrest. Chairman confirmed that Witnesham have made representation concerning SHLAA sites through official channels to ensure interests are well represented. Mr Hindle is very disappointed that there is no mention of area of outstanding natural beauty in the SCDC newsletter and registered dismay that the new proposed SCDC was still in the Woodbridge area rather than somewhere in the Saxmundham area where it would be better positioned to share resources with Waveney. He also feels the money being put into new offices in Melton is a waste of resources. Mr Hudson suggested that that the proposed location was the most economic solution.

# 7. Finance Update

Clerk confirmed that current account bank balance is £17407.73 and Building Society reserves remain at £7980.62. Invoices for various items to do with the new play area are still awaited which explains the high current account figure. There is likely to be a projected under spend of £1550.6 but this may be taken up with some additional churchyard costs for both Parish Churches along with some additional items on the pay area.

### 8. To approve the following payments

Paid

- a) Clerks Jan salary £220.89
- b) Printer ink £66.18
- c) Moles £70.00
- d) Payroll £50.40
- e) Clerks Feb salary £171.21
- f) External audit training £54.00

#### Pending

- g) Recreation area equipment £11,940.66
- h) Recreation clearance £200 approx
- i) Signage £857.92
- j) Picnic table £185
- k) Fencing £1265
- I) Goal post/net £940
- m) Rabbit control £60
- n) Gate at Playing field awaiting invoice
- o) Community Service footpath clearance £500 approx
- p) Weed killing £60
- q) Contribution to Speed watch camera £25
- r) Hanging Baskets x 2

#### Payments Agreed proposed Mr Hindle and seconded Mrs Camp

#### 9. Footpaths

Mr. Hindle reported new signs have been installed at Wells Farm, Church Lane and at the back of Newton Hall. Netting on several footbridges has been completed. SCC have re-decked footbridge near Berghersh House and fitted a new hand rail. Nothing has been done re: obstructions on footpath through Newton Hall as yet. Mrs Pace mentioned that sign opposite entrance to school has been broken off also and is missing. Mr Rush confirmed that Community pay back service is to carry out verge clearance during April on the footpaths through the village to the School but the section opposite the Barley Mow will be undertaken by SCC Highways given it is a dangerous bend and SCC have agreed that this is their responsibility. Local residents are to be urged to make sure overhanging hedges are also trimmed well back off the footpaths particularly those along Mow Hill.

# 10.Planning

Mr Lightfoot confirmed three planning meetings since last we met. On 2<sup>nd</sup> March committee looked at application **DC/15/0168/FUL**, for 9 dwellings off Tuddenham Lane. There had been several members of the public turned up at this meeting most to register their objections. The Parish Council planning committee had decided not support this application as the site had not been supported for development during the earlier SHLAA review. Mr Lightfoot apologised if people felt the specific application should have been taken to a vote but explained as the site in general was not supported for development he had felt that the application could not be supported either.

#### 11.SALC

Mr. Rush wasn't able to attend the SALC meeting on Monday as he was attending planning meeting.

#### 12.Police Report

Warnings around scam phone calls. This report will be put on the village's website.

# 13. Highways

# Signs

Mr Everett reported some replacement signage had been attended to on Jubys Hill and Burwash but there was still some outstanding work Potholes have been an issue recently and one on Mow Hill which was temporarily repaired has now been properly fixed. Also one outside Red Court Farm which is very large has been reported. Mrs Pace mentioned that drain repair on B1077 still awaited. Mr Everett to email highways for an update. Speed watch camera

Clerk explained that Clopton have asked whether any other parishes would take over ownership of speed camera group. Graham Seward to be made aware and Mr Henley will pass on his details to Clerk. Otley have shown interest in taking over speed camera. Mr Hindle wondered whether we should be part of the SAVID group. Mr Everett to see if this is possible and report back.

#### 14. Recreation Ground

Mr. Rush reported that play area is nearing completion. Fencing is now being installed to aid access and brambles and over grown areas being cleared by Community Payback team and Mr Hindle. It was suggested that some kind of official opening should be arranged once everything is completed.

#### 15. Playing Field Management Committee

Mr. Wilks reported that the issues around leasing facilities at the school site have been resolved and no monies are now due. Poplar Trees at the school issue has also been resolved and the school have to now liaise with SCC directly if they wish trees to be trimmed in any way. Mr Rush thanked Mr Wilks for all his hard work on behalf of the Parish Council.

#### 16.Allotments

Mrs. Camp stated that there is nothing to report. One plot remains vacant. Mr Hindle mentioned that he may cut the grass leading to the allotments but questioned whether this could be done by plot holders.

#### 17.Tree Officer

Mr. Henley reported that a parishioner has expressed concern over the poplar trees at the School being cut down. Mr Henley had reassured that this was not the Parish Councils wish either and a reduction only would be supported. However they do remain the responsibility of the County Council. Mr Henley mentioned his concern that the Willow trees and hedging had been cut down at the entrance to the village from Ashbocking. However it was suggested that his was on private farmland where hedge trimming is quite common and not un usual at this time of year. Trees in Burwash have been looked at and Flagship have agreed that they are

responsible for maintenance of the trees and will attend to them. Mr Henley has reported this back to the parishioner who raised concern initially.

# 18. Community Group

Mrs. Camp reported that preparation is going ahead for village show and garage sale which will be advertised nearer the time

### 19.AOB

- a) Village of the Year Competition 2015
   This could be something that we could look at in future years
- b) Risk assessments Financial risk assessment needs to be agreed at this meeting ready to be sent in 31<sup>st</sup> March.
- c) Grass Cutting Mr Rush and Clerk have been trying to put together an itinerary for grass cutting. Proposed that existing contractor Elmy Landscapes be awarded contract for one more year so that Clerk and Chairman can compile a full list of locations and timings in order to go out to tender next year which was agreed.
- d) Village Hall Updates
  Car park has been resurfaced. Lighting work will take place on 14<sup>th</sup>
  April with support from Suffolk Coastal and Parish Council.

Mrs Shaw mentioned about cars being parked on the highway particularly on bends and dangerous location overnight. Mr Rush will mention this to SNT.

Meeting closed 9:00pm