Swilland and Witnesham Grouped Parish Council

http://swillandandwitnesham.onesuffolk.net/

Clerk: Mr.Steven Barron

Tel: 07719 176917 Email: swill-witpc@outlook.com

Parish Council Meeting

Weds 15th March 2023, at Witnesham Village Hall 7:30pm

MINUTES

 Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Chair reported that there had been a recent "Meet Your MP event" from which some issues would impact the agenda items.

Present: Dr Nicol (Chair), Mr Barlow, Mrs Shaw, Mr Dungey, Mrs Offord, Mr Sharples, Mr Collings, Mr Hindle and Mr Townsham

Sharples, Mr Collings, Mr Hindle and Mr Templeman.

In attendance: SCC CCIIr Elaine Bryce (EB).

- 2. **Apologies:** Dr Williams, Mr Roots and Mr Burrows. ESC DCllr Tony Fryatt (**TF**) was unwell and hence not in attendance.
- 3. The Code of Conduct Declarations of Interest Mr Hindle is a member of Witnesham PCC (item 8c)
- To approve Minutes from the meeting held on 18th January 2023 These were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.
- 5. Matters arising from previous minutes and action points.
 - a) Pre-school assistance Chair expressed concerns over the state of the Pre-school building. He then gave an overview of recent updates on the Pre-school finances. A £6k hole had virtually been filled utilizing fund raising and recruitment of more children. EB commented that she had met with the SCC Cabinet Member last week. SCC had supplied a £9k support grant in Dec 22. The maintenance fee was £1.6k and £945 had been spent on new heaters.
 - b) **ESC Asset of Community Value process and the Community Right to Bid** Mr Barlow reported the management company of the Barley Mow had been approached to seek their views. They stated that they would not look to oppose an ACV nomination. This could be considered as an agenda item in a future PC meeting.
 - c) Use of portable SID close to High Road and Upper Street junction on school route – update Mr Dungey reported that he was ready to start using this SID and would need some assistance. Mr Collings agreed to assist when he was available.
- 6. Questions or comments on Reports from SCCIr Elaine Bryce (EB) & ESC CCIr Tony Fryatt (TF)

ESC DCIIr TF was not present.

EB advised the meeting that the Gibraltar Crossroads 40mph speed limit extension was proceeding well and an implementation was expected around July 2023. A meeting with Brian Prettyman regarding Playing Field Lease discussions was pending.

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- 7. The current financial situation A report was circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting. There were no questions. Current holdings as of 9th March totalled £22,670.74p. Mr Hindle requested that information on future CIL spending restrictions be circulated, Clerk would progress.
- 8. To approve the following payments (inclusive of VAT where appropriate)

a) Administration January

£320.50

b) Administration February

£320.50

c) St Mary Witnesham churchyard costs

£520.00

d) 6 months payroll to March

£54.00

Council agreed to approve all the above payments.

- 9. To consider provisioning of a dog waste bin in the bus shelter area by Burwash. Chair advised the meeting that there had been multiple instances of dog waste bags being dumped on the bus shelter floor. After discussion it was agreed to provide a dog waste bin to be fixed on the outside wall of the bus shelter adjacent to Burwash. Clerk would progress.
- 10. To approve and adopt an updated Allotment Tenancy Agreement to include references to water supply use. An updated draft Allotment Tenancy Agreement had been circulated prior to the meeting with added references to restrictions on water supply use. This was approved and a new agreement would be circulated to tenants for their information. Clerk reported that the two vacant plots in Coopers Close had now been occupied, one of which had some debris to be cleared. Council agreed to waive the rent on the plot for this year, to compensate the tenant for this burden.
- 11.To approve representation of the Parish Council at East Suffolk Planning Alliance (ESPA) meetings. Mr Hindle gave an overview and the meeting notes from ESPA had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was explained that there were issues around lack of PC involvement and a lack of listening to local views by ESC Planning. The ESPA are campaigning to get these issues addressed by ESC. A proposal to Endorse the PC Parishes involvement in the ESPA was agreed. Mr Hindle further reported that there were concerns over Planning Application validations and a similar SCC input issue with ESC planning applications.
- 12. To consider in principle, Witnesham Pre-school financial assistance. Chair explained that this item was about a one-off short-term emergency fund which could be used, only if necessary, between now and the PC AGM in May. This would be to help the Pre-school out with any unforeseen cash flow emergency during this period, if the only alternative was for the PC to step in. A figure of £1000 maximum was agreed for this.
- 13. To decide a Parish Council response to the request for sale of part of the Recreation Ground. This item follows a written request by a local resident who resides adjacent to the Recreation Ground. They were asking if the PC would consider selling all or part of the wooded area close to the B1077 to facilitate a new highway access from their property via this route to the highway. A transcript of the deed of conveyance from 1926 had been circulated prior to the meeting. After discussion, it was proposed, 17/5/23 Page 2 of 3

seconded and agreed that the Parish Council would not consider selling all or part of this public land. Any new allowed access through the land was not wanted.

14. **King Charles III Coronation 2023 proposal** – Dr Williams was not present but had provided a report for the PC prior to the meeting. Dr Williams represents the PC on a local coronation event committee. Chair summarised his report to Council. There will be a street party in the road to Swilland Church for the residents of Swilland. In Witnesham, there will be an outdoor event near the Village Hall on the Sunday morning replacing the Church service with additional music and refreshments. A memento of the Coronation in the form of a medal will be presented by the Parish Council to local children. **It was agreed that expenditure of between £200 to £300 be allocated for the procurement of 200 engraved coronation medals, on a ribbon, for local children, from a commercial supplier.** The engraving will be "Swilland & Witnesham" on the reverse. All children between 3-16 years would get one. Dr Williams would supply the Clerk with quote details.

15. Matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council -

Mrs Offord reported that there had been no recent meetings with the Woodbridge and District ASB. Clerk would check with Zoe Botten. A feeling of being let down in regard to the lack of social housing in new developments was expressed.

Mr Hindle offered to put this point lack of social housing point to the ESPA. He also asked that a thank you be sent to ESC DCIIr Tony Fryatt who was standing down, along with a photo of the new replacement street bench which his budget had granted funding for. Clerk would progress.

Mr Collings expressed concerns over the status of the meal delivery business associated with the Barley Mow premises and any possible effects on the pub. Mr Barlow raised concerns over negative public feedback on the QLS implementations which he had seen on social media. These was noted.

Mrs Shaw reported that squirrels had been located in the Village Hall loft space and were being dealt with.

Dr Nicol reminded the meeting that the Annual Parish Meeting was on 19th April with refreshments made available with the assistance of the WI. Dr Nicol was unlikely to be able to attend the APM and asked the meeting for a volunteer to chair the APM. Mr Barlow agreed to chair the APM in Dr Nicol's absence.

Chairman will report on the lease renewal activities and enquire of future additional uses of the Playing Field and Car Park near the school in his report to the APM. Views will be sought from those present. It is anticipated that the WASPs will remain major users during the football season.

Meeting closed at 8:55pm

17/5/23 SVB