

Swilland and Winesham Grouped Parish Council

<http://swillandandwinesham.onesuffolk.net/>

Clerk: Mr. Steven Barron

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

Parish Council Meeting

Weds 20th March 2024, at Winesham Village Hall 7:30pm

MINUTES

1. Chair welcomed all to the meeting.
Present: Dr Nicol (Chair), Mr Barlow, Mrs Shaw, Mr Dungey, Mr Sharples, Mr Hindle, Dr Williams, Mr Burrows, Mr Roots, Mrs Hardy and Mr Collings.
2. **Apologies:** Mrs Ellis and Mrs Ross. Prior notice had been given by both councillors. The meeting agreed to grant dispensation for absence to Mrs Ross and also Mrs Ellis as reasons for absence were adequate. Mrs Ellis had recently given birth to a baby girl and the Council's congratulations were noted.
Apologies from ESC DClr Dan Clery (DC) and SCC Clr Elaine Bryce (EB) were given.
3. **The Code of Conduct Declarations of Interest** – Mr Hindle, Mrs Hardy and Mr Barlow had all had their dwellings flooded in October 2023 (item 8).
4. **To approve Minutes from the meeting held on 17th January 2024** – These were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.
5. **Questions or comments on Reports from ESC DClr Dan Clery (DC) and SCC Clr Elaine Bryce (EB).** (EB and DC not present). – Concerns were raised about the shortfall in member representation within SCC. Chair reported that he had written to SCC Leader Matthew Hicks some months ago but no reply could be found.
6. **The current financial situation.**
A report was circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting. There were no questions. As year end approaches, the current holdings total was £26,856.74p, made up of UTB £17,933.34p and SBS £8,923.40p (Suffolk Building Society). Chair asked for clarity on underspend which the Clerk explained was mainly due to the delayed SID purchase, now due in April. Chair congratulated the Clerk on managing finances in an exemplary fashion, which was echoed by the meeting.
7. **To approve the following payments** (inclusive of VAT where appropriate)

a)	Administration January	£344.84
b)	Administration February	£344.84
c)	Baptist Church Hall Hire donation	£110.00
d)	Annual Grass Cutting	£2541.59
e)	Replacement picnic table play area	£538.13
f)	Mobile phone top up	£20.00
g)	Hedge and river bank clearance Hall Lane allotment site	£660.00
h)	Picnic table fitting and gate bolt	£275.00
i)	Holding deposit on phone box to confirm the order	£250.00

15/5/24

Council agreed to approve all the above payments.

8. To Agree Any Parish Council actions as a result of replies to correspondence received from:

a) **Denbury Homes Ltd** – Chair gave the view that has been an improvement in the relationship between the parties. Results of a SW drainage survey carried out on behalf of Denbury Homes was awaited. Some jetting out of blocked drains may be an option. It was expected that in the coming weeks the locations and ownership of drainage would be known and then it might be possible to get SCC Highways involved. The next step will be to see what needs to be done and by whom. Signage question near the Barley Mow boundary was as yet unresolved.

b) **Suffolk County Council** – Chair reported that there had been no response to his covering email sent with the attached letter SCC Matthew Hicks. The reply to the actual letter was not well received. It was questioned what the priority scores meant in the table and how they were derived. **It was agreed that clarity was needed and contact made with the SCC officer who deals with Highways infrastructure. Clerk would write to SCC.**

c) **East Suffolk Council** – Chris Bally's reply on 26th Feb stated that "with regard to the Project Manager ask, I'm afraid the short answer is 'not at the moment', but as discussed it is something we are looking at." ESC continue to look at funding and resource for resilience work. An update may be forthcoming in the coming months.

Mr Hindle reported that the Street Farm application was scheduled to go to ESC Committee date TBD. One councillor and one resident were allowed to attend and speak. This needed to be organised in advance. Options included possibly writing to all members of the ESC Planning Committee and consideration of going to The Press. **Council agreed to delegate all issues to the PC Planning Committee for action.**

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

Mrs Shaw was asked about the Defib at the Village Hall. **Clerk would make contact with VPMC regarding changing the batteries.**

Mr Dungey reported that the SID had been used in March and would return for use in May.

Dr Williams reported that post the recent landowners/residents meeting in Swilland about SW drainage, a map to plot the locations was a requirement. Clerk had supplied a hard copy of a map and there may be scope for an electronic version.

Mr Sharples reported that the correct speed signage had finally been installed at Gibraltar Crossroads. He asked who to contact about speed limit enforcement. Mrs Hardy agreed to supply a contact.

Mr Hindle updated the meeting about the Permissive Path investigations. Land owner had withdrawn from Whitehouse Farm. The Village Hall path was still under investigation. The Tuddenham Lane SCC Highways diversion route was a concern. Chair had written to SCC Highways officer asked for resolution of this.

Mr Burrows asked about the Playing Field Lease expire dates and current proposals. **Clerk would re-circulate the latest information once located.**

Mr Barlow confirmed that he could share the electronic map he had for Witnesham drainage. He also raised concerns about the surface of the Rec Ground car park by the entrance. This was currently a project planned within the PC Projects Plan document. Mr Barlow offered to contact Denbury re repairing the entrance to the Rec Car Park with spare tarmac.

Mrs Hardy asked about Community Partnership contacts and meetings and Chair updated her such that she could make direct contact.

Dr Nicol reported that an advert within In Touch magazine had resulted in one volunteer offering help with the phone box renovations. Dr Nicol would meet next week to look at the scope. One resident was offering books and shelves. The Village Hall finances have a problem such that running costs are exceeding income. Clerk and Chair had liaised with the treasurer last week for details. **Dr Nicol will attend the next VHMC meeting.**

Chair reminded the meeting about the Annual Parish Meeting on 17th April.

Dr Nicol informed the meeting that he would not stand as Chair at the AGM in May but would stay on as a councillor for a while. Members needed to consider who else within the membership could be nominated as Chair.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm

15/5/24

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SWB' or similar, located below the date.