

Swilland and Witnesham grouped Parish Council

Clerk: Alison Burrows

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Parish Council Meeting at Witnesham Village Hall on Wednesday 15th January 2025 at 7:30 p.m.

Present:

Cllr Paul Sharples (Chair)
Cllr Tracey Hardy (Deputy Chair)
Cllr Jerry Hindle
Cllr Susan Ross
Cllr Kim Shaw
Cllr Chris Collins

Cllr David Roots
Cllr Andy Dungey
Cllr Richard Nicol
Cllr Tim Burrows
ESCllr Dan Clery

Minutes

1. To elect a Chair - Paul Sharples proposed as new Chair of PC by Jerry Hindle, seconded by Tracey Hardy.

2. Chair's Welcome and Introduction – chair opened meeting.

3. To receive apologies from Councillors not attending – Apologies received from SCCllr Elaine Bryce, Cllr Faye Ellis.

4. To receive Councillors Declarations of Interest

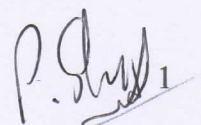
Councillor	Minute no.	Nature of interest
Cllr Susan Ross	17	Impacted by flooding
Cllr Tracey Hardy	17	Impacted by flooding
Cllr Jerry Hindle	9n & 17	Member of PCC , Impacted by flooding

5. To approve Minutes from the meeting held on 20th November 2024 – all Cllrs agreed with minutes, chair signed minutes. Clerk to file minutes – Resolved.

6. Questions or comments on Reports from SCCllr Elaine Bryce & ESCllr Dan Clery – reports for both Cllrs circulated prior to meeting – no questions – Resolved

7. Stop the Quarry update – Jerry Hindle reported that lots have been going on since meeting 27.11.2024, a new leadership team has established a steering group.
There is a new website for the campaign, bank account opened, current priority is to reach out for political support. ESCllr Clery and ESCllr Hedgley are supportive of the campaign.

Following the public exhibition by TRU Group 21.2.2025 Westerfield VH and submission of full application, the campaign will be pushing for more public support. TRU group have requested PC to promote the exhibition, at present no action taken by PC as it is felt that to do so would be to support the quarry.



TRU group have invited DC & CC Cllrs to a meeting, Dan requested questions to take to meeting. Dan to ask if PC can attend the meeting. Clerk to contact Steven Daw re invitation to meeting for PC's. 10.02.2025 – Westerfield VH
Proposal by Jerry Hindle that SWgPC does not respond to TRU request to publicise the public exhibition – Richard Nicol seconded.

8. The current financial situation - Clerk's report circulated prior to meeting – no questions – Resolved.

9. To approve the following payments (including VAT if applicable):

a. Wave – water bill	£29.38 pd
b. Admin AB Nov 24	£437.90 pd
c. WT&W Benefice – STQ printing	£7.80 pd
d. Bank charges October 2024	£6.00 pd
e. Bank Charges Nov 2024	£6.00 pd
f. HMRC Employers Tax Q3	£328.40 pd
g. Admin AB Dec 24	£437.90 pd
h. S K Peace STQ Banners	£120.00 pd
i. East Suffolk Services Grass Cutting	£2785.20 pd incl VAT
j. Witnesham VH hire Oct to Dec (inc STQ meeting)	£120.00 pd
k. Witnesham VH hire Jul & Sept	£50.00 pd
l. Admin Jan 2025 S Barron back pay	£89.89
m. Admin AB Jan 2025 incl back pay	£534.24
n. Churchyard upkeep	£750.00

All Cllrs agreed with payments, proposed by Richard Nicol, Chris Collings seconded.

10. To review and approve the Financial and Data Protection Risk Assessment 2025-2026 - all agreed, signed by Chair – Resolved.

11. To consider and approve the Precept figure for 2025–2026 as recommended by the Finance Committee - all agreed to 5% increase to £17,406.77, proposed Richard Nicol and seconded by Jerry Hindle – Resolved.

12. To consider and adopt the Finance budget for 2025-2026 - budget previously circulated by email to all PC Cllrs. New presentation of spreadsheet, draw on reserves to Stop the Quarry £2k, £1K this year and £1k next year. Predicted costs for Land registry UKPN are planned and included.

Richard Nicol proposed budget for 2025/2026, Jerry Hindle seconded – point made that, fees for Playing field heads of terms to be paid by CIL if possible – Resolved.

13. Village Bus Shelters replacement proposal – circulated prior to meeting.
A, We do not proceed with the decision from July 2024 to redecorate the two brick shelters as a community art project.
B, We collaborate with SCC on the installation, Tim Burrows and David Roots happy to assist with demolition of existing brick shelters.
C, Considerations - do we really want the third shelter? Spend money, raise funds by way of grants from ESCllr and SCCllr?
D, We need to make community aware that bus shelters will be demolished by end of March – Facebook & In Touch magazine, email circulation list.

P. Shyne

Richard Nicol proposed to proceed with 3 shelters, seconded by Jerry Hindle – Resolved.

14. Current PC matters updates:

- a) Gov. email addresses - these have been procured, need to set up, AD will test and advise how to set up. Website to update.
- b) PC land Registrations - Clerk to chase UKPN and James Hall.
- c) War memorial repairs - Clerk to chase Spencer Wix for repair date
- d) WI Litter pick April - Sat 5th April, does the PC want to support and assist handing out equipment and collect rubbish at the end of the litter pick?
Jerry Hindle to assist with lower rec, Richard Nicol and David Roots to also assist.

15. School Playing Field area lease and freehold land proposal from SCC heads of terms for consideration and decision

Tim Burrows reported that no change to Head of Terms, purchaser to cover legal costs of vendor.

Query re paying only our own fees, they meet their own fees.

Jerry Hindle proposed to sign the Heads of Terms and proceed, seconded by Paul Sharples. Clerk to contact SCC.

16. Playing Field Advisory Committee

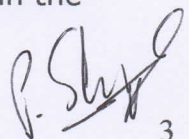
Meeting held before Christmas, communications strategy reviewed, discussed where CIL would be better spent elsewhere rather than a new building on PF, since meeting pre-school building is unfit for use, Preschool is full, 16 children attend.

WASPS 10 teams, may have funds to contribute to running costs for a building. Next meeting Feb or March with all stakeholders - School, WASPs and then engage with community.

17. Flood Advisory Committee

Jerry Hindle reported that the Flood Advisory Committee (FAC) met on 7 January 2025 and below are the main items of information for the Parish Council and recommendations to it.

- i) Section 19 Flood Investigation; In December the SCC Flood Investigation Team (FIT) visited Swilland and Witnesham to see at first hand sites that were flooded in Storm Babet 10/2024. They were accompanied by members of the FAC. The FIT report is expected in February with recommendations for reducing flood risk. It was made clear that FIT has very limited powers to enforce action and will be reliant upon agencies and landowners to implement. Various sources of funding may be available. Recommendations; a) The Parish Council considers the SCC Section 19 Report when published. b) The Parish Council identifies in principle, if parish CIL funds could be made available to provide funding or matched funding to implement FIT recommendations for drainage and other works to lessen flood risk.
- ii) SCC Highway Drainage Investigations. In November SCC provided the PC with a consultant's reports on village Babet flood sites and Highways drainage. The report made recommendations to reduce flood risk. Recommendation; The Parish Council follows up the SCC email and reports of 15 November asking what consideration and action is being given to the recommendations made in the reports.



iii) Giles Way/ Cranborne Flooding; It is disappointing that ESC have not yet undertaken a CCTV investigation of the drains as agreed to do in October, but have said it intends to do so in January, weather permitting. Recommendation; The Parish Council pursue the matter with ESC, Chief Executive Chris Bally if there is no further CCTV investigation by the end of January
Jerry Hindle proposed to proceed with all recommendations, seconded by Paul Sharples – Resolved.

18. VH Management Committee update including defibs

Tracey Hardy, chair VHMC reported that a surveyor has completed an inspection of the water damage, problem not helped by roadside paving covered in moss etc, damp in road side, section of floor raising due to water, confined to one corner. Further investigations to be made. Insurance may cover the work required.

19. Parish Council Membership – recruitment and comms

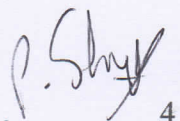
General consensus to try again for new councillors on Website, FB and In Touch – Clerk to action.

20. Councillor issues to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council

Each Councillor is requested to use this opportunity to report minor matters of information not included elsewhere on the agenda and to raise items for future agendas. **Councillors are respectfully reminded that this is not an opportunity for debate or decision-making.**

No further items to report.

Meeting closed 21.40


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