

Minutes of the Swaffham Prior Parish Council meeting held in Thursday, 10th October 2019 at 730pm at the Swaffham Prior Village Hall.

Present:

Mr John Covill (Chair) (JC), Mr Andrew Camps (AC), Mr Alan Durrant (AD), Mr David Greenfield (DG), Mrs Sandra Gynn (SG), Mr Peter Hart (PH), Mr Steve Kent-Phillips (SKP) and Mr Paul Latchford (PL).

There were 2 members of the public attending.

2346. In attendance:

Mrs Jude Griffiths – clerk.

2347. Apologies for absence:

Cllr Charlotte Cane (CC) – prior meeting.

2348. Members declaration of interest in items on the agenda and requests for dispensation:

PL declared a personal interest in item 2354 - planning application **19/01349/FUL**
DG item 2360 as member of CLT

2349. Public participation for items on the agenda:

None.

2350. Approve and sign minutes of Parish Council meeting Thursday 10th September 2019:

Min ref. 2342 – missed out ‘no’. Once this was corrected the minutes were approved. *Passed.*

It was agreed to move the Reports further down the agenda in anticipation of the late arrival of Cllr Charlotte Cane.

2351. Matter arising from previous minutes (for information only):

SKP had reported the two missing signs – now on the ‘to do’ list.

PH left the meeting at 1935.

2352. Correspondence for consideration/circulation:

Email re parking on Station Road – noted.

Email re Scout Hut Open Day – noted.

Email re Council tax reduction scheme consultation – noted.

Letter from East Anglia Children’s Hospices – noted that the PC does not generally donate to causes outside of the village.

Email from Snailwell PC requesting SID for hire – as they are in Suffolk, the hire rate is doubled. They will discuss and contact the clerk. *For information only.*

2353. Consideration of planning applications received:

19/00651/FUL Village Hall, 36 High Street, Swaffham Prior, Cambridge, CB25 0LD.

Construction of a single-storey side extension to provide additional storage – approved.

Noted

19/01174/LBC 25 High Street, Swaffham Prior, Cambridge CB25 0LD

Removal of brick column between proposed sitting and living room and creation of one structural opening between the two rooms – approved.

Noted.

19/01160/TRE Towers and Hill Charitable Trust Village Hall, 36 High Street, Swaffham Prior. Pruning/felling of trees – approved.

Noted.

19/01349/FUL Church View Cottage, 54 High Street, Swaffham Prior, Cambridge, CB25 0LD. Replacement of existing close board fence with 9” brick wall.

No objections.

19/01363/FUL Land adjacent to 42 Lower End, Swaffham Prior, CB25 0NT

Construction of 2, 4-storey dwellings garaging and associated site works.

After some discussion it was decided that this application falls outside of the 2015 Village Envelope and as such would not be a permitted development; otherwise there were no objections.

**19/01242/FUL Fourth land parcel south east of 30 and 32 Mill Hill, Swaffham Prior
Proposed single 4-bedroom dwelling.**

This proposal was also judged to fall outside of the Village Envelope from both the 2015 and more recent, abandoned Local Plan and as such should not be a permitted development. Additionally, the proposed development will be visible from Devil’s Dyke (so be a heritage issue) and impact upon Stocks Mill.

2354. Accounts for payment:

a) Clerks’ salary and tax	£120.00
b) Unity bank account	£500.00
c) CGM – grass cutting on 24 th July and 7 th August	£730.08
d) Wave – water bill 15/9/2019-14/09/2019	£12.07
Total	£1362.15

Receipts:

Precept – 2nd instalment £7250.00

In addition, SKP noted the final payment of the Deputy Clerks wage and tax (£554.00).

Proposed SKP, seconded SG, agreed unanimously.

A transfer of £2000.00 was agreed *proposed SKP, seconded SG, passed unanimously.*

2355. Cemetery waste disposal:

SG reported that Janet Wilmott of Proud of Prior (PoP) had been requested to empty the cemetery bins as part of the PoP litter pick, which she agreed to do; however the cemetery bins proved to be overfull and containing a lot of dog excrement. Janet Wilmott requested a green bin for the appropriate waste and SG received it (it was put out and collected on the usual day) and established that a new dog excrement bin would cost £300.00 plus VAT.

1955 Cllr Charlotte Cane joined the meeting.

SG put up signs requesting dog walkers use the appropriate bin on Coopers Green; these are being ignored by some who still deposit their dog excrement in the cemetery bins.

After discussion, the decision was made to put up extra signs (SG volunteered) indicating the location of the nearest appropriate bin on Coopers Green for dog walkers and to monitor the situation.

JC thanked both SG and PoP for the work done.

SG thanked AD for all his excellent work in clearing a lot of the older part of the cemetery and overgrown graves which consequently looks so much better.

2356. Social Media policy:

DG said that he had received the proposed modifications from PL and included all but 2. DG proposed that the Social Media policy be accepted as PC policy *seconded SKP; agreed unanimously.*

To be included in the PC policies and reviewed as part of the PC's statutory documents *proposed DG, seconded SKP; passed unanimously.*

A moderator needed to be appointed regarding Social Media Policy – AD proposed SKP *seconded SG; passed unanimously.*

2357. Scope textile collection bank:

SKP reported that the Village Hall are happy to have this textile bank in the car park. PL asked if anyone had objected to the loss of a parking space. AD answered on behalf of the Village Hall – no.

DG asked if the bank could be moved and/or removed easily – SKP confirmed this.

SKP proposed that the PC accept the offer of a textile bank in the Village Hall car park *seconded PL; passed unanimously.*

2358. Parish Council insurance:

The tailored Parish Council insurance package is due for renewal. DG requested clarification on what was the property covered in the asset list. SKP replied it was the Pound; the Village Hall is insured separately. SKP also confirmed that the asset register is up-to-date. SKP proposed that the PC renew the insurance, choosing the 3-year package. *Seconded SG; passed unanimously.*

2359. Reports:

a) Cambridge County Council (CCC)

None received

b) East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC)

Report circulated prior to the meeting. CC reported.

The meeting just attended had been unclear as to whether it was for the trading business of ECDC or an ECDC meeting. The Chairman of the Board had not attended, nor had a second member of the Board and CC's issues with this year's business plan remained unaddressed.

CC expressed a wish to discover what ECDC land would be available to take part in a Woodland Trust tree planting initiative.

The Chair invited questions.

SKP asked if the two Trading Company directors could be sacked? CC said this was not desirable at present.

JC asked if the PC should be concerned regarding the state of the ECDC trading companies finances? CC commented that the company had borrowed £25 million from the Combined Authorities for property building and it is unclear what has happened to this money. CC also stated that the trading company is meant to pay back £5 million to the ECDC in 2020 but that

the figures seen don't back this up. CC is due to attend a Council meeting next week and aims to get more information then.

JC spoke about the introduction of permits to take domestic rubbish to the Recycling Centres causing problems through being over-restrictive on the types of vehicles allowed. CC said this was a CCC matter, but that large vans and trailers only should be charged, not cars with the back seats folded down. CC requested specific evidence of this taking place.

JC asked if restrictions on use of the Recycling Centres was expected to cause an increase in fly-tipping? CC said that CCC was attempting to discourage commercial use of CCC tips when surrounding councils charged for all use of theirs. It was clarified that Milton and Witchford tips have introduced charging since 1st October 2019. CC asked that fly-tipping be reported to enable evidence of any increase to be collected.

2360. Residential land development opportunity on Mill Hill:

DG outlined the history regarding the proposal to build housing on this site. The PC had previously raised 6 points to be put to the Planning Inspector before the plan was withdrawn; these were:

- 1) The site is close to the churches and so affect the preservation and enhancement of a conservation area
- 2) The site could adversely affect the Scout field
- 3) There was a presumption that the existing hedges and trees were to be preserved
- 4) Vehicular access
- 5) A maximum of 20 dwellings was felt to be sufficient
- 6) 40% (now 30%) should be affordable housing.

DG did not know if any of these points had been accepted or if the Planning Department felt positively or negatively towards the plans.

JC invited CC to comment. CC noted that the withdrawal of the Local Plan meant that all information had been removed from the Planning website so it is not possible to see how far the previous plans advanced, but that there is no longer the presumption that applications outside of the development area would be unacceptable because of the ECDC inability to show the house-building numbers required pre 6th April 2020.

DG commented that 20 units had been felt to be enough and the most recent proposal was for 31, but that most of the trees and hedgerow were already under protection orders.

CC to see if a meeting between the Planning Officer and DG could be set up, to see if the 6 points were being taken into consideration.

SKP pointed out that from April 2020, the area concerned would be outside the Village envelope.

2361. British Legion Remembrance Day wreath:

Clerk to order a wreath – to be delivered to AC.

SKP proposed that the PC pay £50 in total as a donation on top of the wreath payment; *seconded SG, passed unanimously.*

2362. Clerk's report:

- Undertaking CAPALC cemetery course on 28th October 2019
- An enquiry had been received regarding erecting a gravestone in the cemetery – relevant information sent and awaiting response.

2363. Parish Councillor's reports:

- AD had cleared round the graves in the cemetery and the resultant waste is to be incinerated.
- SG reported that the school is much improved and is full.
- DG reported that the CLT heating scheme now has 162 households expressing an interest. The results of the borehole tests showed that the thermal capacity was lower than expected, so the scheme would require more boreholes, increasing the cost. The application for the next grant will be put in by the end of October 2019 and the response expected by the end of November 2019. Outline planning would start in December 2019 and the formal application should take place in March 2020. SKP asked if there would be a pumping station at the bottom of Cage Hill? DG replied no. PL asked where he could get an answer to a question regarding the carbon released through setting up the scheme. DG to give the name of the relevant person.
- SKP reported on the proposed Swaffham Greenway which suggested closing the slipway at the Bulbeck end of the village to motorised traffic. JC had attended the consultation regarding this and outlined the problems of putting more traffic to the junction into the village. SKP had used SID to monitor use of the slip road and reported that 3240 vehicle used it weekly. PL stated that articulated lorries would have to pull out into oncoming traffic in order to turn into the village and that there is not enough room for them to turn right at the Station Road/High Street corner.. SKP to write on behalf of the PC outlining the objections to shutting the slip road. PL to email his contributions to SKP. *Proposed DG, seconded AD, passed unanimously.*
- PL related that Holly Mead would like to erect a 6'6" shed and plant fruit trees on her allotment. No objections were raised.
- SKP suggested that SID be deployed on the top road to record the percentage of traffic using the slip road. Agreed.
- AD reported that the Village Hall tree work is to take place on 21st/22nd October 2019 and that the car park will be closed during this period. The school and School's Out have been informed.
- The hedge by the sewage works on Station Road is overgrown- SKP to email the Highways Agency.

The meeting ended at 2107.

2364. Open question time:

Alastair Everitt requested the figures recorded by SID for the Crier – SKP stated they are available from the PC website.

Business concluded at 2110.

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