

Swaffham Prior Annual Village Assembly – minutes of meeting held on

Tuesday 14th May 2019 at 7.30pm

Present: Parish Councillors: John Covill (Chair), Andrew Camps, Alan Durrant, David Greenfield, Steve Kent-Phillips and plus seven members of the public.

Apologies: none received.

In attendance: Jude Griffiths (Clerk)
Paul Catling (Deputy Clerk)
CCC - Cllr Joshua Schumann
ECDC – Cllr Charlotte Cane
- Cllr John Trapp

Approval of minutes of meeting dated 16th May 2018: The minutes were agreed by all as a correct record.

Reports:

Helen Bartley, head of Swaffham Prior Primary, requested that her report be heard first as she had two meetings to attend simultaneously. This was agreed without dissent.

The School and school governors:

(Helen Bartley, Head.) After a turbulent time, the school received an “inadequate” Ofsted report last autumn. Since then there has been much work to improve the school and its links with the community. As part of the Church of England (C of E) vision, they have been reviewing the school values and trying to come up with a new “strapline” for the school.

The children had participated in Bishop Stephen’s Lent Challenge, entitled “When I’m 64” and trips have been arranged and/or undertaken with different year groups to Aylmerton, Burwell House, the library and the Houses of Parliament. There has also been a steel pan workshop. More music lessons are being run.

Changes have also been made to the premises, for example the added security introduced to the main gate and the resurfacing of the early years’ area.

The Chair invited questions and comments.

Steve Kent-Phillips asked if the swimming pool would be opened over the summer. Mrs Bartley replied that it will be in use after half term onwards. The Chair thanked Mrs Bartley, who left the meeting at 7.48pm.

Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC):

(Cllr Joshua Schumann.) Last financial year, contributions were up by 2.99%. The council is campaigning for a fairer funding formula – a government review is to take place in the future. There has been a spike in demand for both adult and child social care – in line with the rest of the country – so that £400 million out of the £500 million budget now goes to social care. CCC has introduced a scheme to base social workers in the community instead of being desk-bound; this was piloted in Soham and St Ives and deemed successful so far.

Children’s services are becoming more outreach, both based in specific buildings. Some children’s centres have been closed and deployed to other sites.

The CCC have been making investments in order to secure an income from the returns e.g. in student accommodation in Cambridge. The aim is to have a £12 million per annum return from their investments.

An extra £1.8 million has been spent on pothole repair – Cllr Schumann urged everyone present to report pot holes.

CCC is leaving their Shire Hall base, aiming instead to be based in council buildings throughout the county and make considerable savings.

CCC is looking to learn from the Swaffham Prior heating scheme regarding the setting up of “oil-free” communities.

The Chair invited questions and comments.

Andrew Camps asked where the registry office was being relocated? Cllr Schumann replied that it had not been firmly decided yet – a number of sites were being considered.

It was asked if the investment programme of the CCC could lead to conflicts of interest regarding planning permission? Cllr Schumann replied that it is mainly the District Council that take planning decisions and that the Secretary of State has an overview in cases of perceived county council advantages.

The problem of school-run pollution was raised. Cllr Schumann replied that there is ongoing debate around cleaner air by schools; it is complicated regarding what can and cannot be done.

District Council (ECDC):

(Cllr Charlotte Cane and Cllr John Trapp). East Cambridge District Council ward has been enlarged, so now contains 7 parishes and stretches from Brinkley to Reach. Retired councillor Allen Alderton was thanked for his work and contact details for the new councillors given out:

charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk

john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk

Both new councillors expect to be on the finance committee and John Trapp will also be on the planning committee. As they have only be in post for 2 weeks, they felt unable to report ont eh last 12 months, but intend to produce columns for the Swaffham Crier and attend the monthly Parish Council meetings.

There were no questions.

Parish Council:

(John Covill, Chair). It has been a quiet year. The parish council has a new clerk, Jude Griffiths, and Steve Kent-Phillips is deputy clerk. One councillor stepped down and their place was taken by Alan Durrant. Michael Malster announced he was stepping down prior to the election and so at present the parish council has a vacancy.

Allen Alderson was thanked for his work.

A secure, fireproof filing cabinet has been purchased to store parish council paperwork in the village hall.

Michael Malster was thanked for his work on the allotments and Paul Latchford for drawing up the new map of the allotments – there is still one allotment available.

Efforts are ongoing to get grant money to provide new parking spaces on Fairview Grove but to date Highway rules regarding contractors have made their creation prohibitively expensive.

Maps have been created to ensure that all relevant areas for grass-cutting are covered.

David Greenfield was thanked for his work on a number of parish council issues.

The cemetery is now better maintained.

Reach parish council have hired the Speed Indicating Device (SID).

The Chair invited questions and comments.

Caroline Matheson enquired if the clerk will be submitting notes from parish councils meetings to the Crier – this was confirmed.

It was asked if a hearing loop is available for use at future parish council meetings – Alan Durrant confirmed that one was present in the meeting room.

It was suggested that the parish council have a presence on the local Facebook pages – the clerk to look into this.

Parish Council - Financial report:

(Steve Kent-Phillips, treasurer). This year the parish council was within £138 of the budget. There is a surplus of £1900.00 for the year, although spending was up as the last of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money was used. The council currently has more than twice the precept in savings but this is due to some larger projects in the pipeline, such as improvements to the play area. Copies of the audited accounts were available.

There were no questions.

The Gay Bullied Award:

John Covill confirmed that this year the Gay Bullied award will go jointly to Alan Durrant and Peter Rand for their work on improving the village hall.

There were no questions.

Beaver, Cub and Scout group:

(Tim Doe, Scout leader). The Scouts are very excited and ready to get going on making the former Youth Club hut their new home. The roof and framework are sound, but the aim is to replace doors, check the wiring, paint and eventually replace the windows, once the contract has been drawn up and signed. It is estimated that £20,000 is needed to put the building right and another £5000-10,000 for improvement – once this work has been carried out the building should be set up for at least a decade. The scouts have £2000-3000. The Parochial Charities have offered to do some of the work. A significant donation from a local charitable trust has been ring-fenced for this also, so there is an estimated £12,000 raised already. Youth members will carry out work and raise funds to help promote a sense of ownership of the building and it is hoped that local skilled trades will also offer help. There will also be applications for funding from charities.

Youth member numbers are increasing gradually. 3 representatives will attend the World Scout Jamboree at the end of August and intend to make several reports on their return.

There is a shortage of leaders for the cubs, beavers and scouts – there has been an appeal for new leaders but as yet no success.

The Chair invited questions and comments.

Steve Kent-Phillips pointed out that the asbestos guttering will need removing and that the Scouts should approach the Sports and Social Committee for funding.

Burwell Tigers Football Club:

John Covill read out the report. The numbers for the Burwell Tigers are increasing and they intend to start another youth side and a girls' side in the coming year.

The Community Land Trust (CLT):

(Emma Fletcher, chair). The CLT was 5 years old last Christmas and has 8 happy residents. A list is run for anyone who would like to apply for one of the houses, although there is no guarantee when one will become available. Jude Griffiths has replaced Paul Catling as the director connected with the parish council – thanks were given to Paul.

£130,000 of funding has been secured for stage 3 of the heating scheme. The CLT intend to answer questions raised by the community and to that end, have appointed Janet Hall as Community Liaison officer, whose job will involve raising awareness of the scheme and the requirements of households to become involved. She will also be Project Manager for the technical feasibility tests.

The CLT committee intend to have representatives attending the school science week and to distribute leaflets making clear who is involved in the scheme and their individual roles. Money toward the scheme has been received from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), the CCC, and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. There is a lot of focus on this plan to see if and how it works.

The Chair invited questions and comments.

It was asked what will happen to household data collected for the scheme? Emma Fletcher replied that the new website will give more information regarding this, but the information will not be sold on; Janet Hall is to draft a data protection plan.

Village Hall Management Committee:

(Alan Durrant, trustee). The village hall has been updated and improved, including replacing fencing and repairs to the car park. The removal of School's Out to new premises mean a loss of 40% of the village hall's income and new methods to replace this income need to be created. Any future projects for the village hall are dependent on its income.

There were no questions.

Parochial Charities:

(John Covill, trustee). The accounts for the Parochial Charities were read out.

The Scouts have agreed a long-term lease on the Scout Hut, at a peppercorn rent. It will provide them with space for their activities and in return they have undertaken to repair and maintain the building.

The table tennis table in front of the Scout Hut is to be moved once a new concrete base has been prepared for it.

Swaffham Prior Community Car Scheme:

No report received.

Proud of Prior (PoP):

No report received.

Open question time:

Emma Fletcher noted that 282 tickets have been sold for the Village Tea Party – there were a few still available.

Emma Fletcher also raised the issue of bus routes and the advisability of the villages co-operating to influence to routes chosen by Stagecoach and decision makers in Cambridge. It was agreed that this issue is too big to be covered fully in this meeting and a separate meeting should be convened to discuss it fully on another occasion.

The meeting closed at 2050.