

Minutes of the Swaffham Prior Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 12th November 2020 at 730pm via Zoom.

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 Paul Latchford (PL) and Mr Steve Kent-Phillips (SKP).

In attendance:

Mrs Jude Griffiths (Clerk)

Cllr John Trapp (ECDC)

There were 3 members of the public in attendance.

115/20-21 Apologies for absence

None

116/20-21 Members declaration of interest for items on the agenda and requests for dispensations

None

117/20-21 Public participation for items on the agenda

Agenda item 122/20-21 1) Mr Michael Limb expressed interest in and support for the proposed work to the Smock Mill. He also noted the word ‘ask’ had been missed in minute reference 101/20-21 paragraph 4 – this was duly corrected.

Agenda item 122/20-21 1) Mr Jonathan Cook spoke to raise awareness of the Smock Mill planning application to enable the mill to generate electricity whilst maintaining its traditional appearance. He described the work as ‘of national importance’ as they will be the only two mills working this close together. Mr Cook said that the two mills aim to be working at the same time and open on the same day. The project is a significant investment and will enable students building the new cap to train in mill-wright work.

Cllr John Trapp (JT) arrived at 7.35pm.

JC asked how much power the Smock Mill would provide – Mr Cook said this was not yet known as it hadn’t been done before, but the windmill would not be as efficient as modern wind turbines. Mr Cook also confirmed that the airflow for Foster’s mill would not be disturbed as traditionally the two mills had worked simultaneously.

Agenda item 122/20-21 2) Mr Graham Jackson spoke on his planning application. His previous application had been withdrawn; since then the Planning Officer had visited and variations implemented to produce a new, acceptable plan that Mr Jackson hoped would be successful this time.

118/20-21 Approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 8th October 2020

SKP noted that in Min Ref 104/20-21 3) the word ‘sort’ needed replacing with ‘sought’.

DG requested that under Min Ref 111/20-21, paragraph 2, the line ‘only 19 people from Swaffham Prior responded’ be corrected to ‘only 19 people in total from all affected villages responded’.

Once these corrections had been made, *PH proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting; seconded SG, passed unanimous.*

119/20-21 Reports

- a) CCC representative - none received.
- b) ECDC representative - Cllr John Trapp (JT) reporting

JT reported that at the last District Council meeting, several questions regarding climate change had been raised by members of the public, which JT intends to follow up.

A petition and presentation had been received to argue that the Mepal centre should become an outdoor pursuits centre rather than a crematorium.

A motion regarding parking enforcement is due to be discussed.

ECDC had responded to a proposed Planning White Paper aiming to streamline the planning process; JT considered that the ECDC response did not go far enough and that the focus of the paper was more urban than rural; for example, the requirement for affordable housing did not start until at least 50 houses were being built.

Analysis of the Bus Survey had shown that the Burwell-Cambridge route was significantly the most used and suggestions for later services and Sunday services were being considered.

The Chair invited questions.

SKP requested an ECDC report for the Annual Village Assembly; JT agreed and apologized for not having done so already.

120/20-21 Matters arising from previous minutes (for information only)

Min ref 111/20-21 DG provided an update for the Local Transport Group (LTG). Most Parish Councils for villages along the B1102 have agreed to support the LTG and they have a meeting scheduled with the Local Transport Partnership on 23rd November 2020. The LTG are setting up a website to aid communication with the general public and are looking into a change to a snappier title. JC thanked Mr Cook for his work in setting up LTG.

Min ref 113/20-21 b) SKP noted that the post had been reported and repaired.

Min ref 113/20-21 c) SKP noted that the playground hut had been repaired.

Min ref 113/20-21 e) SKP had reported the drain blocked by pine needles but SG noted that nothing had been done about the pine needles themselves.

Min ref 104/20-21 SKP noted that the Heating Scheme's report for the Annual Village Assembly stated that individual Grade II permission was not required, in contrast to the minutes. DG noted that he believed the minutes were correct at the time, but that further discussion since had changed matters.

Action: DG to check and report back

121/20-21 Correspondence for consideration/circulation:

- a) CAPALC November bulletin – by email. The playground was discussed in the light of the new lockdown and it was agreed that it will remain open as it is.
- b) Email from Celia Tyler re progress on village photographs project - noted
- c) Letter from ECDC confirming the Red Lion has been granted Asset of Community Value Status – it was noted that this will be due for renewal in three years.

122/20-21 Consideration of planning applications received:**1) 20/01417/LBC The Smock Tower Mill Mill Hill Swaffham Prior Cambridge CB25 0JZ**

Replace existing temporary cap with a working East Cambs cap to match the original. A new curb and running gear will be cast so the cap can turn into the wind. The existing wind shaft will be centre bored for the shaft that controls the sail shutters. A new 8-bladed fantail will be fitted and new sails made with shutters. The cladding on the outside smock will be replaced with new and painted the

traditional black. A new brake wheel will be constructed which will drive a shaft to the generator which will produce electricity.

SKP proposed that the PC welcome the project and actively support it; seconded DG, passed unanimously.

2) 20/01412/FUL 8 Tothill Road Swaffham Prior Cambridge CB25 0JX

Alteration and extension of existing bungalow including extension of existing garage to form covered access area - Resubmission

SG proposed that this was a good idea that would allow a family to remain in the village in suitably adapted accommodation; seconded SKP, passed unanimously.

8.01pm, JT left the meeting.

123/20-21 Accounts for payment including:

a) Clerk's salary and taxes	£220.00
b) Clerk's expenses – stationery	£5.99
c) Clerk's expenses – postage	£1.15
Total	£227.14

An additional payment of £35.00 to Andy Martin for repairs to the playground hut was noted.

SKP proposed that the accounts be paid in full; seconded SG, passed unanimously.

SKP proposed a £1000.00 transfer from the savings to the current account; seconded PL, passed unanimously.

SKP noted that approximately £1300.00 had been reclaimed as VAT, pending delays due to COVID. SKP also noted that the letter to inform the ECDC of the amount required as precept for 2021-22 needed to be completed. *SKP proposed that the precept for Swaffham Prior remain at £14,500.00 for the year 2021-22; seconded PL, passed unanimously.*

SKP noted that a quote had been received for repairs to the Pound parapet; it was decided to discuss this at the next meeting to give time for a second company to respond.

AD noted that the Village Hall chairs will not arrive until April 2021.

124/20-21 To agree further work on the cemetery trees

It was agreed that as the yew trees are no risk, this matter will be addressed at the December meeting to give the Clerk time to chase further quotes.

125/20-21 To discuss the possible use of ground-penetrating radar to produce a cemetery map

PL had consulted with several local companies regarding the feasibility of this idea. After discussion it was decided that the survey should cover the central path, the new area/old clunch tip, the undisturbed part of the most recent row and right up to the end fence.

Action: PL to make further enquiries regarding surveying the areas proposed.

It was agreed that the PC would not sell or use grave plots in the older sections of the cemetery even if they were recorded as empty.

126/20-21 Clerk's Report

- a) A roofer had looked at the Pound roof and noticed cracks and loose bricks in the parapet. One quote to fix this had been received and a second was being sought.
- b) Reports for the Annual Village Assembly had been requested and those that have arrived are now on the website for people to read. The Clerk to continue to chase others. DG asked for clarification as to how the AVA will work online; SKP said that reports will be made available to all before the meeting so that the meeting itself can concentrate on answering any questions that people have.
- c) A register of all the grave markings in the cemetery is under construction, as well as a visual check of all grave markers. Whilst checking this, an unsafe headstone was observed (balanced at an angle against a curb with no attachment to the ground) and was laid down by the Clerk. The owner has been contacted and intends to repair it.

127/20-21 Parish Councillors' Reports

PL asked if there was a list of Highways maintained items in the village e.g. byways, paths, salt bin etc? SKP confirmed that the Highways Agency has one.

PH noted another post on the B1102 has been knocked over – SKP to report.

There was some discussion about fly-tipping in the Fen and the impossibility of monitoring even the most commonly used spots.

The meeting ended at 830pm

128/20-21 Open Question Time

Mr Limb commented on how well the edge of the football field had been tidied up and the stopping of the Proud of Prior litter picks could be seen in increased litter. SKP noted that the AVA report for Proud of Prior said they hope to resume litter picks soon. JC noted that the football field lease is being given up and that the field will be used to graze horses instead.

Mr Limb asked who had responsibility for the drainage ditch near the football field which appeared to be filling in? JC suggested it was Anglia Water, who may also have responsibility for the bushes currently overgrowing the footpath in the same area.

Action: Clerk to contact Anglia Water to request they clear ditch and cut back overgrowth.

Business concluded at 842pm.