

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish on 31st May 2022, at 7.30pm in Swaffham Prior Village Hall.

Present: Cllr John Covill (chair), Jude Griffiths (Clerk) and 24 members of the public.

1. Welcome by the Chair.

Cllr John Covill took the chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Approval of minutes of 18th May 2022.

There were approved by the meeting/

3. Hear from speakers for:

a. A-B1102 group. Jon Cook (Chair of A-B1102)

Jon outlined the origins of the A-B1102 group and their aim to aid communication between all interested parties in the uses and developments of the B1102 and to improve travel along it, particularly in light of the many recent consultations, some of which had barely any local responses or input.

A-B1102 have developed the concept of a fast bus route between Fordham and Cambridge, to run alongside the current bus routes and using small travel hubs to enable users to change between services, gaining access to e.g. Newmarket, Cambridge North Station etc. This is available to view on the A-B1102 website. They are now looking into a Feasibility Study. The aim is to produce schemes that are integrated e.g. between bus travel and the greenways, making a usable and attractive whole.

Further information on all of this is available on the A-B1102 website <https://atob1102.org/>

Questions:

Who are GCP?

A funded group consisting of representatives of South Cambs District Council, Cambridge City Council, Cambridge University, an employers' group, the Combined Authorities and Cambridgeshire County Council, set up in 2017 with £25 million funding to deliver (for example) changes to the travel infrastructure. ECDC is not part of the group and so although this parish is affected by the decisions, there is no direct representation for us. GCP cannot implement decisions, this has to be done by Cambridgeshire County Council and/or the Combined Authorities.

Are the consultations tick box exercises?

This remains to be seen.

b. Swaffham Prior windmills. Jon Cook (owner of Fosters' Mill).

After much work over the past 2 years, the Smock Tower Mill will have new sails on Tuesday 6th June, making Swaffham Prior the only place in the country with two working mills.

Fosters' Mill has been enjoying good trade with mail order and mass orders across the country. The development of a new shop means that the mill can process more and sell more.

c. Swaffham Prior and Reach Scouts. Tim Doe and Neil Winkcup

During COVID, the Beaver and Cub meetings were held on Zoom, but the Scout meetings stopped. Instead, having just taken on tenancy on the old Scout Hut, Covid and the group savings

went on doing the hut up. It is now a shell of a building with running water, which was used over the winter, although it was cold.

The group is lacking adult leaders, having 4 for the Scouts, 2 for Beavers and none for Cubs – this is part of both an nationwide and local shortage. There is also a need for general adult support especially with running the hut and the field. This could include anything from applying for grants, mowing the field, helping maintain and improve the hut or youth-facing roles. The group is made up of a full Beaver colony of approximately 16 children, 12 Cubs and 7 Scouts, including 5 Young Leaders, having taken on members from groups that closed due to COVID.

The group has the cheapest cubs in the area of £10 per month of which almost half goes to the Scouting Group to cover costs. A recent idea to find 5 business to sponsor them £500 per year has already produced 2 companies willing to do so. This takes the pressure of the Scouts to fund the hut etc.

Questions:

Were they applying for grants? Yes but it's complicated and involved, for example, is the hut in a the conservation area? What permissions are needed to replace the cladding (making the hut look better and raising the Scouts' profile locally).

One member of the public volunteered to become a leader for the Cubs.

d. Proud of Prior litter picking group. Janet Wilmott

PoP had not been active for the last couple of years but are back in business now. The Scouts made use of the litter-picking equipment before the coronation and now, PoP are launching Tidy Friday, a once-a month litter pick starting in June and which will be advertised locally. PoP are also taking part in an ECDC competition over June July and August to see which village can collect the most bags of litter, the winner getting either a bench or a tree. This should have a big impact on the appearance of the village even if Swaffham Prior don't win.

e. Car lift scheme. Janet Wilmott

This scheme gives lifts to medical appointments or to day care centres. It is a very small, dedicated group of volunteers that is rarely called upon as members of the community are doing this independently. It is only for medical purposes. There is a voluntary contribution of 45p per mile. The scheme will be asking for volunteers in the future but only wants drivers who live in the village.

Question:

Would the scheme take someone to the Park and Ride for blood test? Yes. NB you have to be in a car to use the P&R system.

f. Swaffham Prior Primary. Kirsty Anderton (Acting Deputy Head)

The School was extremely pleased with the recent Ofsted report, which upgraded the rating to 'Good' from 'Inadequate'. There are currently 103 pupils, with spaces in Nursery and Years 1, 2 and 3.

Whole school trips to Hunstanton and the Ely pantomime have taken place this year, as well as trips to London to the Houses of Parliament and the National Gallery (yrs 5 and 6) and Cambridge (yrs 3 and 4). The youngest children have taken public transport to Anglesey Abbey and at present, public transport is the cheapest mode of transport versus hiring a coach (although Stevensons have gone out of their way to help with trips). Further trips are planned.

The whole school took part in a sponsored run through the village, raising £4000.00 for Chromebooks from parents and the community. As school budgets are tight, fund-raising is necessary and the school is also looking for grants to apply for. Links to Swaffham Bulbeck School mean that workloads are now shared between the two schools. Plans are being made to resurface the playground and to install an open-link fence above the height of the wall.

Science week this term is on mini-beasts – if anyone has a contact with expertise in this area who would like to speak to the school please get in touch.

The school is recruiting governors – these need to be local representatives and the work and time involved is not onerous. If interested, please contact the school. Visitors are welcome to see what goes on within the school.

g. The Village Gardeners. David Whitehead (Chair)

The Village Gardeners has been running for 25 years, and hold 7 meetings a year involving a talk, questions, then tea and cake. Speakers talk on all aspects of plants and horticulture.

In the summer, there are 2 evening visits and a coach trip organised. Previous trips include Barcham Trees and Barnsdale.

The Village Gardeners also planted wildflower seedlings in the banks of the village.

Membership is £25 a year of £4 per meeting. New volunteers are needed to replace the current secretary.

h. The WI. Margaret Joyce (President)

The WI has around 25 members, meet 12 a year and do not sing Jerusalem or make jam. They do have a Summer Party, Christmas Party, a Summer Outing and various speakers on many subjects.

It costs £46 a year to join and they welcome everyone to the meetings at the village hall (with cake).

i. East Cambs District Council. Cllr Charlotte Cane.

Cllr Cane expressed delight at both herself and John Trapp being re-elected. The ECDC now has 15 Conservative and 13 Lib Dem councillors.

Stevensons' bus company have been getting good reports from customers and are a helpful and pleasant company to deal with. Bus fares are capped at £2 until the end of June. Cllr Cane is pushing to get the Bottisham stop for the number 11 bus re-instated.

They are talking to the GCP and working with A-B1102. The vast majority of respondents to consultations want better buses, but not paid for through a congestion charge. Charlotte wants the Combined Authorities to franchise the bus routes so that less profitable routes can be cross-subsidised.

Issues with the rubbish collection are largely resolved but at the price of street cleaning and fly-tipping clear up; however these should improve. Underfunding has resulted in old trucks which break down. The system is antiquated, for example for mapping routes or missed collections.

Questions.

Are the GCP taking notice? They are being made to because for example, only the CCC could introduce the congestion charge. While the need for change is understood, there are flaws in the

current plan such as Cambridge North Station and Addenbrookes being inside the congestion zone, and the lack of consideration for those with no option but to drive.

Will black sacks continue to be used? These would go under the new system, replaced with bins, but ECDC have to wait for government specifications as to the type to be used. Its an odd system because ECDC collect waste, but CCC dispose of it.

j. Swaffham Prior Bellringers. John Chalmers (Steeple-keeper and Keeper of the Clock).

The bells are now being rung every Tuesday from 7.30pm to 9pm. Recruitment has produced a band of bell-ringers from the village, for the first time in 30-40 years.

The church has an excellent set of bells, cast in the 18th century. The clock is the second oldest working clock, made in the 17th century, and will be striking the daylight hours.

k. Swaffham Prior Village Hall. Alan Durrant (Chair of the Village Hall Committee).

The Village Hall management committee has recruited 5 more trustees. There have been a few teething problems and they appreciate the amount done by the previous booking and accounts volunteers.

The Village Feast raised £1500.00. There will be an Autumn Show.

The Hall will be closed for 2 weeks in the summer for re-decoration and the committee hope to replace some of the windows with double glazing. Alan asked if the Village Gardeners would like to take over the hall garden.

l. Swaffham Prior Parish Council. John Covill (Chair).

- New play equipment has been order for the playground, partly paid for by a £10,000.00 grant.
- The Heating Scheme is making progress.
- There have been several royal events – thanks to all those who organised them.
- The bus service has been kept going and has even improved in time-keeping.
- Andrew Camps resigned from the PC after many years; Ruth Lambert joined the PC in May and there is one more vacancy.
- The death of Geoffrey Woollard was announced in February.
- The Red Lion remains close, but hopefully will re-open after a refit in August/September.
- The precept remains at the same level thanks to careful budgeting.
- The PC are trying to guide the cycle routes in the right directions. There should be repairs made to some Fen roads this summer.

Questions:

Was the PC planning to apply for 20mph zones in the village? Not at present, as there is not a registerable speeding problem and there nowhere that would meet the criteria to qualify. The PC is approaching Highways again in view of changes to the speed limit on other parts of the B1102 locally, looking to get the speed limit on Mill Hill reduced, but it can be a very long, drawn out and expensive process.

Who is responsible for clearing vegetation overgrowing footpaths? Sometimes the County Council, but mainly the householders of properties next to the footpaths. It is allowable to cut back vegetation obstructing you as you walk, as long as you do not take away the cuttings without permission from the owner!

For all the groups, the Chair expressed thanks and appreciation of all they do.

4. Open debate/questions.

The Gay Bulleid Award for being a good neighbour was awarded to Jenny Brand, for involvement in organising many events to bring the village together.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.12pm