

**SWALLOWCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING
held at
Swallowcliffe Village Hall
on
Thursday 21 April 2016 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr. D Atkins (Chair) (DA)
Cllr. S Banas (SB)
Cllr. N Cooke (NC)
Cllr. P.J.d'A Willis (PW)
Cllr. Stephen Banas (SB)
Cllr. Gerald Blundell (GB)
Cllr. Jose Green (JG) County Councillor

In Attendance: Mr C Johnson (PC Clerk)

Members of the Public: 19

ITEM		ACTION
16/11	Apologies.	
16/12	Present. 7 Councillors and 19 members of the public	
16/13	Adopt Minutes of Meetings. The minutes of the AGM Meeting 15 April 2015 were passed as a true copy.	
16/14	<p>County Councillor's Report. JG welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting. JG updated the AGM:</p> <p>It has been another interesting year but one very much dictated by the savings that have had to be found as a consequence of, not only the reduction of grant funding that Central Government give to local Authorities, but also to enable a better way of working together with other providers and organisations. £120 million has been saved over the last 5 years.</p> <p>It is 7 years since Wiltshire went Unitary. For those years the priorities have remained the same:</p> <p><u>The Vulnerable.</u> In our communities, especially the disabled, elderly and those children that need our care and protection. Since the Rotherham case, we have all been alerted to the atrocious things that can happen so WC has made some positive moves to prevent such horrors.</p> <p><u>The Economy.</u> <i>Without a vibrant economy things would be worse and we must do all we can to maintain vital services, the new science park at Porton which will create more jobs, the expansion of Dyson and other opportunities will benefit the military personnel as they relocate to the Plain. (4,000 troops + 3,600 dependants). By 2026 it is anticipated that 40,000+ new jobs will be created and 31,000 new homes delivered in the County.</i></p>	

	<p>Housing. In Wiltshire last year there were 2,118 new homes of which 635 were affordable. More affordable housing is required as well as extra care and sheltered housing to meet the demand. With changing demographics, Wiltshire has 15% more older residents than the UK average, which places a huge demand on both the social and health services. The population of Wiltshire is 471,000 and the number of retired residents will rise from 23% to 27.1% in 10 years' time.</p> <p>Highways. As you are aware Wiltshire Highways is an issue that hopefully will improve now the new contract has been awarded to Ringway. 65% of the service remains with Tarmac Lafarge and Jacksons and The Landscape Group will continue to do the verges. £21million is spent across the County but with 2,728 miles of roads, the same distance as London to Egypt, it is an on-going programme of which we in the South West of the County constantly remind Officers we want our fair share!</p> <p>The University Technical College in Salisbury has now opened, 91.2% of children are in good or outstanding schools across Wiltshire and we must maintain that. The Rights of Way and First Aid projects I led on have been very successful and is another example of how parishioners have worked together with WC.</p> <p>Nadder Centre. The Tisbury Nadder Centre is progressing well. It is noticeable how much more resilient and proactive communities have become. The 31 Libraries have remained open across Wiltshire whereas in other Counties they are closing, this can also be said of the Sure Start Centres although changes are afoot and the Emergency/ Flood plans you have drawn up are a credit to you all.</p> <p>Broadband. Over 80,000 premises now have Broad Band with well over 70,000 receiving superfast (over 24 mgbt's per sec). Satellite BB is the next phase but this is not seen as an overall solution. Further re-investment will be announced in the Spring.</p> <p>I would like to thank the 14 PC's in the Fovant and Chalke Valley Division for providing me with the feedback and views of the communities with which I am then able to air at the appropriate committees. With this involvement I can be assured that I speak and represent the views of everyone no matter how diverse or controversial the subject.</p>	
16/15	<p><u>Parish Councillors' Reports</u></p> <p>a. <u>Chair</u> DA welcomed all to the meeting. DA introduced and welcomed two new PCs; Patrick Willis and Gerald Blundell. DA also passed her thanks on to Yvonne Morrison who resigned last year as a PC for her hard work.</p> <p>b. <u>SW Area Board.</u> NTR</p>	

- c. Nadder Centre. The Tisbury Campus has been renamed the Nadder Centre. The full title is Nadder Health and Wellbeing Centre but for branding purposes it will simply be the Nadder Centre. Work started in January 2015 with an original build completion date of January 2016. But there have been delays due to connecting electricity to the site and changes to the specification to improve the offer and complete the first floor area. The anticipated completion date is now July 2016.

Additional health and wellbeing facilities will be located on the first floor. The total investment is £8.1M, which has increased by more than £500K. The demolition of the pre-school and parking bays, and other external areas should be complete Autumn 2016.

- d. Transport. PW informed the meeting that he had visited the Option 24/7 website which lists the various options to the council including closing off all subsidies, which would shut the Mere/Hindon/Tisbury/Swallowcliffe/Fovant/Salisbury Service
- e. It looks like evening and Sunday buses will most likely be first to be cut; we don't have these anyway: our own regular weekday bus service is subsidised and costs the council £271k a year, the third highest cost but seems to have the highest usage and the eighth lowest cost per passenger among the 28 routes marked as 'regular bus services', at a subsidy of £2.53 per passenger.
- f. Footpaths and Right of Ways. PW informed the meeting that Swallowcliffe Path 15 has been improved with 3 new gates installed replacing the old styles. PW passed his thanks on to the Ramblers Association for their hard work. His next project will be the Red House Farm footpath.
- g. Highways. SB informed the meeting that he attended a meeting on Parish and Town Council Involvement presented by Adrian Hampton -Head of Highways:
- Upbeat -Extra 3 million pounds invested over last year's austerity reduction (11 Million to 6.5 Million).
 - Lots of statistics presented! Eg 59,000 gullies to be emptied this year.
 - Want to target services to where most needed.
 - £1 million investment in grass cutting
 - Constant theme: Focus is on meeting *statutory*

	<p><i>requirements and safety</i>-these will be a key criteria for work being done (or not)</p> <p><u>New contractors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Landscape Group/Simon Jackson Contractors Ltd • Tarmac • Ringway <p>The bulk of new investment is going into the return of Parish Steward Services, starting fully in 2 months.</p> <p>Two ways to request work to be done:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MyWiltshireApp/Website. Pinpoints location on map, can add photo, etc • Nominated PC highways representative – Stephen Banas via “Discretionary List” <p>Lines and Signs –Only small budget for safety only (not street names)</p> <p><u>Swallowcliffe Highways update (since last AGM)</u></p> <p>Extremely pleased to finally get GigantStreet completely resurfaced.</p> <p>Road Narrows Sign rusted through pole - Is in the WC queue to justify pole replacement. Large backlog of requests. In the meantime, the Parish Steward has made temporary repair.</p> <p>Various potholes filled</p> <p>Goals for next Year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower traffic speed through the village • Clearing Higgins Lane was seen as less a priority than repairing potholes by meeting attendees. <p>a. <u>Village Hall</u>. David Bright presented an updated on the Village Hall; see Item 19/16 below.</p> <p>b. <u>Planning</u>. GB gave an update on the solar panels at Manor Farm.GB will be writing to ask the district under what conditions would they refuse an application like that at the Manor in our AONB.</p>	
16/16	<u>Matters for Consideration</u> NTR	
17/16	<u>Finance:</u> Copies of the latest Swallowcliffe accounts were presented.	

- a. **Reducing traffic speeds through the village.** SB informed the meeting that after the last Village AGM, concerns were brought to the Tisbury Community Safety Partnership. Subsequently, the police reported that in three extended observation, speeding (over 30 mph) was not seen to be an issue. Various suggestions have been received to reduce speeds:

- Speed indicator Device
- Community Speed Watch
- More aggressive road markings
- More signs
- 20 mph limit

SB consulted Julie Wharton, WC Senior Traffic Engineer who advised installing a Metrocount device (two tubes across the road) to do a more extensive analysis before making any recommendations.

Working group proposed. Lou Eastham, Graham Ewer and Jeremy Little expressed interest.

- b. **Update on village phone box.** SB informed the meeting that the PC was approached during late 2104 regarding planned disconnection by BT as very little used. Would PC like to purchase for 1 pound or have it removed? (You may know that our type of phone box is quite valuable, up to 2000 pounds in refurbished condition) .Other communities have used their phone boxes for a mini library, location for defibrillator, etc.

The PC were invited to provide justification for continued ownership and service by BT. After taking village soundings and PC discussion, it was agreed we should request continued BT service due to:

- Poor to no mobile phone coverage in vicinity
- Area is *medium to high* risk of flooding, which could result in local residents' phones not working through lack of household power.
- Facility for pub goers who decide it is unwise to drive home

This was accepted by BT and the service remains for the moment. SB has requested broken glass be repaired in 2015 which was done. Ticket submitted to have the phone box repainted/refurbished by BT. This is scheduled to take place in the summer months and may take up to 3 days.

	<p>There are no current plans to straighten the phone box. BT have said it would need to be a safety hazard before they would act. A village effort is not permitted while owned by BT.</p> <p>c. <u>Village Defibrillator</u>. CJ informed the meeting that a defibrillator had now been purchased for the village and that a defibrillator box will now be purchased to be installed outside the Royal Oak Inn. CJ also informed the meeting that training will be available free of charge and that the training details are shown on the Swallowcliffe Parish Council Website.</p> <p>d. <u>Swallowcliffe Website Awareness</u>. CJ firstly apologised for confusion over the dates of the AGM and the confusion caused. CJ informed the meeting that the official Swallowcliffe Parish Council Website can be found at xxx where all details such a planning applications, minutes and financial matters can be found.</p>	
19/16	<p><u>Village Hall Committee</u>. David Bright kindly gave an update on the Village Hall:</p> <p>We aim to run a small and effective committee.</p> <p><u>Hall Bookings- Caroline Willis</u> Caroline runs the hall lettings. There are 3 regular bookings, the sewing club, the art club and Pilates and other one off events throughout the year. Caroline also organises the village newsletter.</p> <p><u>Hall maintenance outside- David Morrison</u> No major problems this year just normal stuff such as changing bulbs and clearing leaves. The front gutter needs some attention some point soon.</p> <p><u>Hall maintenance inside- Sam Turner</u> Sam has retired from the committee now because of the new baby. We have a new lady to keep the hall clean and tidy, Bett Gregory and it is working very well.</p> <p><u>Finance-Treasurer</u> Adrian Gilbert is finishing at the end of April and I thank him for his contribution over the last 5 years, he has been a good chap to have around. We have £7,608 in the bank, a very similar figure to last year, very slightly ahead. I am pleased to say Gerry Blundell will take over this role and is meeting up with Adrian to pick up all the details.</p> <p><u>50/50 club-Neil and Chris Rogers</u></p> <p>The take up of Shares in the 50/50 Club for the 2016/17 period was rather slow to start with. At the end of February, it was only approx. 50% whereas normally at that stage it would be about 80%. In view of this, I delayed making the February</p>	

	<p>and March Draws to enable the late contributors to have a chance of winning in all 12 Draws.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The total number of Shares purchased eventually peaked at 320 - compared with 362 last year (a reduction of 11.6%). • The number of contributors reduced from 48 to 44 (a reduction of 8.3%). Interestingly, 10 out of last year's list of 48 did not contribute this year, but there are 6 new contributors. Hence the net change of 4. • The average number of Shares purchased per contributor reduced from 7.54 to 7.27 (down 3.6%). • The overall contribution to the Village Hall from the 50/50 Club at the end of the Period (January 2017) will be £960 plus a small amount of Interest. This compares with £1086 for 2015/16. The reduction directly reflects the lower aggregate number of Shares purchased. This figure will of course increase if there are any really late contributors after today! <p><u>Chairman of the Parish Council- Diane Atkins</u></p> <p>Sits on our committee to keep us up to date and is a liaison between the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee</p> <p><u>Vice Chairman and Secretary-David Brown</u></p> <p>Not only does David record the minutes he also deals with all correspondence for the hall.</p> <p><u>Chairman- David Bright</u></p> <p>First job is to liaise with the Royal Oak to make sure we co-ordinate events in the village to the benefit of all and to make sure that the hall is serving the community in their best interests.</p> <p><u>Forthcoming events</u></p> <p>60's night on Saturday 7th May. Last year's summer BBQ gave us a profit of £430 we are proposing to do the same again at Field House and the date is set for Saturday 9th July.</p> <p>Overall, I feel we have had a successful year and the first role is to manage the hall so anybody wishing to hire it we would be very keen to hear from you.</p>	
20/16	<p><u>Alms Houses</u> Fee Carless gave an update on the Alms Houses.</p> <p>Fee asked meeting to remember Mary Ellis who lived in Goldhill Cottage for over 30 years and gave much to the community. Mary had hoped to return to the village after her accident but this was not possible. The Trustees were given permission to clear her cottage of her possessions, Mary's</p>	

	<p>cats have now been rehoused.</p> <p>It is now a major project to refurbish Goldhill Cottage, which will be combined with the work on Sandhill Cottage. Kathy Green has been appointed as the Project Manager, who successfully applied for a grant of £40,000 for each cottage. The work will entail refurbishment and extensions to both cottages for which the work has gone out to tender with work commencing in the Summer and due to complete in the Autumn.</p> <p>Fee inform the meeting that the Trustees are nearly in a position to take applications for residency of the two almshouses. Applications process will be in line with the Equality Act 2010. The Trustees seek to appoint residents who have connection with Swallowcliffe, or the surrounding parish.</p>	
21/16	Open Forum. There were no questions from the floor.	
22/16	<p><u>Date Time and Location of Next PC Meetings:</u></p> <p>15 Jun 16 Village Hall 19:00 hrs 14 Sep 16 Village Hall 19:00 hrs 14 Dec 16 Village Hall 19:00 hrs</p>	

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