

**SWALLOWCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF A MEETING  
held at  
Swallowcliffe Village Hall  
on  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 7.00pm**



# PARISH COUNCIL

**Present:** Cllr. S Banas  
Cllr. P.J.d'A Willis  
Cllr. G Blundell  
Cllr. N Cooke (Chairman)

**In Attendance:** Mr Simon Pritchard (Parish Clerk)

**Members of the Public:** 1

**Public Participation:**

Barry Fitzpatrick asked a few questions:

- Why it was members of the public had to get to the meeting before it started at 7pm if they wanted the chance to ask a question. The Clerk clarified that the public engagement time started at 7pm and he would look at the wording of the agenda to try and improve the clarity.
- Why, despite his request at previous meetings, there was still no agenda item for the Council to debate having a Village litter pick. It was agreed to add this to the Annual Parish Assembly on April 12<sup>th</sup>.
- The grant the Parish Council gave to CAB in 2016 was called into question as Mr Fitzpatrick felt they had been a wasteful organisation that offered little service to the Parish. The Clerk confirmed this was a one-off grant payment, not an ongoing one and had been made legally. The decision whether to support CAB again this year would be one for Council Members.

In the absence of the Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Cooke took the Chair as the Council's longest serving member.

<b>ITEM</b>	
<b>16/51 A</b>	<b><u>Apologies for Absence:</u></b> The Council Chairman, Cllr D Atkins - due to illness Cllr Jose Green, County Councillor – due to a clash of meetings
<b>16/51 B</b>	<b><u>Acceptance of Apologies for Absence:</u></b> Both absences were accepted
<b>16/52</b>	<b><u>Declaration of Pecuniary Interests &amp; Dispensations:</u></b> None
<b>16/53</b>	<b><u>Adoption of Minutes:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Wednesday 14th December 2016</b></li> </ul> The minutes of the previous Council meeting was confirmed as accurate and duly adopted by the Council. Signed by Cllr Cooke.
<b>16/54</b>	<b><u>County Councillor's Report:</u></b> As readers of this are aware there is the Dorset NHS consultation regarding the future use of hospitals across Dorset. Needless to say the villages lying within a few miles of the Westminster Memorial Hospital, Shaftesbury have concerns about the existing beds that remain being removed. There has been a very active Save Our Beds campaign and the next Shaftesbury's TC working group is meeting on 15th March at 5:30pm. As of February 28th over 12k questionnaires have been submitted but this is likely to rise as

	<p>they are still being counted, over 1k people took part in telephone surveys, 1800 people attended 16 drop-in events and from the 25 pop up events across Dorset 560 queries were addressed. All will be analysed later in 2017 . The Dorset CCG's Governing Body will make a decision.</p> <p>It was agreed that Wiltshire Councils share of the Council Tax will be increased by 5%. 3% of this is to go directly towards funding the vulnerable and in particular for Adult Care Services. As you know, and read of almost daily, there is a huge shortfall of funding across the whole Country in what is a very specialised service. With an ageing society the need will increase, not only in funding but in recruiting carers for those who wish to remain in their own homes for as long as they are able.</p> <p>The Nadder Health and Wellbeing Centre was officially opened on 2nd March. It was very pleasing to see so many enthusiastic users of the library, sports facilities, play group and children's centre ( Sure Start ) and much more there; I hope it goes from strength to strength! The Orangery Cafe is up and running so please visit if you have an opportunity. Easy parking outside of course!!! Fitness Membership has now risen to almost 400 and the Library has 1071 regular users, a 23% increase in January alone.</p> <p>Today I had a very informative meeting with Highways Officer. I am aware that the state of the roads is of huge concern and WC are continuing to invest in £21m again this coming year, with the most spend in the South of the County than at any other time. The requests from the Parishes for some White lining are now in and I hope the work will commence soon.</p> <p>I'm pleased it was agreed at Full Council that the Household Recycling Centre at Churchfields will open for an extra day with the long term intention to relocate the site to an alternative location. The Great British Spring Clean supported by WC was very successful. The feedback so far mentions 77 volunteers took part and 113 bags of litter was picked up with further details coming in from other Parishes that took part.</p> <p>The next Area Board is this coming Wednesday 9th March and the theme for the Community Safety Partnership on the 14th is Farm Watch and Rural Crime which might interest those of us who live in the scattered villages both to be held at The Nadder Centre, Tisbury..</p>
16/55	<p><b><u>Police Report:</u></b>  Posted on the Council website:  <a href="http://www.southwilts.com/site/Swallowcliffe-Parish-Council-News/Police-Reports">www.southwilts.com/site/Swallowcliffe-Parish-Council-News/Police-Reports</a></p>
16/56	<p><b><u>Parish Councillors' Reports:</u></b></p> <p><b>A Chairman's Report &amp; Notices –</b>  The Clerk asked Members if they would like him to pursue looking into the setting up of a website that the Council would own. He advised that a pot of money was available to help fund the setup costs. Members agreed they were happy with the current arrangements.  The Clerk advised that the elections to the Parish Council will be held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017. If members did not stand for re-election, then they will cease to hold office on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May. The Clerk would circulate the information from Wiltshire Council on how to stand for election.</p> <p><b>B SW Area Board – Cllr Atkins:</b> No Report</p> <p><b>C Nadder Centre &amp; TCSP – Cllr Cooke:</b> No Report</p> <p><b>D Transport – Cllr Willis:</b> No Report</p> <p><b>E Footpaths &amp; Rights of Way – Cllr Willis:</b> Consent had been granted for a new gate to be fitted on Mr Bond's land. There is concern that some footpaths are being lost after they are ploughed.</p> <p><b>F Highways – Cllr Banas:</b> It is important to keep the Parish Steward busy with a full list of jobs otherwise the time spent on Swallowcliffe will be cut in the next year (the list is managed by Cllr Banas).  The first meeting of the new Traffic Group had taken place and a 20MPH zone for the Village put forward to WC. Metro counters are now in place to monitor the speed and number of cars.  It was noted that the white line that Cllr Banas had requested be repainted, had been including the 30MPH lines.</p>

	<p><b>G Village Hall – Cllr Atkins:</b> No meeting had taken place since the last Council meeting, so no report.</p> <p><b>H Local Planning &amp; Development – Cllr Blundell:</b>  Cllr Blundell asked about the process of the Council responding to planning applications. The Clerk confirmed that he received a paper copy of all planning applications and that once the Council has agreed its response he emails that to WC and records the response on the planning application and files it. It was requested that the Parish Councils response to every planning application be recorded on the Council website, this was agreed by the Clerk.  A Neighbourhood Plan (NP) was again discussed. Cllr Blundell felt that the Council had been given misinformation as the Council had been told a NP was just about new houses when in fact it covered a whole host of things including open space, Highways &amp; solar panels. He felt a NP should be looked at again as the Council only didn't go ahead last time as they felt it was just about planning matters. Members were reminded that a NP was about shaping development and could not be used to block it and it was possible that in creating one you turn on beacon light to developers. It was agreed that Cllr Blundell will talk to WC to see if there is any other mechanism available to the Council to achieve it aims.</p>
16/57	<p><b>A <u>To Approve Payments:</u></b>  1. Village Hall Hire for the last financial year = £75  2. Clerk's expenses Dec 2016 – Feb 2017 = £13.14  This was Proposed by the Chairman and Seconded by Cllr Willis – All in favour.</p> <p><b>B <u>Cashbook and accounts report:</u></b>  This had been circulated</p>
16/58	<p><b><u>Clerks Remuneration:</u></b>  The Council agreed to delegate responsibility for the power to agree &amp; approve payment to the Clerk, for services carried out to the Council since September 2016 up to the end of the financial year, to the HR Panel.  It also gave the HR Panel the power to approve payment towards any training courses the HR Panel feel appropriate for the Clerk to attend.  Proposed by the Chairman and Seconded by Cllr Willis – All in favour</p>
16/59	<p><b><u>Planning and Tree Applications:</u></b>  None had been received since the agenda had been issued.</p>
16/60	<p><b><u>Village Defibrillator:</u></b>  The village def was now accredited with the ambulance service. You would have to be within 200 meters of the def for the services to give out the code for the box. Cllr Banas is the main contact. A question was raised as to who would be liable if the def was not maintained? It was suggested that a checklist be kept in place to prove it was being maintained. The ambulance service suggested that the def could be left unlocked. It was agreed to put the code on the inside of the window. Clerk will look at the possibility of adding the def to the Council insurance.</p>
16/61	<p><b><u>Appointment of Internal Auditor:</u></b>  The Clerk recommended Ms Nicola Duke B.A (Hons), MILCM.  She was a very experienced and qualified Clerk who would be able to offer some guidance in the Clerk's first year of doing the year end accounts.</p>
16/62	<p><b><u>Annual Parish Assembly (April 12<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30pm):</u></b>  It was agreed that the agenda would follow the same agenda as in previous years and no refreshments would be provided. The Clerk will email out the agenda to members ASAP.</p>

16/63	<b><u>Item for the next agenda:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Village notice boards revamp</li><li>• Empty homes in the Village</li><li>• Re-establishment of footpaths</li><li>• Community litter pick</li></ul>
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Meeting Closed at 8:30 pm

Signed Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** Swallowcliffepc1@gmail.com

**Website:** <http://www.southwilts.com/site/swallowcliffe-parish-council-news>

Next Parish Council Meeting: 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017 (Annual Council Meeting)