

SWALLOWCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting
held on Zoom (Videoconferencing)
on **Thursday 23rd July 2020** at 7:00pm

Present: Cllr. Stephen Banas (Chairman)
Cllr. Lyndsay Boothman
Cllr. Gerald Blundell
Cllr. Nigel Cooke
Cllr. Patrick Willis



In Attendance: Cllr. Jose Green (Wiltshire Councillor)
Barry Fitzpatrick (Flood Warden)
Simon Pritchard (Parish Clerk)

Members of the Public: 0

Public Participation:

The Flood Warded highlighted issues with;

- Speeding in The Village, he believes up to 50mph, despite the 20mph speed limit.
- The fly tipping that had taken place in Higgins Lane over a week ago.
- That a BT engineer had been in the Village Phone Box to carry out preliminary work to disconnect it.

Item no:	
19	<u>Apologies for Absence:</u> None
20	<u>Declaration of Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations:</u> None
21	<u>Adoption of Minutes:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thursday 21st May – Annual Meeting <p>The minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 21st May were agreed to be adopted.</p>
22	<u>Wiltshire Councillor Jose Green's report:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Regular updates on the Covid response have been sent out via email.▪ The Area broad has held (remotely) its annual meeting and Cllr Green has been appointed as the Chairman.▪ Has the Parish adopted a winter recovery plan in preparation for a possible winter spike in Covid?▪ The annual electoral register registration process is still taking place, and this should be responded to online.▪ A second wave of funding for road improvements is available £900,000 in the pot but will not go far when split over all the projects. Covid related improvements will get priority.▪ CATG is not meeting at the moment due to Covid.▪ Wiltshire Council is not in the perilous financial position that the press has made it out to be and it still hope to balance the books by the end of the year.



23

Parish Councillors' report:

NB: Report items A & C were inadvertently reported on the wrong way around

C

SW Wiltshire Council area board: Cllr. S Banas

- There have not been any regular area board meetings.
- Have been attending online Covid meetings hosted by Wiltshire Council
- 3 cases of Covid in the Village that are known about.
- Cllr Tony Dean is leading on broadband speed improvements in the area

B

The Village Hall committee: Cllr. G Blundell

- No revenue as the Hall has been closed because of Covid. Will be looking at the government guidelines next week to see if it can be reopened.

A

Chairman's Report: Cllr. S Banas

Members are circulated with the minutes

- The Village Hall Committee has suggested that the Parish council take on the task of certain a welcome park of new residents. This should be online.

D

Footpaths, rights of way & transport: Cllr. P Willis

- Adrian Clark continues to do a wonderful job of keeping the footpaths clear.
- Still pursuing the Mill footpath to be made passable in the winter.
- It was noted that it is the landowner's responsibility of keep footpaths clear of undergrowth or fallen branches, but Wiltshire Council are responsible for the material of the path, gates & styles.
- It was suggested that Adrian Clark be recognised as the Footpath Warden and that he be offered expenses from the Parish Council. Members supported this.

E

Highways (Inc Parish Steward): Cllr. S Banas

- Has asked IDVerde for a quote to cut the highway grass verges in case Wiltshire Council stop doing it to save money.
 - Fly tipping on Higgins Lane has been reported to Wiltshire Council, they investigate first and then eventually take it away, so could be another week before it's gone. It is mostly roofing materials, timber, wheels and tyres.
 - The Council should consider buying surveillance cameras (starting from £100 each) as if it happened once, it likely to happen again.
 - Speeding: A community speed watch is one option that is available to the Parish. Offenders can be reported to the police. It was agreed that an informal log should be kept of know events and locations and reviewed in 3 months' time
- Action – Everyone**
- Two new possible location for the SID are Alfords and The Old Forge, Members supported the suggested locations.

F

Local planning & development: Cllr. G Blundell

Nothing to report.

G

Financial Policy: Cllr. G Blundell

- The Parish Council needs to continue to build its reserves. Wiltshire Council need to cut costs and this is likely to be pushed onto the Parish Councils.

H

South-west Wiltshire Community Safety Group: Cllr. N Cooke

Nothing to report.

I

Flood warden / Emergency planning: Cllr. L Boothman & Mr. B Fitzpatrick

- Grit bins are still full after the winter. Ditches are being kept clear.

J

Litter Management: Cllr Boothman

- Litter picks cannot take place for the time being due to Covid.



K	<p>Church green bench replacement: Cllr Willis / Cooke</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This has now been repaired by a volunteer resident. The meeting expressed its thanks. <p>L Ultrafast Broadband in the Village:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There has been a total of 23 registrations of interest to Wessex Internet for its ultra-fast full fibre service. Not all postcodes would appear eligible for the resident voucher scheme for installation. Work could start as early mid-August if all goes well. Wiltshire Council, via the Area Board, are also pushing for improved broadband availability in rural areas. A map of the proposed route of the proposed new Wessex Internet cabling will be requested to enable local landowners to be identified <p style="text-align: right;">Action - Cllr. G Blundell</p>
24	<p><u>FINANCE:</u></p> <p>A <u>To approve payments:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Beckington PC – Software Subscription - £17.00 Beckington PC – Toner & Paper - £34.94 S. Pritchard – WFHA - £52.00 J. Fenton – Church Booklets - £90.00 <p>Cllr Willis proposed that the payments were made, this was seconded by Cllr Cooke and resolved unanimously.</p> <p>B <u>Bank reconciliation, payments and spend against budget to date:</u> Received.</p> <p>C <u>Contribution towards Clerk’s equipment:</u> It was proposed by Cllr Boothman to contribute £20.00 towards the cost of a new desk chair for the Clerk, seconded by Cllr Cooke and resolved unanimously.</p>
25	<p><u>Planning and Tree Applications:</u> To receive and resolve upon any local tree & planning applications made to Wiltshire Council:</p> <p>Application Ref: 20/05662/TCA – Application for work to Trees in a Cons Area</p> <p>Proposal:- Fell Cedar Tree</p> <p>At: Hirondelle, Swallowcliffe, SP3 5NX</p> <p>Cllr Blundell had called upon the owner and inspected the tree as no reason for felling was given in the application. The tree appears to be hollow and has grown in an odd tripod way. Members resolved they had: No Objection</p>
26	<p><u>Road Names in the Parish:</u> The Council had received a request that the road running from the A30, past the Manor down to the Royal Oak be given a formal name to be registered with Wiltshire Council. Cllr Banas thought that road in question was known as “Common Lane”. The information from Wiltshire Council website is that the process should only be done as a “last resort” and all associated expenses are to be paid by the Parish Council.</p>



	Members noted that they did not want to encourage sat navs using this route more as the road carried too much traffic already. It was agreed not to pursue the matter.
27	<p><u>2021/2022 Projects & Budget:</u></p> <p>Suggested projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mobile CCTV cameras - £100 (each) ▪ Expenses associated with the adoption of Phone Box - £500 ▪ Two further SID sockets - £80 ▪ Countdown markers on road to reinforce speed limits - £1,000 ▪ General maintenance fund - £200 ▪ Grass Cutting – (awaiting estimate)
20:38	Cllr Green left the meeting.
28	<p><u>Higgins Lane Reinstatement:</u></p> <p>Access down the lane is limited as there are many trees that hang over the lane and now prevent taller vehicles from accessing it. The Chairman suggested that the Parish council gets an estimate for the works to be completed and then coordinate with the landowners. Once the overhanging trees have been dealt with, Wiltshire Council will repair the road surface.</p> <p>The Clerk noted that the matter needed to be reported to Wiltshire Council as the highway's authority, but that Parish Council would assist Wiltshire Council if asked to do so in sending letters to landowners. It would be for Wiltshire Council to take enforcement action against the landowners, if necessary.</p> <p>The Clerk report that it was unlikely the Parish Council had the power to spend any money on cutting the trees itself.</p>
29	<p><u>New Financial Regulations:</u></p> <p>This had been circulated by the Clerk ahead of the meeting. An informal meeting had already taken place between Councillors Blundell, Banas & the Clerk to look at the detail. It was proposed by Cllr Willis to adopt the new financial regulations, seconded by Cllr Cooke and resolved unanimously.</p>
30	<p><u>Village Phone Box Consultation:</u></p> <p>Wiltshire Council will soon be again consulting Parish Councils who have low use or unused phone boxes as to if the community wishes to keep them or not.</p> <p>This is driven by BT wanting to remove the phone box. It appears to have become an annual event now.</p> <p>The Chairman reported that he had phoned BT and it was reported to him that BT will now continue to try and remove the phone box annually as it is not used.</p> <p>Members felt the time had come for the council to explore adopting to the phone box.</p> <p>The Clerk reminded members that this will be more than the £1 cost of adopting the box from BT and that it would need to be a future agenda item to allow to council to consider adopting when in possession of all the facts.</p> <p>BT advised the Chairman that the total time for the Wiltshire Council consultation was 90 days from when the notice was posted (14th July 2020), ie 12th October.</p>

Meeting Closed at 21:12

Signed Chairman: _____ Date: _____



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Next Meeting: Thursday 15th October 2020

