

SWALLOWCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting
held on Zoom (Videoconferencing)
on **Thursday 18th March 2021** at 7:00pm

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



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

Number of Members of the Public in Attendance: One

Public Participation:

- A Member of the Public raised a concern over the state of the verges around the Village. A combination of works taking place by Wessex Internet undertaking works in the Village and large vehicles going through the Village means that some of the verges were in a poor state. The Chairman offered to contact Wessex Internet to remind them of their responsibilities.

Action - The Chairman

It was suggested that boulders could be put on the verges, the Chairman reported that this was not permitted by the Highways authority.

Item no:	
57	<u>Apologies for Absence:</u> None
58	<u>Declaration of Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations:</u> None
59	<u>Adoption of Minutes:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Council - Thursday 14th January 2021 It was proposed by the Chairman to adopt the minutes, seconded by Cllr Blundell and resolved unanimously.
60	<u>Wiltshire Councillor Jose Green's report:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Wiltshire Council [WC] is still encouraging residents to download the NHS Test and Trace App' onto your phone particularly with regard to the Covid 19 mutations. Although the situation changes almost on a daily basis do answer a call if it is from 0300 456 0100 as it is the contact trace team.</i><i>We are inclined to forget that it is business as usual for WC; for examples, Highways are still working hard and recently over 58km of roadway has been resurfaced, numerous potholes</i>



filled, 520 bridges inspected for safety, many fallen tree works cleared up after the storms, 164 tonnes of silt and debris removed from drainage systems and the Bin Collections reliably picked up.

- Staff have had to self-isolate and 127 staff have been redeployed, 35 to hospitals. Other staff have been demobilised to the vaccine centres, the Wellbeing Hub and the testing stations. With the elections due on May 6th, 300 Polling stations need to be made Covid 19 safe, so there is plenty going on.
- Although numbers are now slowly dropping in Wiltshire to 40 per 100,000 we must not get complacent. Up to last week the total number of deaths were well over 500 but sadly rising. All schools reopened on March 8th, prior to that over 10 thousand children of key workers and children with special needs were attending school, a big increase from the last lockdown.
- As the clock is ticking towards my retirement the volume of work remains much the same, working virtually cuts down so much travelling time; the planning committee works very well and the voting arrangements on Teams appear to be very efficient, it is a shame that site visits are still unable to happen due to the restrictions.
- The 'virtual' public consultation meetings of the Local Plan Review 'Empowering Local Communities', 1300 people joined the events held across Wiltshire. The document will cover all aspects of planning policy until 2036. Over 2,500 submissions have been made and this number will rise as they are still registering some. The assessed housing needs for the whole of Wiltshire, set by Government is 45,600- not only homes but employment needs are also required- it's been recognised that sustaining our Communities and managing rural development, -whether homes for local people, affordable, type and in the right location is something we all want to achieve. The option to draw up a Neighbourhood Plan, such as in Broad Chalke, it remains for the village residents to decide, it doesn't have to be a huge volume of work or size but enthusiasm is required so that the aspirations for the future years can be documented.
- Other key parts of the Local Plan is addressing Climate Change and the Gypsy and Travellers Strategy where sites are also required to meet their future needs.
- WC has a target to be carbon neutral by 2030, how is that to be achieved? LED Street lighting, planting trees, wild flower trials along highway verges and amenity land, ensuring public buildings are energy efficient, Council housing insulation improvements, wind turbines, solar panels, encouraging waste reuse and recycling, battery storage, installation of electric charging points is to name but a few. It is hoped that this year alone could see a reduction of the carbon footprint by 80%. No doubt the reduction of car journeys has helped!!
- On 23rd February a prudent Budget was set at Full Council After a 10 hour debate it was agreed that WC's share of the Council Tax will rise by 1.99% with a further Levy of 3% for Adult Social Care. I am aware that the Council Tax is the highest financial demand on a household. Together with the Police, Fire and Rescue and Parish Council's increases it is a hefty outlay. WC's priorities have always been to maintain the services they provide. Although it is a balanced budget this year, [mainly due to the vast sums that have been sent down by Central Government] the future years will require careful decisions and efficiencies post pandemic as the demand for services will surely rise. There is a Council Tax support fund for those who qualify, already there has been an increase in demand for this. £6.7m is the current figure in lost revenue through CT arrears.
- As in other years Children's Social care and those with special educational needs is a priority as is the Waste Service, Leisure facilities and many others.
- It's good to see Fovant has extended the 20 mph speed limits through the village.
- WC has recently been awarded £22m from Central Government for Highway maintenance; this includes the pothole repair fund which Government recognised as a high priority; we must ensure we get our fair share of this budget as potholes still seem to be an issue on the rural roads. Please report any issue by using the MyWiltsApp.
- On March 2nd, the Area Board held a mini-Employment event. Apprenticeship schemes and opportunities for NEETS were discussed. It was very informative.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>A brand-new project is being launched to support new activities for the Youth. We have Seeds 4 Success in our Area which do a marvellous job with younger people and the need will increase after Coronavirus. The SWW Area Board on the 17th of March had an interesting agenda. Details of the consultation feedback regarding the priorities for the next 3-5 years was discussed. £64,000 was awarded to worthy applications from the final tranche for community grants.</i> ▪ <i>Grants will still be available for directional Finger posts, projects to improve ROW's and SID (speed camera's) in the new financial year.</i> ▪ <i>Finally, now is the time to bid you a fond farewell. It has been an honour to be the ears, eyes and voice, not only to those who have approached me but to those who are the silent majority. I have always endeavoured to ensure a balanced debate so that a fair outcome is achieved. My role has been huge and diverse which at times has been challenging but enjoyable. There have been notable occasions and opportunities that are too numerous to mention.</i> ▪ <i>The PC's and residents have kept me going and I feel confident my successor will find the same. I cannot end without giving my sincere thanks to all who have given me encouragement over the many years and above all to all those amazing unsung hero's who give of their all within the Community we live, not only during these exceptional months but in normal times which hopefully will return in the not too distant future.</i>
<p>61</p>	<p><u>Parish Councillors' reports:</u></p> <p>A. <u>Chairman's Report:</u> Cllr. S Banas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tis the Future refill shop is now coming to the Royal Oak every Wednesday 2:30 to 4:30. They are looking to set up Village champions for the service. ▪ Elections to the Parish Council will be held on May 6th. Cllr Boothman has stated that she will not be standing for election again. Thank you for all the work done over the last four years and pleased to say that she will be keeping the litter warden role. ▪ Have received requests for defibrillator training, so looking into this. Already have the dummy, so the training is likely to be a video that people do at home with the dummy. Will promote at the Annual Parish Meeting. <p>B. <u>The Village Hall Committee:</u> Cllr. G Blundell</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hall has been closed due to Covid. £9,600 in the bank. Expecting to reopen on 12th April. Will publicise when it does. <p>C. <u>Wiltshire Council South-West Area Board:</u> Cllr. S Banas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chiff Inspector roles to be reintroduced. ▪ Highways budget to be reduced by £6 million, across the whole of the County. ▪ £15,000 extra going into the Rights of Way improvement scheme. This should be applied to for the gates needed across the downs. ▪ A further £4,000 towards the SID scheme. <p>D. <u>Footpaths / Rights of Way:</u> Cllr. P Willis & Mr A. Clarke</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All footpaths in Parish are in a good condition. ▪ Dineley Farm is to increase their cattle stock and reduce the arable land, this will require a lot more fencing to be put in place. The farm would like to work with the Parish Council to continue to facilitate access and to avoid people having to walk along the A30. Possible six new gates required. Estimated cost in total of £1,000. The Chairman, Cllr Willis and the Wiltshire Council Footpaths Officer will be having a meeting with the Landowner to draw up a plan. Wiltshire Council have grant funding that could cover up to 50% of the cost. ▪ Covid continues to delay improvement works to the footpath by The Mill.



- Footpath above the Clayton's Land requires reinstating. Hope to get a group of people together in the Summer to help with this.

E. Highways (Inc Parish Steward): Cllr. S Banas
(Not covered at this point in the meeting).

F. Local Planning & Development: Cllr. G Blundell

- A summary page of the draft Wiltshire Council Local Plan 2036 had been circulated to Members. The presumption against development in the Villages was noted. After some debate it was agreed that Cllr Blundell would draft a response to the points raised in the summary page, to be sent to Wiltshire Council.

Action - Cllr Blundell

G. Financial Policy: Cllr. G Blundell
Nothing to report.

H. South-West Wiltshire Community Safety Group: Cllr. N Cooke
No meeting of this group has taken place since the last Parish Council meeting.

I. Flood Warden / Emergency Planning: Cllr. L Boothman & Mr. B Fitzpatrick

- There has been no flooding, ditches have been kept clear.
- Thank you to Cllr Willis for clearing the ditch that runs along Bottom Road and to the Chairman for organising the Parish Steward for clearing the grids that run along the same section.

J. Litter Management: Cllr Boothman

Due to Covid it is still not possible to plan a community litter pick, hope that it will be possible by Autumn.

K. Village Communications Group:

- The second edition of the newsletter has now been published and distribution started.
- Newsletter will now be every six months.
- <https://www.swallowcliffevillage.uk> is now ready to go live and be promoted in the Village. Many thanks to Barry Fitzpatrick for putting the website together.

E. Highways (Inc Parish Steward): Cllr. S Banas:

- Higgins's lane has now been almost completely cleared of overhanging branches and Trees. Many thanks to Claire Matthews for doing the Manor section. Small section still to do, ownership cannot be established. Have been asking the Parish Steward to do what he can.
- The S.I.D. is on Common Lane. Going to Fovant next, it's not moving around as much as it did before Covid.
- Village Gates for Common Lane are on order via Wiltshire Council. Should be installed soon. Looking like they may be a little over budget, but within 10%
- Potholes outside Lake house reported still not fixed. Potholes at the Old Churchyard have been fixed.
- The local Highway Engineer has left Wiltshire Council and the area is now being covered by another Engineer who already covers the southern area, so it remains to be seen if there will be a reduction in service.
- Road defect by the Church to be reported and a price to have a 20MPH painted on the road obtained.

Action - The Chairman



62	<p><u>FINANCE:</u></p> <p>A. Payments:</p> <p>1. Mr B. Fitzpatrick - Domain Name - £30.46</p> <p>The Chairman proposed that the payment was made, this was seconded by Cllr Cooke and resolved unanimously.</p> <p>B. <u>Bank reconciliation, payments and spend against budget to date:</u></p> <p>Received.</p>
63	<p><u>Planning and Tree Applications:</u></p> <p>To receive and resolve upon any local tree & planning applications made to Wiltshire Council:</p> <p>21/01542/FUL - Insertion of a window on the north-western elevation of the detached garage and use of the first floor as a home office Dean Mead, Loders Lane, Swallowcliffe, SP3 5PG, 26 Mar 2021</p> <p>Cllr Willis reported that a resident has raised concerns that their property would be permanently overlooked by the change of use, this could be partly alleviated by the glass in the existing skylights being frosted. Members agreed that the Council has No Objection to the planning application with the condition that the two existing skylights should be frosted.</p> <p>21/02170/TCA - A: Apple tree - fell B: Cornelian Cherry Dogwood - fell C: Holly bush - remove Wingmore, Rookery Lane, Swallowcliffe, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP3 5PA, 02 Mar 2021</p> <p>The applicant spoke to this application stating that all the trees would be replaced. Members resolved that the Council had No Objection to the application.</p>
64	<p><u>Annual Parish Meeting:</u></p> <p>The Chairman shared with the Members the proposed meeting agenda; a few adjustments were agreed. The Annual Parish Meeting will be on Thursday 15th April 2021 @7:30 on Zoom videoconferencing.</p>
65	<p><u>Parish Air Quality:</u></p> <p>Cllr Blundell has received a few complaints and has suffered himself from poor air quality caused by a bonfire. Happened two weekends in a row. Confirmed plastic that was being burned. Seems to be little legal recourse via Wiltshire Council unless someone is a persistent offender. Informal approach has been made to one resident. Agreed to monitor</p>
66	<p><u>Phone Box Improvements:</u></p> <p>D) Disconnection of Electricity:</p> <p>The Clerk reported that Scottish & Southern had been approached by him to disconnect the electricity to the Phone Box and that the response was that they would offer a quote but would charge for the service. Further, disconnection can be carried out by anyone</p>



	<p>with the correct accreditation. The Clerk now has he details of the accreditation required and some local electricians should be approached to see if they can undertake the work and offer a quote.</p> <p>A) Straightening: The Chairman felt that the Phone Box cannot be straightened until the electricity had been disconnected.</p> <p>B) Shelving: & C) Painting: It was agreed to defer any decisions until the disconnection of the electricity & straightening had taken place.</p>
67	<p><u>Village Maintenance:</u> It was proposed by the Chairman to accept a quote for £250 to repaint both the noticeboards and the Bus Stop bench, seconded by Cllr Blundell and resolved unanimously.</p>

Meeting Closed at 20:43

Signed Chairman: _____ **Date:** _____

Email: Swallowcliffepc1@gmail.com

Website: www.swallowcliffeparishcouncil.org.uk/

Next Meeting: The Annual Meeting of the Council - 13th May 2021

This will be the first meeting of the new Council after the 6th of May Local Elections.

