

# Minutes of Swallowcliffe Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7pm.

## Statements from the Floor

Prior to the Meeting starting, two residents, who have lived in the village for seven years raised concerns on the growth and maintenance of trees opposite their property. They have spoken to the neighbour concerned, but wished to raise the matter with the Parish Council. Not being on the agenda, no resolution can be made at this stage, but mention of a potential site visit by Councillors was suggested. This will be addressed in the formal business of a subsequent meeting. The residents withdrew prior to the meeting starting.

### 16.03.01 Those present and apologies for absence.

Apologies; Cllr. P. Willis

Present; Cllr. S. Banas (Chairman), Cllr. N. Cooke, Cllr. A. Brockway, Cllr. N Osborne

In attendance; Wiltshire Cllr. Nabil Najjar (until 7.26pm), T. Culver-James (Clerk)

There were also two members of the public present.

### 16.03.02 Declarations of Interest

None made.

### 16.03.03 Chairman's Introduction

The Chairman welcomed those present. He touched on a number of points, which are dealt with later in these minutes, notably the Southwest Wiltshire Area Board meeting. It was confirmed that the Swallowcliffe spring newsletter would be produced. Discussion is in progress with a contractor in regard to the refurbishment of the telephone box. Also noted was the continuing issue of the Station Works planning appeal. Very well received CPR/Defibrillator awareness training was taken by 12 Swallowcliffe residents last month.

### 16.03.04 Resolution of minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January were unanimously approved and signed.

### 16.03.05 Report from Wiltshire Councillor

Cllr. Najjar confirmed that Wiltshire Council had been approved the budget of £467m, an increase of £5m, and noting that this leads to an increase of 2.99% of the rate of council tax. He confirmed that the next Area Board meeting is 15<sup>th</sup> June, and that applications are needed to be in four weeks prior to this. There are three main areas of funding application-Elderly and vulnerable, youth projects and capital projects. Parish Councils are precluded from applying for the latter, although Village Halls are

not. This was noted. He emphasised a vigorous campaign to tackle potholes and road surfaces was underway by the Council and their contractors.

### 16.03.06 Report from Village Hall Committee

At the end of February 2023, the village hall had just short of £12,300 in its bank account.

A new bank account has been opened with Lloyds for the 50/50 club, as Nationwide closed the previous account, not wanting to offer such services. Also, received from Lloyds bank (effectively at the behest of HMRC) a long form to complete to provide confirmation of its tax domicile.

The village hall has added the new shed to its insurance cover. It cannot insure the generator as ownership of this is remaining with the PC.

### 16.03.07 Southwest Wiltshire Area Board update

Applications for funding have been noted in previous sections, but were reiterated. Reference made to a policy of “zero tolerance” in targeted law enforcement initiatives in various Wiltshire locations. Note was made of the provision of SID data to inform police tasking was discussed. Swallowcliffe will be included.

### 16.03.08 Footpaths, Highways and Rights of Way

A looped pedestrian gate is to be installed at Hinxman’s Field at a cost of £400, the installation to be carried out by volunteers.

### 16.03.09 Environment and sustainability briefing

Reference was made by an environment fund introduced by Wessex Water, which opens for bids on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Clerk to explore this. A presentation was made regarding moles and the benefits they may provide, particularly in the matter of drainage.

The recent litter pick was very successful with around twenty volunteers.

Discussion also referred to the current grass/weed suppression in the vicinity of Gigant Street and Bottom Road. Wild flower seeds will be sown as a trial.

### 16.03.10 Planning Matters

PL/2023/01373 Mulberry Cottage, Swallowcliffe SP3 5PA Variation to retrospective garage door. Clerk to report that the PC has no objection in the application.

### 16.03.11 Financial Matters

- a. Dates noted, during April for account record, AGAR during May.
- b. An Internal Auditor is required soon.
- c. Income and expenditure for January/February was presented.
- d. Agreed for external payroll service to be engaged and the Clerk to be paid monthly, not annually.

### 16.03.12 Other matters

- a. Village shed cost was reported by Chairman as £2,595, approximately £151 over original grant.

Additional spend: Emergency Generator £1,899 (approved per last meeting). Cover for outdoor running £119.99, Extension Leads £50, Metal Petrol Can £25.

Minor incidentals: Stain, Padlock, Ground Anchor, Security Cable £54.37

All items were agreed.

b. Noted at 16.03.08 above.

c. CPR training to be held 21<sup>st</sup> March at the Village Hall. It is hoped that participants will attend from neighbouring parishes.

d. Village Hall Trust status-matters outstanding include the registration or not of the premises involved, perhaps further complicated by a missing deed/conveyance from 1919. Clerk initially to action, but agreed by councillors to retain Messrs. Brodrick-Barker of Tisbury as required.

e. Clerk provided an SLCC template for a Scheme of Delegation for limited finance and planning matters. Agreed to incorporate this.

f. Banking arrangements are being updated. Clerk does urge online banking to be adopted for practical, security and reporting reasons.

g. Annual Parish (Village) Meeting-the Chairman will start the process. It was agreed to follow the conventional PowerPoint format for the PC contribution.

h. Annual Parish (Village) Meeting will be held on-Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm

Parish Council AGM –Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm, to be followed by first Ordinary meeting.

The meeting concluded at 8.40pm.