

SWALLOWCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall, Swallowcliffe. on **Wednesday 10th July 2024** at 7:00pm

Present: Cllr. Stephen Banas (Chairman)
Cllr. Nigel Cooke
Cllr. Nick Osborne

In Attendance: Cllr. Nabil Najjar (Wiltshire Councillor) (19:08 -19:26)
Locum Parish Clerk: Mr Simon Pritchard
Four members of the public.



a) Wiltshire Councillor's Report – Cllr Najjar

- Cllr Najjar had not arrived at the meeting by this point

b) The Village Hall Committee – Cllr Osborne

- Nick Osborne (Village Hall Treasurer) reported that the Village Hall has £13,000 in the bank. A fundraising BBQ made £800.
- Need a new fire exit door that they may be able to get a grant towards, also need to have woodworm treatment carried out that they are unlikely to be able to get grant funding for.

c) South-West Wiltshire Council Area Board – Cllr Banas

- The Area Board has given out many grants to community groups including, Barford St Martin £1,545 and Mear Footpath group £4,000 – but Swallowcliffe Parish Council cannot apply.

19:08 Cllr Najjar arrived

Wiltshire Councillor's Report:

- It was confirmed with Cllr Najjar that Parish Council's cannot apply to the Wiltshire Council Area Board for grant funding. Some parishes have set up formal community groups and this has helped get around this rule as the community group can lead on the project and apply for the grant funding. It was noted that the community group had to be properly constituted and have a bank account.
 - At the start of the year, Wiltshire Council passed a budget totalling £426m, unlike many other local authorities, Wiltshire Council has not had to use reserves or borrow money.
 - Consent has been granted to Ansty Parish Council to have a 20mph limit installed.
 - The C12 highway is having a lot of improvements made to it currently
 - A lot of grants given locally by the Area Board to community groups.
 - Spent time visiting parishes with John Glenn MP just before the general election.
 - The Poles Farm new build planning application is still ongoing. Talks have been taking place between the applicant and Planning Officers as to a how the development could be reduced. A new plan may be submitted, and this would require close examination. Concern was raised by a member of the public that the new government's policies will make it easier for applications like the Poles Farm one to be successful
- 19:26 Cllr Najjar left the meeting.

d) Environmental Initiatives – Ms Boothman

- Wildflowers along the verges have been cut. Doesn't seem worth keeping going with them, it's the wrong type of soil anyway. Clearly the highways team like to keep the local verges well cut back.

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Swallowcliffe Parish Council: 10th July 2024
Website: www.swallowcliffeparishcouncil.org.uk
Email: swallowcliffepc1@gmail.com

Signed: _____ Date: _____

- No litter pick until the autumn.
- Dangerous trees along Gigant Street. Landowner now taking action but do take care if you walk along there.

e) **Footpaths / Rights of Way** – Cllr Brockway

- No report / not at meeting as on holiday

f) **Highway Matters (inc LHFIG)** – Cllr Banas

- Bottom Road ditch has been dug out.
- Have two Parish Stewards coming on Friday to catch up with the work, have provided them with a list.
- Common Lane, from the Church to the Old Forge, have asked Wilshire Council for traffic calming measures.

g) **Village Maintenance Report** – Cllr Cooke

- Nothing to report.

h) **Flood Warden** – Mr Fitzpatrick

- Must keep pushing for the ditches to be maintained by Wilshire Council.

i) **Parish Council Chairman’s Report:**

- A Swallowcliffe Comms Group meeting has taken place. There is an email group, an open Facebook page, WhatsApp group as well as a closed Facebook group and newcomer welcome pack. Possible that the closed Facebook group will be discontinued as not overly used.
- Judy Fitzpatrick will be the new Editor of the Village Newsletter.

j) **Input from Residents / Councillors on any matters not covered above:**

- Nothing further.

~ Start of Formal Meeting 19:47 ~

| Item no: | |
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| 26 | <u>Apologies for Absence:</u> Cllr Amanda Brockway - Holiday |
| 27 | <u>Declarations of Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations:</u> None. |
| 28 | <u>Adoption of Minutes:</u> The minutes had been circulated to members ahead of the meeting and were on the Parish Council’s website. It was proposed by Cllr Banas to adopt the minutes of Thursday 23rd May 2024, seconded by Cllr Cooke and resolved unanimously. |
| 29 | <u>Local Planning or Tree Applications made to Wiltshire Council:</u> To receive and comment on any recent applications – none received by the time of the meeting. |
| 30 | <u>Village Speed Indicator Devices (SID):</u> |

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|----|---|
| | <p>a) To resolve on buying Ansty Parish Council out of their ½ share of the current SID at a cost of £425: It was proposed by Cllr Osborne to pay Ansty Parish Council £425 for their part share of the SID, so that it becomes wholly owned by Swallowcliffe Parish Council, seconded by Cllr Cooke and resolved unanimously</p> <p>b) To resolve on the purchase of a further SID, costing and how I will be paid for: Members had been circulated the details of the Evolis Vision speed sign, purchase of this model was recommended by the Chair after research into the best SID to buy. The Clerk reported that Donhead St Mary Parish Council were about to buy the same model and could obtain a discount if two were purchased at the same time. It was proposed by Cllr Osborne to buy the Evolis Vision SID from Donhead St Mary Parish Council for £2,000 plus the cost of carriage, seconded by Cllr Cooke and resolved unanimously.</p> |
| 31 | <p><u>Village Hall Land Registration:</u> Confirmed that all the paperwork had now been submitted and so just waiting for the Land Registry to make the registration.</p> |
| 32 | <p><u>Parish Council Finance:</u></p> <p>A. <u>Payments to Authorise:</u> 1. GCG Books – SALC - £8.00 (invoice from two years ago that is now being chased) It was proposed by Cllr Banas to pay the £8 invoice, seconded by Cllr Cooke and resolved unanimously.</p> <p>B. <u>Payments made since the last meeting:</u> This list was received.</p> <p>C. <u>Bank Reconciliation, Payments and Spend Against Budget to Date:</u> This had been received. Cllr Osborne has checked the latest bank rec against the bank statements.</p> <p>D. <u>Donation Requests:</u> To resolve on requests for donations received by the Council.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wiltshire Search & Rescue 2. Wiltshire Citizens Advice 3. The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust It was agreed that the Parish Council would not offer any grant funding this year. |
| 33 | <p><u>Parish Council Vacancies:</u></p> <p>A. <u>Recruitment of a Councillor:</u> Several informal approaches made. The Clerk noted that as there are local elections in Wilshire in May 2025, the last opportunity for the Council to co-opt would be at its next meeting in October as after that it would be too close to the election.</p> |

B. Recruitment of a Clerk & RFO:

An advert had been drafted and circulated. Current Clerk is on a temporary contract until the end of April 2025, so advert will not go out until the end of the year.

Meeting Closed at 20:22