

SWALLOWCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall, Swallowcliffe. on Thursday 16th October 2024 at 7:00pm

Present: Cllr. Stephen Banas (Chairperson)
Cllr. Nigel Cooke
Cllr. Nick Osborne
Cllr. Amanda Brockway



In Attendance: Wiltshire Councillor: Cllr. Nabil Najjar
Parish Clerk: Mr Simon Pritchard
Five members of the public.

a) Wiltshire Councillor's Report – Cllr Najjar

- The Full Council has approved the new Wiltshire Local plan, this will shape growth in Wiltshire for the next 5 years. The plan has now been sent to the planning inspector for sign off.
- Motion passed at Full Council objecting to the government withdrawal of winter fuel payments.
- The South-West Area Board is looking to get more funding into local groups / organisations.
- Poles Farm planning application rejected by the Wiltshire Council Planning Committee today. Five votes to one. A good and professional turnout by Swallowcliffe residents. Sure the owners will still want to develop the site.
Q: Should the Parish Council try and engage with the owners?
A: There could be some merit to that approach.
Q: What is the leeway for planning officers to ignore planning policy?
A: There is quite a lot of leeway and interpretation can vary. This is why a planning committee is required to iron out the grey areas and bring a bit of common sense.

b) The Village Hall Committee – Cllr Osborne

- Nick Osborne (Village Hall Treasurer) reported that the Village Hall has £13,500 in the bank at the end of September, but this is before the new fire exit door has been paid for (£990 to pay after grants). Insurance this year £770 and increase of 3% on last year.
- Vary large invoice for the electricity received since move to smart meter, problem with computers taking to each other at the electricity company.
- The 2023/24 accounts have been signed off by the auditor.

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

- Various reports from Wiltshire Police including the Tisbury Co-Op theft of £8,000 by a national gang.
- PCSOs have been asked to talk to their local Parish Councils
- People have been caught speeding in 49 locations resulting in:
 - 1,356 speed awareness courses
 - 300 fines
 - 55 court appearances

d) Environmental Initiatives – Ms Boothman

- Waiting for it to get colder before organising the next litter pick

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Swallowcliffe Parish Council: 16th October 2024
Website: www.swallowcliffeparishcouncil.org.uk
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Signed: _____ Date: _____

- Not actively planning more bulbs. The wild flower planting outside Middledean seems not to have worked.

e) Footpaths / Rights of Way – Cllr Brockway

- Walking paths and engaging with landowners. Where the landowner will not engage, the matter is reported to Wiltshire Council.
- SWAL13 was reported as blocked by a visitor the Village, have now cleared that bit, but blocked at the top on the hill by a maze crop, this keeps happening every year. Noted that some farmers will spray a line to keep the right-of-way clear. Not a well-used footpath as one you get to the A30 is pretty much a dead-end.

f) Highway Matters (inc LHFIG) – Cllr Banas

- Common Lane, from the Church to the Old Forge, have asked Wiltshire Council to suggest traffic calming measures, await the recommendations and costs.
- Barbars Lane, “Not Suitable for HGVs” sign still hasn’t been installed by Ringway, may need to escalate into a complaint.
- Q: what would traffic calming measures look like? – don’t want speed humps.
- A: No, will not be humps; they would cost too much and are undesirable. Most likely to be something involving paint on the road. The Parish Council will be able to express its views on any suggestions and will not be forced to have anything the Village doesn’t want.

g) Village Maintenance Report – Cllr Cooke

- Culverts on bottom Lane looking nice and clear.
- Less traffic from Tisbury has resulted in less litter
- Potholes still an issue
- Fingerpost still requires repair and repainting.

h) Flood Warden – Mr Fitzpatrick

- We have had 3-times the average rainfall in September but no flooding in the Village, this shows that keeping on top of the ditch clearing works.
- Flooding awareness workshop organised by Wiltshire Council in Salisbury next month, should be promoted in the Village.

i) Parish Council Chairman’s Report:

- Pleased to report that the Wiltshire Council Planning Committee has refused the Poles Farm planning application. Thank you to Amanda Brockway for doing such a good job representing the Parish Council.
- Judy Fitzpatrick now the Editor of the Village newsletter.
- Need to do some training soon with the generator and the people who have volunteered to operate it.
- The emergency team should be reformed and review the information that is available.

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

- A resident reported that they have applied for a new septic tank under the Wiltshire Council ‘revamp my tank’ scheme, so they have approached Royal Mail to move the Post Box outside their home to facilitate equipment access. They are also asking the Parish Council to move the Village Noticeboard.

~ Start of Formal Meeting 19:54 ~

Item no:	
34	<u>Apologies for Absence:</u> None.
35	<u>Declarations of Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations:</u> None.
36	<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 Wednesday 10th July 2024, seconded by Cllr Brockway and resolved unanimously.
37	<u>Co-option of a New Council Member:</u> The Parish Council has one vacancy for a Parish Council Member. One application had been received from Sarah Taylor. A. <u>Interview of Candidates:</u> The Council declined to interview the candidate. B. <u>Election of New Member of the Parish Council:</u> It was proposed by Cllr Banas that the council co-opt Sarah Taylor onto the Parish Council, seconded by Cllr Cooke and resolved unanimously. C. <u>Declaration of Acceptance of Office:</u> Cllr Taylor signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the table for the rest of the meeting.
38	<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.
39	<u>Post-box at Little Orchard:</u> Cllr Banas proposed that the parish council has no objection to the post-box being relocated in the centre of the Village, providing that the parish council is consulted on the new location, seconded by Cllr Brockway and resolved unanimously. Cllr Banas proposed that if the noticeboard is to be moved that the Old Churchyard would seem the best location. The PCC would have to give consent as it's church land, and it would also require Highways approval. There would need to be costed for its moving and this would need to be budgeted for. Seconded by Cllr Osborne and resolved unanimously.
40	<u>Village Speed Indicator Devices (SID):</u> New device purchased, currently stored in the Parish Clerk's garage awaiting mounting. Cllr Brockway proposed that a 3-meter pole and end cap is purchased at a cost of £105, seconded by Cllr Osborne and resolved unanimously.

41	<p><u>Village Hall Land Registration:</u> All the paperwork has been submitted, just waiting for the Land Registry to make the registration. The Parish Clerk explained what being in trust means, explaining that the Village Hall has been left to the Village for a purpose, not to a person or organisation. The corporate body of the council is just being used to rest the deeds on, it doesn't mean the Parish Council own the Village Hall.</p>
42	<p><u>Parish Council Finance:</u></p> <p><u>A. Payments to Authorise:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. DSM PC – Printer ink / Use - £25.00 ii. Cllr S. Banas – Printer Ink – £24.99 iii. Cllr S. Banas – Generator Fuel - £24.85 <p>It was proposed by Cllr Cook to make the listed payments, seconded by Cllr Osborne and resolved unanimously.</p> <p><u>B. Payments made since the last meeting:</u> This list had been sent to members.</p> <p><u>C. Grant request from the Village Hall:</u> This item wasn't covered.</p> <p><u>D. Bank Reconciliation, Payments and Spend Against Budget to Date:</u> This item wasn't covered. NB: Cllr Osborne declined to sign the bank rec saying that more information (the cash book) was required.</p>
43	<p><u>Projects for 2025/26:</u> Members were invited to suggest costed projects for the 2025/26 municipal year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Moving of Noticeboard ▪ Traffic calming scheme in centre of village ▪ Roundels refresh (speed signs) – noted that Wilshire Council normally undertake this at no cost the parish council ▪ The Clerk highlighted the cost of an election should one be called next May – this could be around £1,500 ▪ Cllr Banas mentioned that the defibrillator working life should be checked. Ours was purchased January 2016

Meeting Closed at 20:26