

# SWALLOWCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall, Swallowcliffe. on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025** at 7:00pm

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



**In Attendance:** Parish Clerk: Mr Simon Pritchard  
One member of the public.

a) **Wiltshire Councillor's Report** – Cllr Najjar  
Not at meeting.

b) **The Village Hall Committee** – Cllr Osborne

- Nick Osborne (Village Hall Treasurer) reported that the Village Hall has £10,916 in the bank at the end of December.
- The SSE £16,000 overcharge has now been sorted but, no offer of compensation for the hours spent by committee members.
- Burns night fundraising event coming up
- The outside of the hall has been painted.

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

- Wiltshire Council have introduced a made in Wiltshire 'Mark'. There is now a shop in Salisbury that sells products that carry the Mark.
- The Chief Constable was on video call:
  - Wiltshire is 17 out of 43 for 999 response time.
  - Understand that the Police will now accept data from ANPR cameras
  - It is possible to upload videos of crime
  - Lowest levels of crime on the country

d) **Environmental Initiatives** – Ms Boothman

- Spring village litter pick to be arranged
- Will start to plant bulbs again.
- Have been flattening mole hills in the old graveyards to try and avoid the notion of trapping the moles.

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

- SWAL:6 – Fallen tree. Landowner cleared the same day.
- SWAL:7 – Is currently fully accessible. Have been in touch with the landowner about access in the summer when the nettles are growing.
- SWAL:3 - (where it meets with TISB: 27) ideal place for the gate that the Parish Council has but landowner says they are not sure if the fence is staying there.
- SWAL:10 - no gate at the bottom of the downs, another possibility for the gate.

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

- 40% of next year's Wiltshire Council's LHFIFG budget spent already.

- 1 -

Swallowcliffe Parish Council: 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025  
Website: [www.swallowcliffeparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.swallowcliffeparishcouncil.org.uk)  
Email: [swallowcliffepc1@gmail.com](mailto:swallowcliffepc1@gmail.com)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- Common Lane has been assessed as having a very minor speeding issues, the stats do not support there being much chance of Wiltshire Council funding towards any speed reduction measures. Could ask for roundels to be painted on the road, but again unlikely to be funded.
- The Barbers Lane “No HGVs” signs still not installed by Wiltshire Council.

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

- Culverts looking nice and clear, thanks to Barry Fitzpatrick and Cllr Banas for keeping on top of that.
- Potholes being covered in that patching pack is no use, it washes out in weeks.
- Cllr Taylor has indicated that she is happy to repair and paint the Fingerpost on the green.

**h) Flood Warden – Mr Fitzpatrick**

- Nothing much to report as the drainage has been working fine, some standing water that needs exploring.
- Grip by the old churchyard needs digging out and the gully further up the road by the old forge.

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

- Some members of the emergency planning team have had training on how to work the generator at the Village Hall.
- The warranty on the D’fib (at the Royal Oak) expires next year.
- The Newsletter has gone out
- Cllr Taylor has agreed to help with the Highways portfolio
- Thanking of retiring at the May elections by not standing for re-election. Have been a councillor for 10 years, 8 of them as Chair. Mind not made up 100% yet.

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

- Wiltshire Council Highways is being consulted on possible locations for the Village Noticeboard to be moved to.

~ Start of Formal Meeting 19:56 ~

Item no:	
44	<b><u>Apologies for Absence:</u></b> None.
45	<b><u>Declarations of Pecuniary Interests &amp; Dispensations:</u></b> None.
46	<b><u>Adoption of Minutes:</u></b> The minutes had been circulated to members ahead of the meeting and were on the Parish Council’s website. <b>It was proposed by Cllr Banas to adopt the minutes of Thursday 16th October 2024, seconded by Cllr Osborne and resolved unanimously.</b>
47	<b><u>Local Planning or Tree Applications made to Wiltshire Council:</u></b> To receive and comment on any recent applications – none received by the time of the meeting.

48	<p><b><u>Grant Request – St Peter’s Church:</u></b>  Cllr Cooke Informed the Council that necessary works to the trees in the Churchyard have been costed, two quotes received, £4,500 &amp; £5,500.  <b>Cllr Brockway proposed that in principle that Parish council would be willing to contribute £100 towards the works, seconded by Cllr Banas and resolved unanimously.</b></p>
49	<p><b><u>Village Speed Indicator Devices (SID):</u></b>  The installing of a new post and socket has taken some thought. Needs a more professional approach rather than councillors installing.  <b>Agreed that a professional companies will be approach for quotes.</b></p>
50	<p><b><u>Village Hall Land Registration:</u></b>  All the paperwork has been submitted, awaiting Land Registry to action. The Parish Clerk informed the meeting of a recent experience he had had that took 9 months for completion.</p>
51	<p><b><u>Future Meeting Dates 2025/26:</u></b>  Agreed as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025</li> <li>• 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025</li> <li>• 24<sup>th</sup> July 2025</li> <li>• 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2025</li> <li>• 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026</li> <li>• 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026</li> <li>• 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026</li> </ul> <p><u>Annual Village Meeting:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025</li> <li>• 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2026</li> </ul> <p><b>NB: After the meeting it was found that these dates didn’t suite everyone, so they have been changed – please see the Parish Council website for meeting dates.</b></p>
52	<p><b><u>Best Kept Village Competition:</u></b>  Cllr Brockway had read the criteria and felt the Village was well placed to enter the competition. Happy to draft the written submission. Feels that Swallowcliffe is a wonderful Village with lots of community sprit.  Would need to hold a public meeting to get buy-in.  <b>It was proposed by Cllr Brockway to enter the competition, seconded by Cllr Banas and resolved unanimously.</b></p>
53	<p><b><u>Parish Council Finance:</u></b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b><u>A. Payments to Authorise:</u></b></p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">i. Cllr S. Banas – Key Safe - £17.99</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>It was proposed by Cllr Brockway to make the listed payments, seconded by Cllr Cooke and resolved unanimously.</b></p>

	<p><b>B. <u>Payments made since the last meeting:</u></b> This list had been sent to members.</p> <p><b>C. <u>Bank Reconciliation, Payments and Spend Against Budget to Date:</u></b> Cllr Osborne signed the bank rec. The Parish Clerk informed the meeting that he had looked at some cheaper accounting software, £9.99 per moth instead of the current £12 per month, but the online demonstration videos showed that it was a far inferior in functionality to the current software.</p>
54	<p><b><u>2025/26 Budget &amp; Precept:</u></b> Cllr Banas tabled the draft budget. Each line was examined by the council. It was noted that the installing of the new SID sockets will cost much more than expected and so some increase needed be made to cover this cost. <b>It was proposed by Cllr Osborne to set the precept at £5,500, seconded by Cllr Brockway and resolved unanimously.</b> This represents an increase of £5.41 per Band D household, per year.</p>

Meeting Closed at 21:03