

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING



Minutes of the 11th April 2019

Held in Swallowcliffe Village Hall @ 7:30pm

Present: 5 Members of the Parish Council, Wilshire Councillor Josh Green, 23 Parish Residents and the Parish Clerk.

I. Welcome:

The Parish Council Chairman, Stephen Banas welcomed everyone to the meeting and talked through the agenda, explaining that the meeting was not a Parish Council meeting, but a Public one and a chance for the Council to get feedback from parishioners. The Chairman also introduced the Parish Council team and their roles:

Name	Role	Responsibilities
Stephen Banas	Councillor	PC Chairman, Highways, Defibrillator Rep for SWW Area Board and CATG
Gerry Blundell	Councillor	Planning, Development, Finance, Noticeboards. Rep for Village Hall Committee
Lu Boothman	Councillor	Emergency Planning, Litter Management
Patrick Willis	Returning Councillor	Footpaths, Rights of Way and Transport
Nigel Cooke	Councillor	Rep SWW Community Safety Group
Simon Pritchard	Parish Council Clerk	Administration, Compliance
Barry Fitzpatrick	Flood Warden	Emergency Coordination, IT
Jose Green	Wilts County Councillor	Fovant and Chalke Valley Division Chair of SWW Area Board Various WC committee roles

The Chairman informed the meeting that Councillor Willis had just returned to the Council after an absence of almost a year.

- II. To receive last year's minutes:** 12th April 2018
(The Clerk had paper copies for anyone who wanted one)

III. Wiltshire Council Report from Councillor Jose Green:

It is now 10 years since Wiltshire Council (WC) became Unitary. Previously, it was Salisbury District Council who was the main point of contact for the services they provided. Now argued, whether it has been replaced by greater efficiency and joined up thinking (which in turn leads to savings and less bureaucracy) remains a matter of opinion!! 350 services are still provided by WC with social services being the greatest demand and rising as the population grows older, the number of vulnerable children that require looking after also increases year on year.

It is always a pleasure to present my annual report to the Parishes within the Fovant and Chalke Valley Division, I shall endeavour to keep it short but with a caveat that I am always available to answer any queries you might have.

I'm sure many of you have noticed how much publicity Salisbury is receiving post the novichok incident; with high profile visits from Royalty to Politicians in the last year, it all forms part of the Salisbury recovery programme which will bring tourists to visit and stay in and around the City. There are many events planned for this coming year but over the last year some very many memorable occasions took place.

Wiltshire Council has approved a 3% increase in the Council Tax (CT) for this coming year. This is the level of increase permitted without having to hold a referendum, every year it is a constant challenge to make savings at every opportunity sometimes at a cost to staff, providers and users. I accept that CT can be the biggest burden a household is required to find and it would appear, that as residents in rural areas, we do not receive the numerous services and easy access to facilities that others have; I must emphasise though, a balanced budget is imperative and that has been achieved again this year, also, it is the first time that WC hasn't been reliant on the Government's grant to achieve it.

There was a full and lengthy debate on Climate Change at Full Council in February, mainly revolving around what further measures can be taken to make the County progress towards becoming carbon neutral by 2030. This subject was partly brought about by the actions school students highlighted by going on strike and emphasised by the occasional very warm days in February thankfully followed by typical March weather. In past reports I have mentioned the investment WC is making by replacing the street lighting to LED bulbs, this coming year there will be many other measures introduced to reduce our carbon footprint, a few examples are pressing for new eco 'built housing, promote car share, encourage electric cars by installing more charging points, address air quality, by not using single use plastics and at every opportunity to educate and promote greater levels of reduce, recycle, and reusing our household waste.

Every year I attempt to tell you what might be of the greatest interest to you rather than what might be the most relevant to the 14 parishes I represent. Looking to the future you might be aware of the proposals the Local Government Boundary Commission of England (LGBCE) have suggested in their review of the Wiltshire Divisions; although I didn't receive any direct representation from anyone about the consultation, WC and the Boundary Commission did. The LGBCE accepts that Wiltshire Council retains the existing 98 Councillors but some boundaries will change so that each Division has an equitable number of electors based on a population assessment in 2024, therefore there is a possibility that Coombe Bissett, Homington and Odstock will come into Fovant and Chalke Valley and Compton Chamberlayne, Netherhampton Village and Tollard Royal would move in to neighbouring Divisions, finally the 'built up' part of Netherhampton would go into Harnham. We must wait to hear what the final decision will be which will then come into effect in 2021 elections. Whatever the proposals it is Parliament that confirms the final outcome, not WC.

Highways: *always the greatest concern to most and which remains a high priority. The Speed Indication Scheme (SID's) the Area Board partly financed last year have proven to be popular, successful and effective. The 20mph speed limits remain popular and a further 2 villages will be chosen again this coming year in our area if the Parish requests it. The Police must play their part*

in enforcement. A further £8 million from Government will be spent on improving the highways and street scene across Wiltshire, this is an additional sum above the £21m spent year on year in maintaining our roads, we must be sure the workmanship and quality is upheld.

The Centenary of WW1 was commemorated with the planting of 10,000 trees across Wiltshire. Not the tallest specimens but a lasting memorial to remember those 10,000 Wiltshire men who died during those war years. Again, I compliment the efforts of those who reinstated the Badges at Fovant, Sutton Mandeville and Compton Chamberlayne. The Armistice Day service on Compton Down was very moving.

Anyone reading my reports regularly will know I often mention the plight of the Syrian Refugees, It has been recently agreed that Wiltshire will take 10 vulnerable, unaccompanied children per year over the next 10 years dependent on having foster homes in place as part of the Safe Passage, Our Turn campaign. As you might be aware this has been likened to the Kindertransport event during WW2.

98% of Wiltshire's school children have been offered places in their preferred secondary schools. 93% were their parents first choice..up 1% . 4% attend their 2nd choice and 1% their 3rd, in total 4981 applications were received, (up 174 from the previous year) out of this figure 102 parents did not get an offer of their preferred school which is disappointing. Obviously, they have the right to appeal.

*WC has a 'smoke free 'policy in place **on** Council owned property. The 3 main Hubs have introduced it already which prohibits smoking in the grounds. Vaping is permitted by the public and staff outside but requested to do so away from the entrances of the buildings.*

On a personal level in the last year I have remained Chair of the Area Board and vice chair of the Licensing Committee, I sit on the Southern Area Planning Committee, the School Transport Appeals Panel and the Environment Select, plus many other commitments. I'm always happy to support grant applications and there have been a number of successful ones in my Division over the last year. My priority has always been to listen and hopefully help those who approach me with an understanding that by working together we can do our utmost to ensure the fairest and best outcomes for all.

IV. Parish Councillors Reports:

VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATOR UPDATE: This has been taken out twice, but not used. It needs new pads every year at a cost of £40 and a new battery every 5 years at a cost of £100.

Village Defibrillator

- Monitored regularly - Registered with Ambulance Service
- Periodic Maintenance Required
 - New pads last year (required every 2 years)
 - New battery (4 – 5 years)



PHONE BOX: The Parish Council has resisted attempts by BT to have the Phone Box removed. The Chairman asked the meeting to vote on what should happen with it.

Have it removed = 1 Vote

Buy it from BT (and change its use) = 3 Votes

Keep it as a working phone box, owned by BT = 8 Votes

A resident asked if the box could be straightened up, the Chairman informed the meeting that BT will not straighten it and on one else is allowed to touch it.

General Village Maintenance

- Phone Box
 - Now operational
 - Parish Council has so far resisted BTs attempts to sell it to the village. Is this still appropriate?
 - Considerations:
 - In a flood area
 - Area of poor mobile phone coverage in case of emergencies
 - Fingerposts
 - Fingerpost by A30 - refurbished and repainted (received Wiltshire Council grant)
 - Fingerpost by church - refurbishment to be costed and grant investigated



BLACK AND WHITE FINGERPOSTS: The Parish Council now take responsibility for the two in the Village as Wiltshire Council have stopped doing so. The 2-finger post on the A30 has been revamped using a grant of £400 received from Wiltshire Council

NOTICEBOARDS: The one by the royal Oak was restored last year, the other one at the West End was replaced yesterday with a new oak one.

General Village Maintenance (2)

- Noticeboards
 - Noticeboard by the pub refurbished
 - West End noticeboard replaced



LITTER PICK: one takes place twice a year. Normally get around 20 people a time and collect 10 to 15 black binbags full.

Village Litter Management (Lu Boothman)

- 3 litter picks since last meeting
- Excellent turnout
- Cleared all road verges in Swallowcliffe within an hour
- Tea and cakes much appreciated
- Thanks to all who volunteered to keep our village tidy.



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PARISH EMERGENCY PLANNING: The draft plan is ready. One part is for Wiltshire Council, one part for residents and one part for the emergency services.

Village Emergency Planning (Lu Boothman)

- Swallowcliffe Emergency Plan drafted
- Key focus on practical procedures and communication
- Village input and participation welcomed

Emergency Plan
An emergency plan is a good action plan to mitigate plan for and coordinate all mitigate the effects of dis emergency planning sh



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SOUTHWEST WILTSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY GROUP:

Report from Cllr Nigel Cooke:

The South West Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership meets quarterly in the Nadder Centre in Tisbury where our Pantomime trio produced another splendid show earlier this year – "O yes they did!"

It has superseded the Tisbury Community Safety Partnership. All local Parish Councils, from Semley to Quidhampton, and Hindon to Berwick St John are represented along with representatives from Wiltshire Police, Dorset & Wilts Fire and Rescue Service, and Wiltshire Council.

The meeting gets updates from the Police, Fire & Rescue, and County Council, and then discusses local concerns. Issues over the past few meetings have included: drugs, speeding (which is a perennial area of concern) and theft from beauty spots (ie. where people leave their cars in isolated places, and lock them, but they are broken into). The advice is never leave anything of value in the car but if you have to, leave it out of sight and preferably locked in the boot. However even boots have been accessed through rear seats. Last year there was a 7.9% increase in crime in Wiltshire, although nationally the increase was greater at 15%. If you spot anything suspicious please ring 101. We are lucky we live in Swallowcliffe.

Finally, Compare the market.com is supporting the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. I have some stickers and if you would like one to put in a prominent window, please grab one before you go at the end of the meeting.

Free Window Stickers



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FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS:

- Pleased to report Patrick Willis is returning to the Parish Council as Footpaths representative
- New gate added between Hinksman's and Little's fields on SWAL17
- Swallowcliffe Down permissive access grant is expiring
- General issues reported
 - Gate opposite Shergolds (SWAL15/16)
 - Stile on SWAL2 where it enters the Lake House land on the western boundary

HIGHWAYS: The Parish gets 10 visits per year from the parish steward. If anyone is aware of anything that needs doing please get in touch.

Highways – General Maintenance

- Pothole repairs
- Blocked Drains, Gulleys, Ditches, Streams, etc
- Visits from the Parish Steward
 - “Priority List” Maintained by Steve Banas
- Anyone can report issues via the “MyWiltshire” Website/App
- Wiltshire Council has committed £8 million to support towns and communities across the county
 - A 12-month program to deliver improvements to local highway maintenance including repair of potholes, improve white lining etc.



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SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE (SID): The Parish Council has bought a third share in one in the last year. This Parish has use of it for 3 weeks out of 9. Desire to form a group to look at new locations for it to be sited.

Highways – Speed Indicator Device (SID)



- Shared Community SID has been purchased and is jointly owned and managed with Fovant and Ansty
 - Swallowcliffe Usage: 3 weeks out of 9
- SID part funded by Wiltshire Council
- Additional locations to be selected
- Wider Operations Team to be formed

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20MPH SPEED LIMIT UPDATE: This should be fully installed by June

Highways – 20 mph Limit Progress



	Status
Form Traffic Safety Group	Completed
Village Consultation	Completed
Grant Application	Completed
Technical Study by Wiltshire Council (WC)	Completed
Funding raised	Completed
WC Legal and notification procedures	Completed
Review and finalise WC plans	Completed
Construction/Implementation	Expected June 2019

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20 mph Speed Limit



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COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH: The possibility of forming such a group will be reexplored once the 20MPH speed limit is in place.

Community Speed Watch (CSW)



- Wiltshire Council assessment indicates a CSW is suitable for the Manor/Cravenplan stretch of road
- CSW Team would need to be formed and trained
- Gauging the level of support and volunteers available to champion this in the village



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50MPH SPEED LIMIT ON A30:

50 mph A30 Speed Limit?

- Sutton Mandeville PC have expressed concerns to Wiltshire Council regarding speeds on the A30
- They are proposing a 50 mph limit
 - This would include Manor Farm, Lancers, Southern Tank Services, Maidments and Sutton Land Rover Services
 - Horse warning signs for bridleway (Buxbury Hollow)
- Does Swallowcliffe we have any objection to this?

The meeting indicated that it was unanimous in its support for the proposal for a 50MPH speed limit on the A30

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Local Planning: The Parish Council had examined 7 applications made within the Village within the last year and had not objected to any.

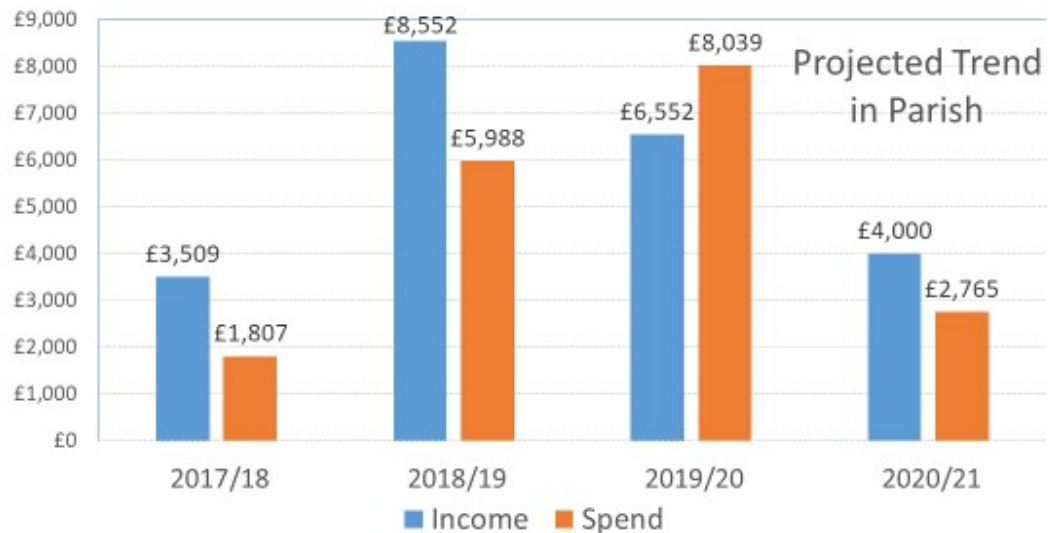
The Tisbury Neighbourhood plan is coming along. Development earmarked for the station area, Antsy Parish Council have objected due to the extra vehicle movements and the

concern over the narrow railway bridge. 10 of the parishioners' present indicated that they felt Swallowcliffe Parish should also object (Note: Not a majority of the people present).

PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE:

Cllr Blundell presented the slides

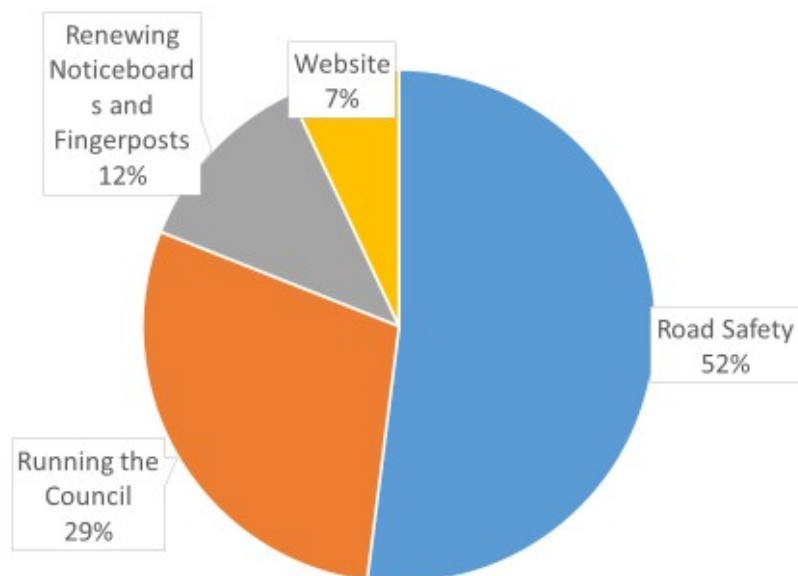
Parish Council Finance (Gerry Blundell)



- Precept projected to fall over next two years

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Parish Council Finance Anticipated Spend 2019/20



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V. Updates from local organizations:

THE VILLAGE HALL:

We have had a good year.

Hall Booking – hosted by Caroline Willis

There is increasing interest for the hall and furniture. The lack of car parking is a hindrance and needs some inspired thinking.

Maintenance – David Morrision.

Is ongoing with some replacement roof sheets and Underwoods are undertaking an Electrical check – report expected soon.

The Hall remains clean and tidy.

50/50 Club – Roy McCrudden –

We received £1300 so is a major boost to our funds.

Finance - Gerry Blundell –

We now have £10488.08 in the bank so there has been a steady increase in our reserves.

Future Events

Up date of Village Welcome Pack talking to PCC

Summer BBQ 20 th July

Although our committee doesn't see itself as an entertainment group we are happy to support or lend a hand with any events.

David Bright - Chairman

David Brown – Vice Chairman and Secretary

Village Hall bookings - Caroline Willis

Our committee meets approximately every 2 months and minutes are taken and published.

Village Hall Finance

	2017/18	2018/19 est
Income		
Hire	£1,248	£816
50/50 Club	£1,190	£1,300
Events	£1,306	£0
Tent Hire	£300	£0
Bequest	£500	£0
Elec Meter	£106	£166
	£4,650	£2,282
Costs		
Water	£64	£66
Electricity	£254	£245
Cleaning	£354	£316
Insurance	£1,098	£1,054
Maintenance	£47	£40
Events	£689	£0
Tent Purchase	£683	£0
	£3,189	£1,721

- Worrying fall in income

ALMSHOUSE REPORT:

Swallowcliffe Almshouse Report – Delivered at Village AGM - 11th April 2019

1. Trustees

Annabel Biddulph, Fee Carless, David Morrison, Rosemary Paines, Steve Whittingham.

2. Beneficiaries

We are very happy to have Zoe, Chris and Evelyn living in Goldhill. They have been busy landscaping the garden, with their latest project being to create a lawn at the back of the cottage.

We are also very happy to have Joe Ashby living in Sandhill; a handy commute to work!

3. Donations

Garden. Vegetation cut back twice a year.
We are very grateful to the generosity of the villagers who continue to support the Charity, through monthly donations. We use these donations to help finance the ongoing repairs and improvements to our almshouses.

4. Improvements

This summer we are going to have the thatch ridges replaced, on both cottages. The fencing, at the side and back of Goldhill, will also be completed soon.

There are still some outstanding 'snagging', on both cottages, which we are waiting for Sean and Hare to complete. We are also awaiting their final bill, which they will send once the snagging are completed.

Otherwise the cottages are in very good condition.

5. Finance

Our accounts are being audited and, once we have them back, they will be available for viewing on the Charity Commission website. I have copies of them here; if anyone would like to see them, please ask me at the end of the meeting.

6. Mortgage

We are slowly paying off our mortgage, with monthly payments to The Charity Bank. The monthly contributions from our beneficiaries, plus some monies saved, put us in a sound financial position for this.

7. Charity Lands

Matthew Fry continues to rent our 21 acre field.

ST PETER'S CHURCH:

By REX STEPHENSON

Since I last reported we have had a full programme of Sunday services throughout the year including a well-attended candle lit carol service and midnight mass, very popular lay lead services and a joint commemoration of the centenary of the Armistice with Ansty.

We have had two christenings, one wedding and a funeral.

The congregation has remained constant at about 15 average. Our open-door policy I think is greatly appreciated providing a quiet safe space in the village for all people. This is reflected in the notes from our many visitors to the church. I thank Chris and Janet Fenton (and others) for opening the church for us.

On the Fabric side:

We have benefited from the new audio system and improved hearing loop. The reordering of the West End is now complete providing a new space around the Font with new storage cupboards and a facility for preparing food and hot drinks. The west end floor has also been restored. Adam Rhymer our local joiner is to be congratulated on his excellent work. This new space is available for anyone to use in the village for meetings and gatherings as well as church services such as baptisms.

The Quinquennial Review of the Church has recently been completed. It states that the church is in reasonably good order although there is a need for work to be done on the hatch above the church entrance and an early inspection on the bells.

To run the church is costly but we are fortunate in having income for maintaining the fabric from the Friends of Saint Peters Church Swallowcliffe and we are very grateful for this. However, the church needs other funds to pay for our annual parish share and for the running costs of the building. The audited Annual Accounts are posted on the Church Notice Board. For this, Caroline Willis does a marvellous job running the fundraising for the church through the village fete and our famous quiz and curry nights. We are very grateful for the support of the village and ask you to continue to help us here. Caroline will be sending out an email calling for volunteers for this summer's fete in the afternoon of Sunday 10th August. You can also donate individually to the Friends and to the church account separately. Finally, we are looking to appoint a new treasurer and secretary and both these jobs have been advertised in the Focus and on line. They are remunerated so if anyone would like to help please let me, Janet Fenton or Graham Southgate know.

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank Tim Battle for all his sterling work as treasurer for the church over many years. It is good to know that he will continue to be treasurer of the Friends account. The Parochial Church Council Annual Meeting is at 7pm on Tuesday 30th April here in the village hall. I can take any questions but thank you for listening. Please support our church even if you dont believe since the building is very much part of our village history.

NB: The annual Church feat will take place on the 10th August 2019

VI. Open Forum:

- ❖ Attendees were reminded of the Swallowcliffe Facebook page, this carries detail of most events in the Parish.
- ❖ It was noted that a Sowing Club is run in the village
- ❖ The idea was floated of a new village mag, maybe every 3 months.
- ❖ The Village Hall committee asked for fundraising ideas.
- ❖ The Royal Oak: now have monthly tasting menus
- ❖ Solar panels at the Manor: noted that required planting has not taken place – the developer has promised to plant the hedgerow.

A resident proposed a **Vote of Thanks for the Parish Council Members**, this was passed unanimously.