

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

10TH APRIL 2007

Present:

Councillors:

Hugh Evans
Peter Allen

Chairman
Vice-Chairman

Colin Green
David Iliffe

Clark Miller
Joanna McVeagh

Also Present:

Stephen Holley
Councillor Leslie Godwin
PCSO Morag Gordon
One member of the Public

Clerk of the Council
Cheltenham Borough Council
Hesters Way INA

Apologies:

Rob Ellis

Glenn Simpson

PUBLIC SESSION

A. Trees in Swindon Hall

Mrs Jenny Jones expressed her concern that the Borough Council had not consulted adequately widely on the recent application to fell a spruce and pine tree in the rear garden of Longleat Swindon Hall (Reference 07/00303/CACN). Mrs Jones informed the Council that a total of five trees had been felled in the grounds of Swindon Hall during the year.

B. Traffic Study

Borough Councillor Leslie Godwin (Prestbury Ward) informed the Council that he felt it was incumbent on the County Council to undertake a Traffic Study and an Environmental Study of Swindon Village.

C. Police

1. PCSO Morag Gordon informed the Council that another PCSO was due to join her on completion of training. PCSO Gordon hoped that this would free her to undertake more patrols through the area, especially around the school at the beginning and end of the day.
2. Councillor Miller welcomed the Police presence at the Meeting. He expressed his regret that it now seemed impossible for him to enter Hesters Way Police Station, even as a representative of the Council.
3. PCSO Morag offered to patrol the village to keep an eye on specific parking problems.

07/039 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

07/040 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (13TH MARCH 2007)

RESOLVED that, with the following amendment, the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 13th March 2007 be approved as a correct record.

Attendance - Insert 'Councillor' before 'Suzanne Williams - Gloucestershire County Council'.

Arising thereon:

- (i) Other Traffic Matters (Minute 07/031.2 (i))

The Clerk was reminded to request the reason for the yellow hatchings painted outside the Car Wash premises on Kingsditch Lane.

- (ii) Other Traffic Matters (Minute 07/031.2 (iv))

The Clerk was reminded to request the approved plans for the redesigned mini-roundabouts at the junction of Wymans Lane and Kingsditch Lane

07/041 ADMINISTRATION**1. Correspondence**

1. Audit Commission - Notice that Moore Stephens, Chartered Accountants, have been appointed as the Council's External Auditor for one more year, pending a tendering process for a five-year contract.

2. Cheltenham Borough Council – 8th March. Mr Quentin Baker, Borough Solicitor. Copy letter to Department for Communities and Local Government in respect of error in boundary change map, "The error was not picked up by Cheltenham Borough Council as the draft plan sent to Gerald Ford on 30th October 2002 showed the industrial estate changes on the map marked as G. As the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill has yet to be enacted, I would be grateful if could you arrange for the omission to be rectified by your office as soon as possible. Please could you let me have a rough time scale of when this is likely to be completed." The Clerk had written stating the Council's definition of the disputed area. The Council requested a copy of the amended plan, once it became available.

3. Cheltenham Borough Council – 23rd March. Mr C Salisbury, Environmental Health Manager (Pollution Control). Leaflets on new dog control orders (to be circulated).

4. Cheltenham Borough Council – 15th March. Mr Quentin Baker, Borough Solicitor. Offer to all Parish Councils to publish documents on the Borough Council website. The Clerk has replied asking that a link to the parish website be displayed.

5. Cheltenham Borough Council – Amendments to the Register of Electors, March.

6. Cheltenham Borough Council - Mr Burden, Street Care Manager. Information for Stakeholders" on the transfer of highway care from Cheltenham Borough Council to Gloucestershire County Council (circulated to Members by email).

7. Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils – New Declaration of Office Acceptance forms.

8. Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils – March newsletter.
9. Gloucestershire Association for Voluntary & Community Action – 12 March. Training Brochure for Summer 2007.
10. Gloucestershire Rural Community Council – “Rural Regeneration” newsletter, April.
11. Local Councils Direct - Complimentary copy of “Local Councils Update”, briefing paper on matters relevant to Local Councils.
12. Moore Stephens, Chartered Accountants - 27th March. Notice that the Annual Audit for the year ending 31st March 2007 will need to be returned by 30th June 2007.
13. National Star College - 15th March. Newsletter and invitation to attend Springtime Special Information, Advice and Guidance Event on 22nd March 2007.

2. Annual Parish Assembly

The Assembly was held on 27th March 2007 and was attended by 15 members of the public and representatives of the Parish, District and County Councils. The various clubs and societies in the Parish had been invited to send representatives to hear a presentation by Ms Angela Gilbert of Cheltenham Voluntary and Community Action. Working draft minutes had been circulated for comments or observations. There were no actions considered necessary after the Assembly.

07/042

PLANNING

1. Planning Applications Referred to the Council for Observations

07/00329/ADV - Former Furniture Land Store, Tewkesbury Road - Display of internally illuminated M & S Home signs on south and east elevation of the building to replace existing. NO OBJECTIONS.

2. Telecommunications Mast

Consultation plans had been received in respect of a telecommunications mast proposed for installation near the two mini-roundabouts on Kingsditch Lane. The Council resolved to OBJECT on the following grounds: (1) the ground-mounted steel cabinet to contain the electronics was in a very prominent position, and might affect drivers visibility; (2) the mast and cabinet were in the forward visibility splay of this busy junction; (3) additional concerns as to whether there were any regulations on the permissible distance of such masts from playing fields. The Clerk was requested to state that the equipment might create less visual impact if installed on the electricity pylon in Runnings Road, or on the Vibixa corner.

07/043

TRAFFIC AND HIGHWAYS

1. Meeting with Highways Authority, regarding corner of Church Road

Mr Chapman of Church Road had arranged a site meeting with Officers from Gloucestershire Highways on 10th April 2007. Unfortunately no Member of the Parish Council had been able to attend.

2. Other Matters

(i) Wymans Lane railway bridge

The Clerk informed the Council that he had spoken to one of the design team responsible for the design of the collision protection beam, installed in the Wymans Lane railway bridge. The beam was mounted on the stonework of the

bridge, rather than on the steel span, because experience showed that such sacrificial beams were better able to absorb the impact of any collision.

(ii) International 'low bridge' road sign

The Clerk was requested to discover if there was such a thing as an internationally recognised 'low bridge' warning sign, which could be installed on the Wymans Lane railway bridge.

07/044 **MANOR COURT AMENITY AREA**

1. The contractors had reported that they expected to start some time in May. The Clerk would request a programme of work.
2. Councillor Evans reported that there was no sign of Japanese Knotweed.

07/045 **ALLOTMENTS**

1. Clearance of Overgrown Plots

The Council noted that work was almost complete on the clearance of the two overgrown plots. It was AGREED that a cheque should be signed for release following satisfactory inspection.

2. Allotment Hedge, facing Stantons Drive

A local resident had informed Councillor Iliffe that he was willing to quote to cut back the Allotments hedge. The Clerk had had no subsequent contact with the resident.

3. Allotment rents for the year ending 31st March 2007

The Clerk had not yet taken action to collect rent from five late-paying tenants, but would do so shortly.

07/046 **REPLACEMENT VILLAGE SIGN**

Councillors Allen, Chairman of the Village Sign Working Party, reported that he had been gathering and re-reading the documents relevant to the project.

07/047 **FINANCE**

Accounts Approved for Payment	£
Allianz Cornhill - Local Councils insurance premium	276.67
Severn Trent Water - Allotments water standing charge	6.15
Clerk's Salary, (March)	236.07
Expenses	<u>29.86</u>
	265.93
GAPTC - New Declaration of Office Acceptance forms	5.33
Constant Gardeners, Cirencester	
Clearance of two allotment plots	

07/048 **ANY BUSINESS ALLOWED BY THE CHAIRMAN**

The Meeting closed at 9.07 p.m.

Chairman