

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

SWINDON VILLAGE HALL, CHURCH ROAD

7TH AUGUST 2007

Present:

Councillors:

Hugh Evans
Peter Allen

Chairman
Vice-Chairman

Rob Ellis
Colin Green
Clark Miller

Joanna McVeagh
Glenn Simpson

Also Present:

Stephen Holley
Elizabeth Evans
One member of the Public

Clerk of the Council
Minutes

Apologies:

David Iliffe

PUBLIC SESSION

A. Floods

Miss Griffiths of Hyde Lane reported that on two recent occasions flash flooding had caused severe problems in the village. The culvert in Hyde Lane near Broadhaven was inadequately maintained; nor were the brook and ditches. Miss Griffiths' house had been flooded by over 18 inches of water; her freezer had been rendered inoperable; and water had pooled under her house. Miss Griffiths' mother had recently been unwell and they wondered whether this might have been caused by contaminated water. She had written to the Environmental Health Department asking this, but she had not received a reply. Miss Griffiths stated that flooding also occurred after heavy rain. She felt that the tree in the culvert was probably not a major factor, but the stream in the lane was not maintained. Miss Griffiths asked if the Council could provide a telephone number or email address for someone who could help.

Councillor Allen commented that the recent flooding had been caused by exceptional rainfall. Wet weather over several months meant that the ground and drainage systems were already saturated, so additional rainfall had nowhere to go. Councillor Allen noted that a new house built under new regulations had also been flooded. He informed Miss Griffiths that Cheltenham Borough Council was compiling a list of flood-damaged properties and recommended that Miss Griffiths register with the appropriate Officer (Mr Peter Woolley). Councillor Allen suggested that Miss Griffiths request Severn Trent Water to help remove the water under her house.

Councillors Green and Miller had written to the Borough Council stating the problems arising from the floods in their respective areas.

B. Cheltenham Borough Council

Mr. Richard Gibson of Cheltenham Borough Council presented the draft Cheltenham Borough Community Strategy and Local Development Framework. Mr Gibson suggested that a working party of two or three Members consider the document in detail. Mr Gibson was particularly keen to receive the Council's views on none major issues by 10th September 2007.

In response to Councillor Allen's statement that infrastructure was a problem in the village Mr Gibson explained that drains had not been an issue for the document. Councillor Allen explained that they were a major issue for Swindon residents. Other key issues were: highways; the loss of community identity, residents felt that Swindon had been 'swallowed up and ignored' by Cheltenham town; and the Swindon Village Conservation Area.

Mr Gibson explained that the Borough Council wanted to work with the five Parish Councils and their 'C5 Group', which would next meet on 18th September 2007. Councillor Allen stated that none of the Parish Councils felt that the Borough Council was listening to them. Councillor McVeagh added that elderly residents in the parished areas suffered from the lack of buses, shops and medical facilities.

07/083 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Miller declared a non-prejudicial interest in Minute 07/086, as his property in Hyde Lane had been one of those affected by the flooding.

Councillor Green joined the Meeting at this point.

07/084 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (10TH JULY 2007)

RESOLVED that, with the following amendments, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th July 2007 be approved as a correct record:

Minute 07/076 - Planning, Item 4 - Site Occupiers' Sign, Kingsditch Industrial Estate - Delete this item.

07/085 CHELTENHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

In the light of Mr. Gibson's presentations to the Council during the Public Sessions of the July 2006, July 2007 and the present Meeting, the Council was invited to consider a response to the consultation on Cheltenham Borough Council's Community Strategy and Local Development Framework.

RESOLVED that Members of the Council individually download the response form from the Borough Council website, and send any comments on Cheltenham Borough Council's draft Community Strategy and Local Development Framework to Councillor McVeagh for collation and forwarding to the Borough Council.

07/086 FLOODING IN SWINDON PARISH

The Council was invited to consider reports of flood damage and to make recommendations for repair work or remedial work to the appropriate authorities. Mr Peter Woolley at the Borough Council was compiling a list of damaged properties.

It was noted that flooding in Hyde Lane had affected Shangri-la; Inglenook had been surrounded by flood water; and Broadhaven had flood water around the house and up to the front step.

Members stated that they did not believe the culvert under Hyde Lane would have coped with the flood water even if it had been well maintained and kept clear; there had been far too much rain. It was suggested that the pavement under the Hyde Lane railway bridge be raised by six to eight feet, to allow pedestrians past in wet weather (and have the additional advantage of keeping pedestrians away from traffic), and that a water depth marker be installed.

Councillor Miller had noted that a tree was growing in the stream and obstructing flow.

Councillor McVeagh stated that the storm drains on Hyde Lane had not been cleaned and had emptied into the stream, there was insufficient drainage on the south side of Hyde Lane. Councillor Allen remarked that he had asked for the gullies to be cleaned at the time of the bridge repair work.

Councillor Green informed the Council that there had been a limited amount of flood damage on his side of the Parish; he would produce a map showing the affected areas. Of particular note, the Mill had been severely flooded and Attwood Close had got wet. A number of vehicles had been lost to flood damage.

The Chairman noted that the School had been badly affected (causing the present Meeting to be held in the Village Hall).

Councillor McVeagh informed the Meeting that the back gardens of Riverleys had got very wet; sandbags had been delivered to one house.

07/087

ADMINISTRATION

1. Correspondence

1. Cheltenham Borough Council – Forward Plan, Cabinet August to November 2007.

2. Cheltenham Borough Council – Elections and Registration Manager. List of Amendments to the Register of Electors from 1st August 2007.

3. Cheltenham Borough Council – 27th July. Elections and Registration Manager. Notice that the Borough Council is to carry out a review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations. The reason for the review is to ensure that all electors have such reasonable facilities as are practicable and to ensure that polling stations are accessible to all electors including those with special needs. The review commenced on 30th July and will conclude on 28th August 2007. Any elector may make representations and comments would also be welcome from persons with particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability.

4. Cheltenham Borough Council – 17th July. Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer. Two further training sessions on the new Members' Code of Conduct have been arranged on Thursday 23rd August 2007 (see Minute 07/087.2 below).

5. Gloucestershire Association for Voluntary and Community Action (GAVCA) - Summer 2007 edition of 'Link' newsletter.

6. Gloucestershire County Council - 12th July. Chief Executive. Second edition of the Gloucestershire Charter. The Charter was reviewed during the spring by Officers and a number of chartered parishes. It has the full approval of the GAPTC and the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council. Feedback from the Charter Group meetings has led to the following comment from a Miserden Parish Councillor, *"The departments involved do appear to be listening to the suggestions made by the parish representatives"*

7. Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association - Summer 2007 edition of 'The Playing Field' newsletter.

2. Members' Training on the New Code of Conduct

Four Members of the Council were able to attend the training sessions held on 5th July 2007. Those Members who were unable to attend on that day are encouraged to attend one of the sessions to be held at the Municipal Offices on Thursday 23rd August 2007. Session 1 will be held from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm and Session 2 will be held from 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm.

The training is aimed at individual Councillors rather than representatives from each Council, as the Code of Conduct applies to each Member's conduct at Meetings and elsewhere when in their official capacity.

07/088

REPORTS

1. Report of the County Councillor

No report. (*Note: the Clerk had been sent an emailed report by County Councillor Suzanne Williams, but he had not been able to print it in time for the Meeting*).

2. Report(s) of the Borough Councillors

Borough Councillor Allen reported that he had been away for the beginning of the recent floods, but had found it satisfying to note the way that people were pulling together. He welcomed the daily email updates from the Borough Council, which had worked very well.

3. Reports of Members of Swindon Parish Council

(i) Councillor Simpson reported no change in respect of Renault Arriva parking cars for sale on the public verge (Public Session, 10th July 2007). Councillor Miller had seen that the cars were not displaying tax discs. Councillor McVeagh had seen Renault Arriva selling a car from the car park of Sainsbury's premises on Tewkesbury Road, but this had not become a regular occurrence. It was not known whether this was an offence or contrary to any planning regulation and the Council AGREED to take no further action.

(ii) Councillor Allen noted that that three of the bollards outside Evans Halshaw Motorhouse on Manor Road had been knocked down and the 'hoop' was still down.

(iii) Councillor Miller reported that the 'D' in Hyde Lane had been churned up by lorries reversing into it after finding their route blocked by the railway bridge. The kerbing had been damaged and a post lost.

- (iv) Councillor Miller also reported that the kerbing to the pavement on Hyde lane from the 'D' to the railway bridge was almost non-existent. The pavement had a number of slopes and was awkward to walk on in places. Perhaps the pavement could be raised and levelled. Severn Trent could be requested to advise on the possibility that these works might help remediate local flooding.
- (v) Councillor Ellis reported that, as a School Governor, he had helped the School remove twelve classroom carpets. They would probably be replaced in time for the new school year starting in September. Unfortunately the Out of School Club building appeared to be irreparable. The computer buildings had not been damaged.
- (vi) Councillor Green reported that he and other Councillors had visited a number of residents affected by the floods. It would have been useful to have had an identity card of some type. The Clerk would investigate this suggestion and report to a future Meeting.
- (vii) Councillor Green also suggested that the Council consider how it might be better placed to help in the event of future emergencies such as flooding. The Clerk explained that the County Council had an Emergency Plan in which the District Councils had defined roles. It had been noted in the more widely-parished districts that a lot of self-help had been organised by the Parish Councils, although on an *ad hoc* basis.

07/089

PLANNING**1. Planning Applications received for observations**

07/00967/FUL - Homebase Centrum Park - erection of Garden centre canopy. NO OBJECTION.

07/00968/ADV - Homebase, Centrum Park - erection of advertising signs. NO OBJECTION.

07/00862/FUL - 144 Riverleys - Erection of extension (revised plan). NO OBJECTION.

2. Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Headquarters Building

It was reported that a new Headquarters building was to be constructed on Tewkesbury Road, at a location outside the Parish and Borough.

3. Decisions on Planning Applications

The Council noted the following decisions made by Cheltenham Borough Council:

07/00516/FUL - Mitsubishi Motors, Tewkesbury Road - Extension to workshop. PERMITTED

07/00756/CLPUD - 29 Wymans Lane - Erection of 1.8 m high wooden fence to enclose garden. REFUSAL OF LAWFUL PROPOSED USE.

07/090

TRAFFIC AND HIGHWAYS**1. Removal or Relocation of Bus Shelter in Quat Goose Lane**

The Clerk was requested to remind the County Council Officer concerned that the Council wished to find a solution whereby the shelter was retained.

2. Other Traffic and Highway Matters

(i) Members were concerned to hear Councillor Allen’s report that a number of lorry route signs were to be installed directing lorries through the village.

(ii) Councillor Allen reported that the remains of an old fitted kitchen had been dumped at the entrance to Dog Bark Lane. There was also a quantity of flood debris. The Clerk would report this to the Cleansing Department of the Borough Council.

07/091 MANOR COURT AMENITY AREA

1. Embankment Repair Project

(i) The Clerk had spoken with Mr. Peter Grimshaw of the Grimshaw Group. Mr Grimshaw had reported having received approval from the Environment Agency for the plans for the Embankment Repair Project, which had to be re-drawn as they showed the water flow in the wrong direction. Mr Grimshaw stated that he had pencilled in dates in June and July to commence the work but excessive rainwater lead to levels too high to commence work. Mr. Grimshaw was now hoping for a ten-day ‘window’ in August to commence work.

(ii) There had been no obvious damage to the emebankment arising from the recent floods.

(iii) The Clerk was requested to remind the Environment Agency of the Council’s plans, in case the Agency was planning any flood alleviation measures.

07/092 ALLOTMENTS

There were no reports.

07/093 VILLAGE SIGN

There were no reports.

07/094 COMMUNITY PRIDE GRANT

Councillor Allen had received an application pack. Members were invited to consider likely projects.

Councillor Green left at this point.

07/095 FINANCE

1. Accounts Approved for Payment

	£	£
Clerk's Salary, (July)	236.07	
Expenses	<u>29.86</u>	
		265.93

Swindon Village Primary School - Room Hire 2007 (Heating) 28.45

2. Quarterly Statement of Financial Control

Consideration was DEFERRED because the Clerk's late arrival had meant that Councillor Ellis had been given no opportunity to examine the accounts.

07/096 MATTERS IDENTIFIED FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

In addition to the list below, Members are invited to suggest items for possible inclusion on future Agendas.

- Eligibility for Quality Council status
- Informal session on the future role of the Council
- Allotment holders' liability for injury caused to trespassers
- Adoption of the revised Code of Conduct (before 1st October 2007)
- Adoption of a Complaints Procedure
- Identity cards for Members
- Parish Councils' role in Emergency Planning

07/097 OTHER BUSINESS ALLOWED BY THE CHAIRMAN AS URGENT

There was no urgent business

The Meeting closed at 9.43 p.m.

Chairman