

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

17TH FEBRUARY 2009

SWINDON VILLAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHURCH ROAD

Present:

Councillors:

Hugh Evans (Chairman)

Peter Allen (Vice-Chairman)

David Iliffe

Glenn Simpson

Also Present:

Stephen Holley (Clerk of the Council)

Apologies:

Rob Ellis
Colin Green

Joanna McVeagh

PUBLIC SESSION

There were no Members of the Public present.

09/015 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

09/016 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council, held on 13th January 2009, be approved as a correct record.

Arising thereon:-

Village Hall – Request for Donation in Respect of New Floor (Minute 09/009)

It was noted that the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee had written to state that he was not yet in a position to provide the information requested by the Council. In response, the Clerk had advised that any decision on the donation would be deferred until the information was supplied (Reports - Minute 09/019.5 below, also refers).

09/017 CO-OPTION TO FILL VACANCY ON THE COUNCIL

It was understood that one or two people had expressed an interest in the vacancy, which would be kept as a standing item on the Agenda until further notice.

09/018 ADMINISTRATION**1. Correspondence
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The Council noted a list of correspondence received.

2. Administration of the Annual Parish Assembly

In view of a double-booking, it was AGREED to amend the date of the Parish Assembly from Tuesday 31st March 2009 to Tuesday 24th March 2009. The Assembly would be held in the School Hall. It was also AGREED that the subject of large-scale development to the north-west of the parish was still very relevant and it would be worthwhile inviting a speaker from Cheltenham Borough Council

3. Parish Councillors' Identity Card

The Council received a draft design for a Parish Council ID card. The design was AGREED with minor changes. The card would be available to all Members, but would not be mandatory. The Clerk requested receipt of a single passport photograph from interested Members, no later than the end of March 2009. Members would be reimbursed for the cost.

09/019 REPORTS

1. Councillors Iliffe and Simpson reported having attended the exhibition and site visit to the Grundons premises at Wingmoor Farm on Friday 30th January and Saturday 31st January respectively. They agreed that the operation appeared well-managed. They had observed a white substance under the ash silos and requested the Clerk to ask what this was.

2. Councillor Iliffe reminded the Council that sheep used to graze on the surface of the waste cells, after they had been closed and landscaped. He understood that this was no longer done, to avoid of any risk of contamination from the waste underneath getting through the food chain into lamb sold for human consumption. Now, alpacas were grazing there, as they were only used to produce wool. However, the grass appeared to be used for hay-making, and the Clerk was requested to find out what purpose the hay was put to.

3. Councillor Iliffe informed the Council of a recent door-to-door charity collection organised by the Red Cross. Following a resident's query, Councillor Iliffe had been able to use the Red Cross website to establish that the collection was genuine. This was a useful check. Householders in doubt as to the authenticity of charity collectors should be reminded that any one collecting 'door-to-door' must have either a permit from the local authority, or a Home Office exemption order issued to large charities.

4. Councillor Allen asked the Clerk to forward the following question to County Councillor Suzanné Williams, *"Given the plans for a major re-development of the centre of Gloucester City, what safeguards are being put in place to safeguard local construction jobs?"*

5. Councillor Evans, the Chairman, informed the Council that he had attended the last meeting of the Village Hall Committee. There, he had learned of

damage caused by two break-ins over the Christmas and New Year holidays. Some of the loss and damage would be paid for by insurance, the rest would come from reserves. The Committee had also discovered a need to attend to the Hall soffits. The combined expense was likely to stall the project for a new floor.

09/020 NOMINATION(S) TO ATTEND THE QUEEN'S GARDEN PARTY

1. The Council noted that the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils (GAPTC) had invited expressions of interest from Members of the Council in attending the Queen's Garden Party. The GAPTC would forward only four of these nominations to the Lord Chamberlain and had suggested that the Council consider Chairman of Parish Councils and Town Mayors, or Councillors with notable service to the community.
2. Councillor Iliffe had initially submitted such an expression of interest, but had withdrawn on learning that he was ineligible, having attended one of the Queen's Garden Parties on a previous occasion. There were no other expressions of interest.

09/021 PLANNING AND LICENSING

1. Planning Applications referred to the Council for observations

(i) Comments on Applications Delegated to the Clerk for Observations

The Council noted the following comments on applications delegated to the Clerk for observations (subsequent to consultation with Members of the Council): -

09/00015/FUL - 31 Malmesbury Road - Installation of LPG gas supply tank for use by the Womens Royal Voluntary Service. NO OBJECTION

09/00007/FUL - The Lodge, Church Road - Double Garage - OBJECTION, the roof is too tall and dominant and is therefore unsuitable for the conservation area. The Council would have no objection if the design was modified to give a roof of a shallower pitch.

09/00087/CACN - 36 Church Road – Fell sycamore tree (T1 on plan) and re-coppice hazel tree (T2 on plan).

With regard to the last application, it was understood that a legal case had very recently resulted in a decision that all trees in a Conservation Area were protected, i.e. fruit trees and saplings were no longer excluded. The Clerk was requested to seek confirmation.

(ii) Responses to other applications referred to the Council

09/00051/FUL – Hedwig House, Brockhampton Lane – Extension. NO OBJECTION

2. Decisions on Planning Applications

The Council noted the following decisions on Planning Applications, notified by the Borough Council.

08/01248/FUL - Safestore Unit 2 Centrum Park - Installation of 2.4m high palisade fencing to enclose sections of the car park and a vehicular access gate into the enclosure. PERMITTED

08/01483/ADV - Currys Tewkesbury Road - Consent to display re-skinned fascia and pylon signs (retrospective) - no change to shopfront. PERMITTED

08/01501/FUL - Cheltenham Filling Station, Tewkesbury Road - Single storey rear extension to extend shop at petrol filling station (resubmission following refusal). PERMITTED

08/01567/FUL - 69 River Leys - First floor dormer window extension to rear of property. PERMITTED

08/01575/FUL - 2 Hulbert Close - Two storey side extension to provide annexe and front porch. PERMITTED

08/01584/FUL - 29 Quat Goose Lane - Two storey side extension. REFUSED

08/01585/COU – Units 2 and 5, Kingsditch Trading Estate – Renewal of existing temporary (3 year) Change of Use to vocational education and training in respect of Unit 5 for a further 3 year period, and inclusion of Unit 2 for the same purpose. PERMITTED

(Note: the Clerk was requested to ask why the application at Safestore, Unit 2 Centrum Park (above) and that at Belmont, Hyde Lane [Meeting held 9th December 2008, Minute 08/147.2] had been permitted).

3. Wall at The Lodge, Swindon Hall

The Council noted that a resident had expressed concerns over the state of the wall at The Lodge, Swindon Hall, Church Road. It was reported that the householder was a builder, who would soon make the repair. The work had been delayed until planning permission could be obtained.

4. Wall at The Grange, Quat Goose Lane

The Clerk was requested to discover whether the re-building of this wall had required permission and, if so, whether it had been obtained.

5. Green Belt Review

Councillor Iliffe reported that Borough Councillor Paul Massey had advised a recent meeting of the 'Save the Countryside' campaign that the Gloucester City, Cheltenham Borough and Tewkesbury Borough Councils had agreed in partnership with the County Council, to prepare a Joint Core Strategy (JCS), which would guide development for the period up to 2026. As it was understood that the JCS would attempt to address issues arising from the South West Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and the future of the RSS was in doubt, it could be that the JCS would be a nugatory effort. The Clerk was requested to ask Cheltenham Borough Council to explain the purpose of the JCS.

09/021 TRAFFIC AND HIGHWAYS**1. 'Give Way' Markings at the Junction of Rivelands Road and Quat Goose Lane**

The Council noted with satisfaction that Gloucestershire Highways had repainted the missing markings.

2. Members' reports on Highway Matters

(i) The Council AGREED to support Councillor Simpson's suggestion that the speed limit on Manor Road, from Barclays Bank to Spirax Sarco, be reduced from the national speed limit to 30mph. The Clerk would relay this to Gloucestershire Highways.

(ii) Councillor Allen reported that he had received a number of complaints about cyclists riding without lights around the village and on its footpaths. It was AGREED to request the Clerk to ask the Police to monitor the situation and enforce the law.

(iii) Councillor Allen drew the Council's attention to the number of potholes that had appeared in various roads after the recent icy weather. The Council acknowledged that Gloucestershire Highways would have to prioritise repairs, but AGREED to request the Clerk to draw urgent attention to:

- a pothole that had developed around a water stopcock access point at the junction of Drayton Close and Wymans Lane. If a prompt repair was not effected, the equipment might be damaged;
- a pothole at south-east of the junction of Swindon Lane and Wymans Lane. This was deep enough to have caused a cyclist to be thrown into the road, fortunately with only superficial injury.

(iv) Councillor Allen reported that the surface of the Park and Ride facility at the Racecourse had been dangerously slippery during the recent icy weather. Also, the footpath across Swindon Playing Fields, from Mary Godwin Pavilion to the exit opposite the School had been very slippery. It was AGREED to request the Clerk to ask that these places be added to the gritting/salting list.

(v) Councillor Iliffe referred to an offer from Gloucestershire Highways to supply salt to interested parishes. Perhaps the Council should obtain storage bins for location around the parish. These bins would not be locked, in order to allow residents to help themselves and spread it on footpaths themselves. It was AGREED to request the Clerk to compose a few lines for Village News, asking residents to state whether they would support this idea.

(vi) Councillor Evans, the Chairman, informed the Council that he had submitted a question for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the Borough Council. The Committee was due to hear a report from the Police, and Councillor Evans' question was to the Police on what plans they had to address boy racers in the parish. It had been noted that enforcement at the Retail Parks had simply resulted in them re-locating to the Industrial Estates.

(vii) Councillor Simpson asked the Clerk to request an update report from Gloucestershire Highways on the Council's previous request for a proper pavement on the easterly verge of Wymans Lane, from CF Roberts' premises at Barrington House to Cotswold Bowl.

09/022 **ALLOTMENTS****1. Allotment Manager's Report**

The Council noted the Allotments Manager's report that he had let all the vacant plots and had of plots that appeared to be unready for spring. He would monitor these plots.

2. Work in the Allotments

(i) The Allotments Manager had asked if the Council would arrange for the hedge to be cut; to allow in light and cut down the birds. It was AGREED that the Clerk should seek professional quotations.

(ii) The Allotments Manager had also suggested that the Council arrange for a large skip for a weekend to encourage the allotment holders to have a tidying session and remove all glass etc., to make the area look tidy and be safe. It was AGREED to delegate authority to the Clerk to arrange for a suitable skip to be provided at a cost not exceeding £200.

3. Bee-keeping in the Allotments

The Council considered a request to keep bees in the Stanton's Drive Allotments, which the Allotments Manager had received from a prospective tenant. The Council noted the advice of the Borough Council's Allotments Officer and the Chairman of the Cheltenham Allotment Tenants' Association (who was himself a bee-keeper). The Clerk also provided 'good practice' information from other organisations.

The Council considered the possible benefit of increased yields on all adjoining plots, the risks associated with bee-stings and swarming, and measures to minimise those risks.

RESOLVED that bee-keeping not be permitted on the Stanton's Drive Allotments.

09/023 **EMERGENCY PLANNING**

As Councillor Green was absent, it was agreed to DEFER this item to the next Meeting.

09/024 **VILLAGE SIGN**

Councillor Allen tabled a number of possible designs for a painted board type of sign. He reminded the Council that, at the last Meeting, he had circulated sketch plans for ideas involving either an engraved stone sign, or a sign mounted on a stone base. It was AGREED that both types of sign should remain under consideration. The Clerk offered to obtain prices for a stone sign, while Councillor Allen would continue to work on designs for a painted board.

09/025 FINANCE**1. Accounts Approved for Payment**

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

2. Electronic Banking

It was AGREED to amend the Bank Mandate to allow the Clerk (only) to obtain balances and make transfers electronically. Note: payments would continue to be possible by cheque only, with signatures from the Clerk and any two Members of the Council.

3. Appointment of Independent Internal Auditor

The Council noted that Mr. Selkirk, FCA, had offered to be the Council's Independent Internal Auditor for the same fee as in 2007/08.

RESOLVED that Mr. Iain Selkirk be re-appointed as the Council's Independent Internal Auditor for year ended 31st March 2009.

09/026 MATTERS IDENTIFIED FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

Members noted the following list of items for future discussion. The updated list now comprised:-

- the allocation of Section 106 ' Planning Gain' monies to the area.
- Flood Wardens Scheme
- Eligibility for Quality Council status
- Extension of the footpath from the Amenity Area to Swindon Playing Fields

09/027 OTHER BUSINESS ALLOWED BY THE CHAIRMAN AS URGENT

There was no urgent business.

The Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Chairman