

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

10TH MARCH 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)

Sgt Paul Simmons (Gloucestershire Constabulary)

PCSO Morag Gordon (Gloucestershire Constabulary)

Three members of the public

Apologies:

Rob Ellis
Colin Green

Joanna McVeagh

PUBLIC SESSION

A. 'Give Way' markings at the north end of Rivelands Road

Mrs. Holmes of Rivelands Road was present to offer her thanks to the Council and to County Councillor Suzanne Williams for arranging the reinstatement of the 'give way' markings at the junction of Rivelands Road and Quat Goose Lane.

B. Save the Countryside

Mrs. Helen Wells of the 'Save the Countryside' group informed the Council that the group was still going strong. A recent event at the Houses of Parliament had been arranged in conjunction with other groups from the South-West. Mrs. Wells informed the Council of the group's forthcoming activities and welcomed anyone to attend.

C. Police Matters

(i) Sgt Paul Simmons and PCSO Morag Gordon of the Hesters Way Safer Communities Team (SCT) were welcomed to the meeting.

(ii) PCSO Gordon provided an update on the 'boy racer' problem in the Kingsditch Industrial Estate. She explained that she had discussed the problem with Mr. Keith Rog of the 'Parklife' Business Parks Project, an organisation set up to support the occupiers of business and industrial parks. PCSO Gordon was intending to arrange a meeting for interested parties sometime in April 2009. Sgt

Simmons provided information explaining what the Police were and were not able to do.

(iii) Sgt Simmons explained that he headed the Hesters Way SCT and that SARA stood for Scanning Analysis Response and Assessment. It was a problem-solving technique to achieve multi-agency long-term sustainable results. At a Neighbourhood Co-ordination Meeting held the previous day attendees had discussed SARA planning and the current SARA regarding ownership and responsibility for the green area in the Gardeners Lane / Windyridge area. The meeting had also discussed perceptions of anti-social behaviour in Elm Street area (outside Swindon Parish, but within the SCT) and the dangers associated with parents dropping off their children outside schools.

(iv) In response to a Member's question, Sgt Simmons explained how Neighbourhood Co-ordination Meetings were organised and confirmed that they were open to the public.

(v) Councillor Allen explained that he shared the view that the Police had lost a significant link with the community when the Swindon Road station was closed. A former Member of the Council had found it very frustrating that, frequently, no-one answered the door of the Hesters Way station during normal working hours.

09/028 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

09/029 MINUTES

RESOLVED that, with the following amendment, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council, held on 17th February 2009, be approved as a correct record:

Planning and Licensing - Green Belt Review (Minute 09/021.5)

At the end of the final sentence add the word, "meetings"

Arising thereon:-

Traffic and Highways - Members' Reports On Highway Matters (Minute 09/021.2 (i))

Sgt Simmons stated that he would support the Council's suggestion that the speed limit on Manor Road, from Barclays Bank to Spirax Sarco, be reduced from the national speed limit to 30mph.

Traffic and Highways - Members' Reports On Highway Matters (Minute 09/021.2 (ii))

Sgt Simmons was informed that Councillor Allen had received a number of complaints about cyclists riding without lights around the village and on its footpaths and noted the Council's request that the Police monitor the situation and enforce the law.

09/030 **CO-OPTION TO FILL VACANCY ON THE COUNCIL**

It was noted that an application to be co-opted to the Council would be presented at the next Meeting. The interested person would be invited to attend.

The Clerk reminded the Council that there were two vacancies to be filled and requested that Members promote the remaining vacancy to likely residents.

09/031 **ADMINISTRATION****1. Correspondence**

The Council received a note of correspondence received.

2. Administration of the Annual Parish Assembly

The Council discussed arrangements for the Parish Assembly, scheduled to be held in the School Hall on Tuesday 24th March 2009.

It was noted with regret that the Clerk had not been able to find a speaker on the South West Regional Spatial Strategy: the lead Officer at Cheltenham Borough Council was on maternity leave and the lead Officer at Tewkesbury Borough Council (who had spoke at the Parish Assembly in 2008) had left. The two Councils now shared one Officer in respect of the South West Regional Spatial Strategy and he had declined to attend.

09/032 **REPORTS****(i) Report(s) of the Borough Councillors**

Borough Councillor Bernie Fisher informed the Council that the Borough Council had set the Council Tax for 2009/10, with an increase of 3%.

Councillor Fisher advised the Council of a planning application at the Spirax Sarco for a major re-development of its premises in Manor Road. The application was significant, with the number of staff increasing from around 200 to 360, working 24/7 shifts. Councillor Fisher stated that he was working to get s.106 'planning gain' money for the village, if the application was to be approved. He suggested that Wymans Lane (from CF Roberts premises) and Manor Road could be narrowed, to make them less usable by heavy vehicles. In response, it was AGREED that the Council would not wish to see restrictions on Wymans Lane or Manor Road, this might suit residents of those roads, but could have a far worse effect of renewing pressure for a North West Distributor Road. Any s.106 money from Spirax Sarco (or elsewhere) would probably be better used building a new pedestrian bridge alongside the existing road bridge on Swindon Road, where it crossed the railway. The pavement on the road bridge could then be removed, allowing its full width to be used by vehicular traffic and thereby easing traffic flows.

Councillor Fisher could not say why the Council had not been consulted on proposals for the Swindon Road Depot being opened to shared use by Tewkesbury Borough Council, but would ask for this to be done.

(ii) Reports from Members of Swindon Parish Council

Councillor Allen informed the Council that Evans Halshaw Motorhouse on Manor Road was storing a large number of vehicles on the other side of the road, on land within Swindon Farm. Councillor Fisher stated that he would ask the Planning Enforcement Officers to check what was going on.

09/033

PLANNING AND LICENSING

1. Planning Applications referred to the Council for observations

To consider responses to other applications referred to the Council.

09/00140/ADV - Former Homebase Limited, Gallagher Retail Park, Tewkesbury Road - Application to display advertisements sign types A - G as per drawings. NO OBJECTION.

09/00143/FUL – Cheltenham Borough Council Depot, Swindon Road - Siting of Portacabin. NO OBJECTION.

5 Swindon Manor – NO OBJECTION, but the Borough Council should be advised that, if the fireplace was to be increased in size to allow a real fire, and carpets were fitted, then firebricks would be required to provide adequate ventilation. Such firebricks would affect the external appearance of the Manor and may need to be included within the application.

2. Decisions on Planning Applications

The following Planning decision received from the Borough Council was noted:

08/01588/FUL - 34 Church Road - Installation of solar panel(s) for hot water on South facing roof. PERMITTED

09/034

TRAFFIC AND HIGHWAYS

(i) As Sgt Simmons was present, the Chairman invited him to comment on the Council's proposal that the speed limit on Manor Road, from Barclays Bank to Spirax Sarco, be reduced from the national speed limit to 30mph (Minute 09/021.2 (i) referred). Sgt Simmons stated that he felt this was a sensible proposal. The Clerk would relay this to Gloucestershire Highways.

(ii) The Clerk was requested to investigate the outcome of Cheltenham Borough Council's proposal for the village centre to be made a 20mph zone, such as had happened in the St. Luke's area of the town.

(iii) It was noted that vehicles had been unloaded on Manor Road outside the Renault Hilton garage. This usually occurred at busy times, when there was more danger of collision.

(iv) The Clerk was requested to inform Gloucestershire Highways that the damage to road surface around the stop taps in Manor Road was worsening. Urgent action was required to protect the taps themselves from being damaged by traffic.

(v) It had been noted that the kerb outside 42 Church Road (opposite Swindon Hall Lodge) had been depressed to road level after being over-ridden by heavy lorries. The Clerk would request a repair.

09/035 ALLOTMENTS

The Chairman informed the Council that he had noticed a leak in the water supply. The Clerk was requested to arrange a repair.

09/036 EMERGENCY PLANNING

This item was deferred.

09/037 VILLAGE SIGN

The Clerk informed the Council that he had approached a quarry and a monumental mason with a request to quote for a simple stone sign. These quotes would be provided to the Council once they had been received.

09/038 FINANCE

Accounts Approved for Payment

	£	£
Clerk's Salary, (February)	236.07	
Expenses	<u>29.86</u>	
		265.93
Severn Trent Water – Water services, Allotments (Meter reading 25 th February 2009)		55.78

09/039 MATTERS IDENTIFIED FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

- Section 106 'Planning Gain' monies. The Clerk would request a brief report on how the Borough Council allocated these monies and the criteria used.
- Review of the Clerk's salary, to include 'benchmarking'
- Flood Wardens Scheme
- Eligibility for Quality Council status
- Extension of the footpath from the Amenity Area to Swindon Playing Fields

09/040 OTHER BUSINESS ALLOWED BY THE CHAIRMAN AS URGENT

There was no urgent business.

The Meeting closed at 9.09 p.m.

Chairman