

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

NOTES FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

11TH MAY 2010

SWINDON VILLAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHURCH ROAD

Present:

Councillors:

Hugh Evans (Retiring Chairman)
David Iliffe (Chairman Elect)

Frances Hunter
Joanna McVeagh

Glenn Simpson

Apologies:

Peter Allen

Adam Slaughter

Also Present:

Stephen Holley (Clerk of the Council)
Three members of the public

10/053

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

In accordance with the regulations, Mr. Hugh Evans remained Chairman of the Council until the election of a new Chairman at the Annual Meeting. In that capacity Mr. Evans presided over the following item of business.

(i) Councillor David Iliffe was elected as Chairman of the Council without opposition, to serve until the Annual Meeting in 2011.

At this point, Mr. Evans ceded the Chair to Councillor Iliffe and handed over 'the Chairman's Box', containing duplicates of essential Council documents. Councillor Iliffe signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chairman of the Council.

Councillor Iliffe thanked Mr. Evans for his work as Chairman over the preceding eight years.

(ii) In view of the absence of two Members, it was AGREED to defer the appointment of a Vice-Chairman until the next Meeting.

At this point the Meeting was adjourned, to allow for the Public Session

PUBLIC SESSION

A. Save the Countryside - Annual Walk

(i) Mrs. Helen Wells and a fellow member of the 'Save the Countryside' campaign drew attention to the group's 'Third Annual Circular Walk', to be held on Sunday 23rd May 2010, invited Parish Councillors to attend and asked permission to

put up posters. It was noted that arrangements had already been made to allow the group to advertise the event in the Parish Council's noticeboard and elsewhere.

(ii) Mrs. Wells also drew attention to an event organised by the Joint Core Strategy (JCS) team to be held at the Municipal Offices on 19th May 2010 and to the JCS 'Stakeholder Conference' to be held on Tuesday 8th June 2010.

B. Boy Racers/Cruisers

(i) Mrs. Michelle Roberts of Winchcombe informed the Council that she had attended the last meeting of the Borough Council's 'Boy Racer Working Group' along with Parish Councillor Adam Slaughter. The previous two meetings had been cancelled due to key Officers not being present. Mrs. Roberts felt that the Working Group was simply going round in circles and achieving nothing, whereas other Police forces and other authorities could provide examples of success. It was AGREED to request the Clerk to write expressing the Council's disappointment with the situation.

(ii) Mrs. Roberts informed the Council that the Police response to information on cruise events varied according to location. She would monitor a big event to be held in Bristol on 23rd May 2010, as she expected drivers to congregate in the usual places before moving in convoy to Bristol. The next meeting after that was planned for 4th June 2010.

(iii) Mrs. Roberts also referred to a presentation to the Council by Spirax Sarco during which the company's development plans had been laid out. The company had assured the Council that it would minimise traffic problems but a high number of visitors had visited the Runnings Road site during the week preceding the meeting, causing chaos. It was AGREED to request the Clerk to ask that appropriate arrangements be put in place prior to Gloucestershire Highways undertaking road works.

C. Other Highway Matters

(i) The Council was advised of a fly-tipping incident at the entrance to Dog Bark Lane on Manor Road. The Clerk would inform the Waste Department.

(ii) Mrs. Wells advised the Council that, when Stantons Drive had been resurfaced recently, the new surface had not extended to her home. It was AGREED to request the Clerk to draw this to the attention of Gloucestershire Highways.

10/054 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST(S)**

There were no declarations of interest(s).

10/055 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council, held on 13th April 2010, be approved as a correct record:

Arising thereon:

Reports - Minute 10/046 (ii)

Councillor Iliffe reported that, having attended a presentation on the Joint Core Strategy, he had been disappointed when its Chairman stopped the agenda item in favour of a much less important one even though invited councillors from neighbouring parish councils had informed the Chairman that they had a number of important questions on the JCS.

10/056 MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES AND REPRESENTATION ON EXTERNAL BODIES

In view of the absence of two Members, it was AGREED to defer this item until the next Meeting.

10/057 BOY RACERS / CRUISERS

There were no new reports.

10/058 ADMINISTRATION

1. Correspondence

The Council noted a list of correspondence received, and AGREED that no administrative action was required in respect thereof.

2. Annual Parish Assembly

The Council was requested to consider arrangements for the Annual Parish Assembly, to be held on 25th May 2010. It was noted that the Borough Council's Tree Officer had accepted an invitation to speak. It was hoped to have an update report on Boy Racers/Cruisers. The Borough Councillors and the County Councillor would be invited to submit reports in the usual way. It was noted that this would be the first Assembly at which the Council's new Annual Report would be presented.

3. Training

The Council AGREED to Councillor Hunter's attendance on the 'Being a Good Councillor' course (four evening sessions in September). Also, subject to availability, Councillor Iliffe's attendance on a suitable Chairmanship Skills course.

4. Online Planning Consultation and Associated Equipment

Further information was being sought from the Planning Office.

5. Other Administrative Matters

There were no other administrative matters.

10/059 QUALITY PARISH STATUS - PROGRESS REPORT

The Clerk confirmed that very little further work was required in order to complete the Council's application portfolio, but work would be put on hold while he dealt with the Annual Parish Assembly, the Accounts for 2009/10 and the new Annual Report.

10/060 DONATION TO THE VILLAGE HALL

A request that the Council consider making a donation to the Village Hall Committee was DEFERRED, in order to allow the Committee to submit further information.

10/061 REPORTS

Reports from Members of Swindon Parish Council

(i) Councillor McVeagh reported that the lights on the Kingsditch roundabout (junction of Princess Elizabeth Way and Tewkesbury Road) sometimes went out of phase. When this happened the phasing was usually corrected swiftly, but traffic could pile up badly in the intervening period.

(ii) Councillor McVeagh reported that a chain had been installed on the roundabout to prevent unauthorised parking of vehicles, an effective measure to prevent the site being used for advertising purposes.

(iii) Councillors Hunter and Simpson noted that rubbish still remained in the south-east corner of the playing fields, but was now becoming less visible due to plant growth. The Clerk was requested to remind the Waste Department.

(iv) Councillor Simpson informed the Council of vans being parked on the playing field car park, occasionally overnight. Overnight stays were usually at weekends. This left few spaces available for 'normal' car parking by sports clubs and thereby increased parking on Wymans Lane and on its verges.

(v) Councillor Iliffe reported a telephone call from a resident of Manor Court, concerned that the Borough Council's grass-cutting caused damage to the bark of the trees in the Amenity Area. The Clerk was requested to advise the Parks Department.

(vi) A number of Councillors were aware with occasional problems with dogs being exercised off the leash in the Playing Fields. This was alarming to some users of the Playing Fields. It was AGREED that a note should be prepared for Village News, requesting that owners make efforts to ensure that their dogs not cause a nuisance to other users. However, the Council acknowledged that a number of dog-owners who used the park came from outside the parish and would not receive Village News.

10/062 PLANNING AND LICENSING

1. Planning Applications referred to the Council for observations

10/00542/FUL - Unit 1 Kingsditch Retail Park - Installation of mezzanine floor. NO OBJECTION, subject to assurances that the mezzanine floor will be accessible by the disabled (disadvantaged or marginalised) groups. No plans were supplied with

the application and, consequently, the Council was unable to establish this basic information. A Member of the Council had attempted to pursue this with the case officer but no response had been received by the time this application was considered.

2. Decisions on Planning Applications

09/0057/CHREG3 – Kingsmead School, Howell Road, Cheltenham (N.B. land outside but adjacent to Swindon parish). Redevelopment of Kingsmead School site to create new All Saints Academy. Revised plan to include grass sports pitch in south-west corner, in place of open space in original plan. (Refer to Minute 09/137.2, November 2009). GRANTED

10/00315/FUL - 34 Glynbridge Gardens - Construction of a pitched roof over existing flat roofed garage. PERMITTED

10/00204/FUL - Spirax Sarco Ltd, Runnings Road - Reclad existing industrial unit, enclose existing loading bay and reconfigure internal accommodation. NO OBJECTION. However, the vented roof lights could be visually intrusive. The Council would be interested to see an artists impression (or computer impression) of the view from Manor Road, to include the view (or lack thereof) of Swindon Manor and St Lawrence Church. Any permission should be subject to a condition requiring the submission of a suitable scheme. Also, as a non-planning issue, the Council wondered if there would be any flooding implications for the expected tunnel under Runnings Road. PERMITTED

3. Licence Applications

None

4. Other Planning Matters

(i) It was noted that the Joint Core Strategy team was holding a consultation event at 9.30am and 1.30pm on 8th June 2010.

(ii) Councillor Iliffe reported that the planning application to extend the Grundons operation at Wingmoor Farm had been deferred. He understood that SWARD had requested data on dust analysis.

10/063 TRAFFIC AND HIGHWAYS

Councillor Hunter asked if anything could be done to improve the unmetalled footpath on the eastern side of Wymans Lane, by CF Roberts. It was frequently muddy. It was explained that this was no adopted footpath at this point, although the worn surface indicated regular use. The Council had already asked that the footpath be improved and adopted, possibly by making use of Section 106 'Planning Gain' monies. It was also suggested that a cycle path be considered by the responsible authority.

10/064 ALLOTMENTS

No reports were received.

10/065 FINANCE

1. Accounts Approved for Payment

	£	£
Clerk's Salary, (April)	330.00	
Expenses	32.00	
Reimbursement	<u>24.87</u>	
		386.87

Note: The Clerk was requested to make arrangements for alterations to the Council's bank mandate, in order to account for the change in signatories following the recent elections

2. Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2010

The Clerk circulated a Statement of Accounts for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2010 (Income and Expenditure), checked by the Internal Auditor and the Internal Auditor's Report for that year.

The Council noted the matters drawn to its attention by the Internal Auditor.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Statement of Accounts be approved;
- (b) That the Internal Auditor's Report be noted;
- (c) That the Annual Statement of Governance be noted;
- (d) That the Chairman be authorised to sign the relevant sections of the Annual Return;
- (e) That the Annual return be submitted to the External Auditor.

10/066

MATTERS IDENTIFIED FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

- Section 106 ' Planning Gain ' monies.
- Publication of the final South West Regional Spatial Strategy
- 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

10/067

OTHER BUSINESS ALLOWED BY THE CHAIRMAN AS URGENT

There was no urgent business.

The Meeting closed at 9.41 p.m.

Chairman

Unconfirmed