**SWANBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**

**EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Wednesday 14th October 2020 at 7.30pm**

**Meeting held remotely due to Covid-19 pandemic**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

Present: Clive Rodgers, Mike King, Rosemary Andrew, Helen Cleaveley, Deborah Barrow, Linda Sirett, Vanda Bennett

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | |  |
| **58/20** | **Apologies** |  |
|  | Steve French |  |
| **59/20** | **Declarations of Interest** |  |
|  | CR declared his interest as a homeowner in the parish. RA declared her interest as a homeowner in the parish. LS declared her interest as an employee of the Swanbourne Estate. MK declared his interest as a homeowner in the parish. HC declared her interest as a homeowner in the parish.  DC declared her interest as a homeowner in the parish. |  |
| **60/20** | **Chairman’s Recap** |  |
|  | For the benefit of those not present at the previous meeting on 30th September 2020, CR explained that a free and open discussion had taken place concerning the legality of the Local Government Act 1894 which bans Parish Council donations to the church. Legal information suggests that the Local Government Act 1972 creates a loophole which should allow a Parish Council to contribute towards the costs of grass cutting of an existing cemetery that is run by the church. We also started to consider the appropriate level of donation. With only three of councillors present at the 30th September meeting no resolutions were made as CR judged that the issue demanded wider councillor involvement and more time for discussion. However, this decision was not to be regarded as having set a precedent and in future it is planned to press on with the decision making at normal meetings as long as the meeting is quorate. |  |
| **61/20** | **Swanbourne Parish Council’s donation to Swanbourne Parochial Church Council (PCC)** |  |
|  | A detailed and sensitive discussion took place. The Councillors took the time to consider all aspects of the situation regarding the PC’s donation to the PCC in light of decisions which had recently taken place in Mursley regarding a similar issue and also in the current climate with Covid restrictions having had a severe impact on PCC income over the past year, e.g. no fete or similar fund raising activities were able to take place.  The first concern of the PC was to consider the legality of the donation to the PCC as the PC must comply with statutory requirements in relation to decision making and activities undertaken.  The PC referred to and discussed the conflict between the 1894 and 1972 statutes and also the National Association of Local Council guidelines. The PC considered the fact that the law was as yet untested in considering which statute took precedence in relation to payments towards the maintenance of cemeteries. However, the PC felt, in all the circumstances, that the donation for the 2020-21 financial year should be made in full.  **IT WAS THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the PC would proceed to make the donation of £1,200 to the PCC for the current financial year.  *Action: VB to arrange payment of the donation in November 2020 and to ensure correct acknowledgement of the donation is made by the PCC.*  **IT WAS ALSO RESOLVED** to draft a proposal to the PCC that is sensitive in nature to both the needs of the PCC and the PC at this time, being in mind the current climate and the law.  *Action: all to consider format of draft proposal.* | VB  All |
| **62/20** | **AOB** |  |
|  | 1. HC provided an update on her continued attempts to obtain coverage from the Thames Valley Police speed camera van and advised that she had emailed PC Ian Carter pointing out that we have 6500 cars per day through Swanbourne, 31% of which are exceeding 35mph. 628 cars per day are exceeding 40mph at the entrance to the newly refurbished playground. Following a recent survey among residents, 62% of respondents said they felt 'always' or 'mostly' unsafe when riding or cycling in the village. HC reiterated in her email that these are illegal speeds which are currently being ignored by Thames Valley Police.   HC to keep the PC updated as and when she hears back from TVP.     1. RA reported that she had been asked by villagers whether signage could be installed on Mursley Road indicating the whereabouts of the newly refurbished recreation ground.   *Action: VB to enquiry with Buckinghamshire Council.* | VB |

DATES

Next meeting – TBA, 6th or 13th January 2021 (VB to email councillors)

Meeting ended - 9.00pm