

SWANBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 13th January 2021 at 7.30pm
Meeting held remotely due to Covid-19 pandemic

DRAFT MINUTES

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

Also: Iain McPherson

01/21 Apologies

None.

02/21 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.
DB declared her interest as a homeowner in the parish.
DBW declared his interest as a homeowner in the parish.

03/21 Approval of Minutes of Meetings of 30th September and 14th October 2020

Approved and signed.

04/21 Action Points from 30th September and 14th October Meetings

All completed.

05/21 Councillor Vacancy

IT WAS RESOLVED to co-opt David Brooks Wilson onto the PC.

Action: VB to send initial documents to David and will inform Bucks Council.

VB

06/21 Buckinghamshire Council Elections – Thursday 6th May

Iain MacPherson introduced himself to the meeting and explained the large Ward of Great Brickhill. Ben Everitt is MP for MK North and also our ward councillor, but is stretched in many directions so he appointed IM to be part of his action group. They've split up the Ward – IM has Swanbourne, Quainton, Newton Longville. He is helping as best he can in an unelected manner. He has four Parish Councils in his Ward and is happy about helping us with whatever we feel passionate about.

HC said that she would appreciate help to get a speed police van in the village. The current view is that because we haven't had any major

accidents, we are not entitled to one. We have been on the list for a site inspection for about four years, but nothing has happened. Could IM look into this for us?

Action: IM and HC to make email contact.

HD/IM

07/21 Third Quarter bank statements

The Bank statements were considered and all of the third quarter transactions were retrospectively approved by the whole PC.

IT WAS RESOLVED to keep the precept at £16,500 for 2021/22.

Action: VB to inform Bucks Council before 31st January deadline.

VB

Preliminary planning for the coming financial year (1/4/21 to 31/3/22) was considered. With reference to a preliminary spreadsheet, CR outlined several unknown factors at the present (e.g., possible election costs). Whilst it's the responsibility of the PCC, in recent years the PC has offered a donation towards graveyard grass cutting costs (usually in late autumn). Assuming a continuation, MK proposed that £1,000 could be reserved. This was seconded by CR who offered to discuss with the SCA Committee the possibility of an additional input from SCA funds.

Action: CR will consult SCA Committee.

CR

08/21 Swanbourne Traffic Calming, Mursley Road

HC explained that funding is very difficult to obtain. The need for additional lighting is also a factor. Possible funding is insufficient for the speed cushion proposals. Also, the public survey showed speed cameras to be a more popular option.

The public will be consulted further at the next Parish Assembly.

Action: HC will continue to follow up and prepare a report for the next Parish Assembly.

HC

09/21 Village Maintenance

CR reported the pavement in front of the village hall is being repaired; this was postponed from a year ago due to parking. Also, the street cleaning vehicle has recently cleared some residue down Tattams Lane.

Action: DB will report need for street sweeper in Smithfield End.

DB

It was agreed that Lynch Garden Services had made a good start cutting the verges/playing field and the prospects look good for the coming year.

LS reported two streetlights not working in Smithfield End. Some streetlights at the end of Tattams Lane also need repair.

Action: LS will inform VB of number/location in Smithfield End and VB will identify Tattams Lane issues.

LS

Action: VB will request streetlight repairs to Aylesbury Mains as needed.

VB

MK mentioned the continuing problem with dog waste around the village. DB also whether free range chickens left to roam in the road is a Parish matter. The PC considered that at the moment they should be kept inside to combat bird flu.

There was a suggestion that signage around the village may be useful to encourage people to pick up their dog's waste and dispose of it thoughtfully.

Action: CR will put short public health item (dogs/chickens) in next Newsletter.

CR

10/21 Playing Fields

Conscious of occasional litter issues, CR suggested we find someone in the village who might be interested in regular tidying and general checks e.g., for an hour once a month on a notional paid basis.

Action: VB will look into finding someone who might be interested in doing this.

VB

Tennis court fences still need more repair and it may be that we can spend some of the playing field money on this once the weather improved. It was decided to discuss it further in April and at the Parish Assembly.

11/21 Planning

The PC noted a villager's concerns regarding the ground floor extension plans (21/00017/HPDE) and loss of two trees at a Ridgeway property. However, CR reported that as Ridgeway is outside Swanbourne's Conservation Area, trees can be cut down without permission unless they have a TPO. The scale of the ground floor extension proposals appeared to be within permitted development for their location so appear to be legal without the need for full planning permission.

Action: For future reference, CR will put an item in the Newsletter to show or describe the location of Swanbourne's Conservation Area.

CR

Permission to cut down the leylandii conifers opposite the junction between Smithfield End and Station Road has been approved.

12/21 PC Website

MK had circulated the options researched prior to this meeting.

The quotes provided by Rebecca Brucciani TEEC Ltd. were considered. Examples are available at <http://myparishcouncil.co.uk> MK regarded the basic package to be suitable and migration costs to be reasonable.

IT WAS RESOLVED to go with the PC website as proposed by MK.

Action: MK has agreed to act as lead for this project.

MK

13/21 Future Dates

Theoretically, the election is to be held on 6th May 2021. However,

articles in the press recently suggested a delay until the Autumn.

Post meeting: - original date of 6th May is confirmed as still intended to be the election date.

Agreed the next meeting to be held will be on 7th April with the AGM on 12th May. Parish Assembly (likely to be by Zoom) is to be held on 19th May at 7pm.

14/21 AOB

HC noticed that the wording Re: speed indicator devices in the preliminary budget spreadsheet had not been changed from smiley faces.

CR

Action: CR will amend for the next meeting.

SWARCO/MVAS maintenance plan – there are “gold” and “silver” plans. Having considered what is required, HC considers the silver plan to be suitable.

LS noted that there had been complaints from people about red kites commonly dropping fine bones from chicken etc. left out by residents to feed them. As fine bones can cause dogs to choke, a line about this in the Newsletter might be beneficial.

CR

Action: CR will enter a line in the next Newsletter.

Best Kept Village - RA initiated a discussion about having a long term aim to enter the Best Kept Village competition and would like to be the councillor in charge of this. This would be a long-term aim, maybe helping people who can't do their gardens. Her wish is to raise community spirit and the councillors all agreed this would be a good move.

Action: In due course RA intends to make contact with a Stewkley Councillor or Clerk to gather information and probably walk round the village to look at issues once Covid restrictions are relaxed.

RA

DATES

Next meeting – 7th April 2021

Meeting ended – 9.25pm