
Swavesey Parish Council

Public Open Forum – 19 members of the public present

7.30pm

Minutes

Parish Council Meeting, held at The Memorial Hall
Monday 22 March 2004, 7.30pm

PRESENT

Mr P Marriott , Vice-Chairman, chaired the meeting

Councillors : J Dodson, J Foster, S Rogers, R Owen, J Shepperson, W Wright

Clerk : Mrs L Miller

Parishioners : 19 County Cllr Mrs S Johnstone

APOLOGIES

Mr M Johnston (Chairman) A Day (away), C Houghton (unwell), County Councillor Mrs S Johnstone (late arrival)

The Chairman asked Councillors if they would agree to defer Agenda item 6 – County Council Business, until after County Councillor Mrs Johnstone arrived. This was unanimously agreed.

AGENDA 2

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2004 were signed by the Chairman as a true record, with one amendment to the NTL Direct Debit shown within the accounts.

AGENDA 3

Matters to Report from the Minutes

No items to report.

AGENDA 4

Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

AGENDA 5

Parish Council Vacancy

A By-election had not been called therefore the Parish Council will co-opt to fill the vacancy. Notices advertising the co-option procedure to be displayed around the village, closing date to be Friday 2 April. Co-option to take place at the next Parish Council meeting on Monday 26th April.

7.40pm – Meeting adjourned in order to take a 10 minute (max) Public Forum Session

Question: Constable's Rood – What is happening regarding the clearing this area of land?

The Clerk replied that quotes are being obtained for skip hire and contractors to clear the site. The Clerk will liaise with Mr Green who has offered to assist the Parish Council investigate a new use for the land.

Comment: Members of the public spoke on their views regarding the proposed Guided Bus scheme and asked that the Parish Council consider putting in a formal objection to the TWA Application for the scheme. Many residents of the village are objecting to the route of the guided bus through the Nature Reserve. A public meeting was recently held in the village to discuss this, when numerous objections and areas of concern were voiced. The effect on the Nature Reserve is considered to be extremely serious and there are also many reservations on whether the proposed guided bus will actually be used and if it will make any difference to the problems on the A14.

7.45pm - Public Forum closed and Parish Council Meeting re-convened.

AGENDA 7

District Council Business

7.1 Kitchen waste collection – distribution of kitchen bins

Letter from SCDC regarding the development of the green waste collection and the provision of small kitchen bins to all households. The letter asks for comments from Parish Councils on whether they could assist with delivery and collection of these new bins to households within the Parish. Council agreed that it could not take on such a request, due to lack of storage space and facilities to organise collection of the bins.

7.2 Correspondence & items for District Councillor

- (i) Springboard: Cambridgeshire Toolkit for the Arts. Information on launch of new pack.
- (ii) Disability Sports and Social Clubs Directory 2004.

AGENDA 8

Police/Crime Report

8.1 Monthly crime figures and newsletter distributed.

8.2 Correspondence:

- Budget and Council Tax decision – Cambs Police Authority. Confirmation of Council Tax increase of 14.1% for the police element of the overall bill.

AGENDA 9

Items for Discussion

9.1 Highways

- (i) Request from a resident of Boxworth End, as to whether a section of verge, close to the Surgery, could be laid to tarmac, as the grass is never permitted to grow due to cars parking on it. The Clerk to arrange for Councillors to meet with the County Highways Engineer, in Boxworth End to discuss this and the re-surfacing of the footpath.

- (ii) School Lane/Fen Drayton Road. The section of the road either side of the College entrance is worsening, the road edges are rapidly deteriorating. A further request to be sent through to CCC Highways, to request that road planings be put in along the entire length, both sides, between the Nature Reserve access road and the village boundary. This to be a temporary measure until funds are available to repair the road and install kerbing. The road has also been subject to drought damage, CCC have acknowledged this.

(7.55pm – County Cllr Mrs Johnstone joined the meeting)

Agenda item 6, deferred until the arrival of Cllr Johnstone, was then discussed.

AGENDA 6

County Council Business

6.1 Rapid Transit Scheme/Guided Bus Proposals – TWA Application Consultation

Councillors discussed the Transport & Works Act document and comments raised by villagers and letters received. The Council supported efforts being made to encourage residents to make individual responses to the Secretary of State for Transport. The Council also considered that if objections and concerns are submitted, then these would have to be reviewed during the Public Enquiry later this year.

It was then proposed that the Parish Council should submit an official objection to the Guided Bus Scheme as a whole plus list out their major concerns over the proposals. This proposal was seconded and voted on, 5 in favour, 1 abstention.

Objections and Concerns to include:

- Environmental impact on the surrounding area
 - Serious concerns over the environmental impact both long and short term, of the route through the Nature Reserve and Swavesey Lakes area.
 - Serious concerns over the impact on the Nature Reserve of the construction of the route.
- Loss of public access across the proposed guideway
 - Objection to the loss of the vehicle crossings over the guided bus track, along the three Swavesey by-ways of Middle Fen, Mow Fen and Lairstall Drove on the grounds of loss of public access to the countryside.
 - Objection to the loss of wheeled access across the crossings along the three by-ways, ie wheelchair or pushchair access, as the foot and bridleway crossings will not be level crossings.
- Loss of public rights of way during proposed construction period
 - Lack of information on whether public rights of way will be closed completely along the whole route, or whether they will be closed section by section, re-opening as each section is completed.
- Objection to the kiss-and-ride provision at the Swavesey stop on the guided bus route. Serious concerns over the parking issues for potential bus users.
- Objection to the potential increase in traffic through the village of bus users accessing the guideway.
- Security of properties along the edge of the proposed guideway.

6.2 Traffic Calming Proposals – Public Exhibition 18 March 2004

Approximately 140 questionnaires had been handed-out at the recent exhibition of plans. The County Council will copy all comments to the Parish Council after the 3-week return date. A meeting is to be arranged with Mr Brace from CCC and the Parish Council around the end of April to discuss the plans. No final decision has yet been made by the Parish or County Councils on any of the proposed schemes.

6.3 Periodic Electoral Review of Cambs County Council – Draft Recommendations

It is still proposed that Swavesey and Fen Drayton be moved out of the Willingham Ward and placed into the new Ward of Papworth & Swavesey. Parish Council still raises the same objections as originally submitted in May 2003, these to be sent through to the Boundary Committee as still valid.

6.4 Correspondence & items for County Councillor

- (i) Bus service changes – Swavesey 159 service will change operators, to Hunts & District, there will be no reduction in the current service.
- (ii) Cllr Johnstone was asked why the work on the cycleway was able to start immediately a decision had been taken, when the work to change the 40mph speed limit in Boxworth End to 30mph has taken 18 months from the original decision to proceed and is still not yet in force. Delays on issues such as this seriously damage the image of the Parish Council. Cllr Johnstone replied that although the County Council had started to implement the change to the speed limit a delayed objection had been made by Cambs Constabulary, which stopped the project. This has now been resolved and the project can now be completed.

(8.33pm – County Cllr Mrs Johnstone left the meeting)

Council resumed discussion of Agenda item 9.

9.2 Memorial Hall

- (i) Notice of resignation received from the Hall Administrator. Final working day will be 2 April 2004. The Memorial Hall Committee is making arrangements to fill the vacancy as soon as possible.
- (ii) Following the resignation of Mrs Verity Ladds from the Parish Council, another Councillor is now required to take her place on the Hall Committee. Item to be discussed next month, when the new Councillor can be involved as well.
- (iii) White posts at the rear of the car park keep being removed. Clerk to investigate costs to concrete the posts permanently in place.

9.3 Recreation/Playgrounds

- (i) Correspondence received from the Swavesey Institute Football Club, informing the Parish Council of their recent discussions with the Spartans FC, Cambs FA and Village College regarding the future development of sports facilities for Swavesey. Initial investigations are now being made into improving the condition and maintenance of the pitch area on the village green during the Football season. The Parish Council will be kept informed of any proposals for work to the green. No objections or comments raised regarding the Club's initial investigations.

9.4 Village Maintenance

- (i) Benches. Two benches are being moved about around Market Street Green. Clerk to speak to the Handyman regarding fixing the benches to the ground.
- (ii) Bus Shelter, Middlewatch. Costs to replace the broken perspex were discussed. It was suggested to fill the windows with plywood panels. Costs to be investigated for further consideration.

Bus Shelter, Boxworth End. The edging to the roof needs to be replaced and a new sheet of felt fitted to the roof.

9.5 Handyman

Reported that the bins at the front of the recreation green are being set on fire, they are burning themselves out in the concrete bins, no serious damage has yet occurred.

9.6 Drainage

No further progress to report.

9.7 Primary School Governing Body – Community Governor Vacancy

The Clerk reported that following a recent change to the structure of Primary School Governing Bodies, there is no longer a statutory Parish Council representative Governor. This has been replaced by a Community Governor, which can be nominated from any area of the community. Mrs Ladds who was previously the Parish Council Governor at the Primary School has resigned from the Governing Body as well as the Parish Council. Council decided to wait until the current Parish Councillor vacancy is filled before asking if there a Parish Councillor wishes to join the Governing Body.

9.8 Pre-School New Building – grant request

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously approved to award a grant of £500 towards the internal security measures required for the proposed new building. The grant to be paid out when the planning permission has been approved and the building is proceeding. The grant award to come from the Youth Reserve Fund and is being made under The Local Government & Rating Act 1997 s31 1(c), Crime Prevention.

9.9 Recycling Credits

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously approved to add this year's recycling credits payment from the District Council to the existing Youth Reserve Fund.

9.10 Events Committee

Mr Marriott, Chairman of the new Village Events Committee, gave a brief report on the first meeting of the Committee. The Committee has been set up as an independent village committee and is not a sub-committee of the Parish Council. It will act as a steering group to promote ideas and assist other village groups to organise community events.

9.11 Annual Parish Meeting – Tuesday 6th April

Draft Agenda approved.

AGENDA 10

Planning

10.1 Correspondence

- (i) Letter from Solicitors Miller Sands, confirming that 37 Market Street has been sold. Parish Council to await contact from the new owner's solicitors regarding the Deed of Easement.

10.2 S.106 Agreement and Public Open Space Adoption

The Clerk and Councillors Shepperson, Day and Owen met with Mr Russell of G Wimpey Ltd on 10 March, to discuss outstanding issues relating to the transfer of the public open space on the Cherry Trees development to the Parish Council. A letter was then sent by the Clerk to Mr Russell, Mr Taylor (SCDC) and Ms Kellet (Thomson, Webb & Corfield) detailing all the items discussed. No response received from G Wimpey Ltd to date.

10.3 Applications

- (i) Ref: S/0340/04/LB – Rose Cottage, 6 High St. Internal & external alterations (some retrospective). No objections raised.
- (ii) Ref: S/0385/04/F & 0384/04/LB – The Windmill, Hale Rd. Alterations & Extensions. No objections raised.
- (iii) Ref: S/0351/04/F – 68 Boxworth End. Removal of personal condition on use of buildings as office (planning permission S/0573/84/F). No objections raised.
- (iv) Ref: S/0410/04/F – 15A Gibraltar Lane. Extension. No objections raised.
- (v) Ref: S/0416/04/LDC – Driftwood, Hale Rd. Certificate of lawfulness for an existing use. No objections raised.
- (vi) Ref: S/00441/04/CW – Land adj Covell's Drain. Re-profiling and ground raising, Mr J Johnson, Friesland Farm, Hale Rd (retrospective). No objections raised.
- (vii) Ref: S/0459/04/F – Trilogy Telecom Ltd. Erection of cabinet for telecomms equipment, Wallmans Lane. No objections raised.
- (viii) Ref: S/00058/04/CC – Swavesey Primary School, rear extension. Application now being determined by County Council rather than District Council, therefore the consultation has been re-sent. No objections raised.
- (ix) Ref: S/0251/04/F Amended – Ryders Farm, 35 Middlewatch. Use of outbuildings as residential annexe (retrospective). Addition of a study at the rear. Objection raised on the same grounds as the original application, discussed last month.
- (x) Ref: S/0246/04/RM – Land West of Longstanton – phase 2, Home Farm. 200 dwellings and ancillary works. Objections raised on the same grounds as previous applications:
 - Additional pressure on the local sewage system, request for flood assessment due to increased flood risk relating to surface water drainage, increase in traffic levels along Ramper Road and request for urgent improvements to Ramper Road before any further housing development is permitted.
- (xi) C/11/40/88 – The Grange, Market Street. Works to trees in the conservation area. Two queries raised:
 - Discrepancy between the plan and tree list for tree T5
 - Concerns that only damaged or diseased trees be felled.
- (xii) S/0163/04/O Amended – Land r/o 114 adj 118 & 120 Middlewatch.

9.26pm – unanimous agreement to adjourn the meeting to hear representations from members of the public present regarding item (xii). The Parish Council was informed that original concerns from neighbours over the access to the proposed building plot have been overcome and no objections are being raised to the amended plans.

9.30pm – Parish Council meeting reconvened.

The Parish Council raised no objections to the amended application.

10.4 Permissions

Ref: S/0024/04/LB – 5/7 Market Street. Permission granted for internal alterations.
Ref: S/0126/03/F – 39 Wallmans Lane. Approval granted for amendments to plans.

10.5 Refusals - None received

10.6 Appeals - None received

AGENDA 11

Accounts

11.1 Payments this Month

(i) All payments approved:

	Net	VAT	Gross
Administration and salaries	1,253.11	7.04	1,260.15
J Kilborn & Son – Memorial Hall maintenance	46.80	8.19	54.99
PWLB – half-yearly loan repayment	3,073.85		3,073.85
Total:	£4,373.76	15.23	4,388.99

Hall Bookings banked for Jan-Mar 2004 totalled £722.48.

Bank accounts reconciled for 10 March 2004 at £7,850.60 Current Account and £25,616.48 for Treasurer’s Account.

11.2 Cheque Signatories

Authorisation granted for the removal of Mrs Ladds as an authorised signatory from the Lloyds TSB and National Savings accounts and for the change of correspondence address for both accounts as well.

Approval granted for Mr W Wright to be a new authorised signatory for the Lloyds TSB Account.

Approval granted for Mr J Dodson to be a new authorised signatory for the National Savings Account. Mr Dodson also to replace Mrs Ladds on the Finance Working Party.

11.3 Income & Expenditure Update

To be presented at the April Meeting with end of year figures.

11.4 Office Equipment

The Clerk asked for authorisation to purchase a 4-drawer filing cabinet, approximate cost of £74.00, approval granted.

(9.33pm – Mr W Wright was called away from the meeting)

AGENDA 12

Correspondence

- Letter from the Trustees of the Swavesey Non-conformist Cemetery, asking if the Council would consider a grant for cemetery maintenance.
- Standards Board for England – consultation papers on ‘Local investigation & determining of misconduct allegations’.
- Yesteryear Road Run will take place on Sunday 25 April 2004.
- Newsletters and magazines: CALC Bulletin; Clerks & Councils Direct; Local Council Review.
- CALC training information, Agenda for S Cambs Assoc meeting 17 March – next meeting to be 24 June.

AGENDA 13

Items for Information and Next Meeting Agenda

No items were raised.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 9.35pm

Signed & dated

Chairman

Minutes approved & signed as a correct record by the Parish Council on 26 April 2004