

Swavesey Parish Council

7.30pm

Public Open Forum – 15 members of the public present

Resident of Ramper Road - asked what the Council was doing about safety of vehicles and people along Ramper Road now that it was being used as a main bus route. The Chairman replied that the Parish Council was aware of the problems along Ramper Road and the new bus route and would be discussing this and what actions to take during the meeting.

Resident of Middlewatch/Ramper Road – asked if the Council would consider applying for a Road Traffic Order to change the use of the road, to stop the buses using it. The Chairman replied that this would be discussed as well.

Resident of Moat Way – wished to complain about horse droppings along the passage way/footpath between Moat Way and Chantry Close. The Chairman replied that was also on the Agenda for discussion.

Resident of Moat Way – wished to complain about cyclists speeding through the same passageway. The Chairman replied that this was also to be discussed.

For St Andrew's PCC – concern expressed over the cycle path crossing the entrance to the church car park, which is also the village recycling facility. The access is blind for vehicles leaving the car park and also uphill. This is very dangerous for cyclists approaching the car park access.

Representative from StopCWF – spoke on the impact of the proposed wind turbines on the surrounding area. A model showing the size of the proposed turbines in relation to existing structures was displayed. StopCWF were asking if the Parish Council would further defer their decision on the planning application until after the public exhibition has taken place in Swavesey on Saturday 2 October. Parish Councils had until 20 October in which to reply to the District Council on the planning application. The Chairman replied that all of this would be taken into consideration during the discussion.

Resident of Boxworth End – wished to support StopCWF and the comments made against the proposed wind farm. In particular the potential danger the situation of the turbines would cause on traffic on the A14, which already has a high accident rate, particularly in this area.

The Chairman thanked all the members of the public for their comments and they would all be taken into consideration during the relevant Agenda item discussions.

7.43pm

Minutes

Parish Council Meeting, held at The Memorial Hall
Monday 27 September 2004, 7.30pm

PRESENT

Mr M Johnston (Chairman)

Councillors : J Dodson, J Foster, P Marriott, R Owen, J Shepperson, J Tait, W Wright

Clerk : Mrs L Miller

Parishioners : 15

County Cllr Mrs S Johnstone

Community Beat Officer Pc Alison Jones

APOLOGIES

A Day, C Houghton (resignation received), S Rogers (working)

AGENDA 2

Minutes and Matters to report

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 August 2004 were signed by the Chairman as a true record, with no amendments. There were no matters to report on from the Minutes.

AGENDA 3

Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

The Chairman, with agreement from Councillors, brought forward Agenda item 7.

AGENDA 7 (brought forward for discussion)

Police/Crime Report

7.1 Items for Community Beat Officer

The Parish Council discussed with Pc Jones concerns over activities in Cow Fen Drove. Planning Enforcement notices have been served on persons living in caravans on land along Cow Fen Drove, a stop notice to cease the use of caravans for residential purposes has also been issued by S Cambs District Council. Notice has also been received from the District Council that an appeal is being lodged against the enforcement notices. Pc Jones replied that the Police were aware of the planning situation and would be monitoring the site.

Pc Jones was also asked about events approximately a month ago, when a stolen car was reported in the area of the Memorial Hall car park. The Parish Council had been informed that photographic evidence of this had been taken by a local resident and reported to the Police but so far no response has been made by the Police to follow this up. Pc Jones replied that she had gone back through incident reports but had been unable to find any record of any such incident being reported.

The Parish Council to write again in the next Meridian magazine to stress to residents that all items must be reported to the Police and a crime number received. Without these incidents being officially reported then Pc Jones is not able to follow up or build up an overall picture of crime within the village.

Suspected abandoned car on Middlewatch reported to Pc Jones to investigate.

7.2 Correspondence

- Crime figures and newsletter circulated.
- Letter received regarding the planned restructuring of Southern Division to give coterminous boundaries with local Councils, improved links with partner agencies and creation of neighbourhood teams of Police Officer, PCSOs and Special Constables, among other benefits.
- Database update form completed and returned for Parish Council and Community information.
- S Cambs Community Safety Partnership Strategy Consultation Event to be held on 3 November, Marshall Airport, Cambridge from 3.30pm to 7.30pm.
- Cambs Constabulary Website update information.
- Histon Sector Local Consultation Group meeting – Tuesday 26 October, Waterbeach.
- Police Authority Newsletter.

AGENDA 4

Parish Council Vacancy

A letter of resignation from the Parish Council and its Committees had been received from Mrs Houghton, due to increasing work commitments. The District Council to be notified of the vacancy and the statutory notices displayed. The Clerk to report further at the next meeting.

AGENDA 5

County Council Business

5.1 New no.15 Bus Route and use of Ramper Road

Letters have been written to Stagecoach and Cambs County Council expressing the Parish Council's concerns over the use of Ramper Road by buses and the loss of the Boxworth End service. Stagecoach replied that the changes were made to accommodate the links between villages and improve peak services to Cambridge and that any concerns over highway safety should be taken up with County Council. Discussions are still on going with regard to improvements and maintenance to Ramper Road.

County Cllr Mrs Johnstone added that the County Council does not have to give approval for commercial bus route changes, they are approved via the Traffic Commissioner. The evening Huntingdon & District Service does still travel along Boxworth End. CCC Highways are planning repair work to Ramper Road and finance bids are being prepared. With regard to a Traffic Regulation Order for Ramper Road, buses are exempt from any environmental weight restrictions, therefore a TRO would not stop the buses using the road. Cllr Johnstone would investigate as to whether any TRO would help in this situation and will report back.

With regard to the Parish Council asking for the withdrawal of the funding from the traffic calming budget for the passing bays along Ramper Road, Cllr Johnstone replied that the project has now been approved and if the passing bays are not installed then the funding is not available for other use. Mr Brace to be consulted on with regard to this and the traffic calming scheme.

A letter to be sent to the Traffic Commissioner with regard to the new bus route and the concerns of the Parish Council regarding the use of Ramper Road.

5.2 Cambridgeshire Guided Busway

The following correspondence has been received:

- Notice of commencement of Public Inquiry on Tuesday 28th September.
- Response from CCC to Swavesey PC's letter of objection.
- Guided Busway Transport Assessment report.
- Ecology Positioning Paper.
- Proofs of Evidence - a box of 34 documents of various sizes.

5.3 Correspondence and Items for County Councillor

- (i) Passenger Transport contact. The Passenger Transport team wishes to enhance links between Parish Councils and bus users to issue bus service information and enable feedback on any problems to the County Council. The Clerk to be the contact point for this information.
- (ii) S Cambs Environment & Transport Area Joint Meeting – Agenda and Traffic calming measures update. Information of the timetable for installing traffic calming measures in villages around Swavesey. Swavesey's traffic calming work is scheduled to start in mid-December.
- (iii) Letter from the ODPM re the Local Government Revenue Support Grant review.
- (iv) Local Authority Parking Enforcement, new regulations in force in Cambridge from 25 October.
- (v) Periodic Electoral Review – The Boundary Committee has now published its final recommendations. Swavesey's objections to being moved out of the Willingham Ward and into the Papworth Ward have been over-ruled.
- (vi) Cllr Johnstone reported that a letter is being sent out to parents of students from Over who cycle to/from the Village College in Swavesey with regard to safety and the use of the cycleway. Very recently a child from Over was knocked off their bicycle along Over Road, thankfully they were not seriously injured however the cyclist was not using the cycleway. The College will also hold an assembly to emphasise safety when cycling.

- (vii) With regard to safety along the cycleway at the entrance to the Church car park, Cllr Johnstone suggested siting a mirror at the entrance to give improved visibility. Cllr Johnstone was then asked if this would be possible at private driveways along the route, Cllr Johnstone replied that no it would not be possible. The Church car park takes quite a lot of traffic as it is also the recycling centre and has a brick wall at the entrance. At private driveways care must be taken when pulling in/out across a footpath and/or cycleway.

AGENDA 6

District Council Business

6.1 Recycling Credits

£791.36 received as recycling credits for year ended 31/03/04 from the kerbside green box collections. Councillors unanimously agreed to allocate this to the existing Youth Reserve fund, where previous recycling credits have been allocated.

6.2 Correspondence and items for District Councillor

- (i) Budget consultation meeting for Parish Councillors, 22 September 2004 – notified to Councillors earlier this month. No one from Swavesey attended.
- (ii) Notification of the distribution of kitchen waste bins to S Cambs residents via local roadshows. Swavesey's distribution was on Sat 11 September at the Village College car park. Notification received by the Clerk on Weds 8 September. This was too short notice to ensure everyone in the village was aware of the date, letter to be sent to SCDC asking for a second distribution date.

AGENDA 8

Items for Discussion

8.1 Highways

- (i) P3 Scheme – Two new self-closing gates will be installed on FP8 (church green) within the month. The cost to be paid for from the village P3 grant, installation will be paid for by the land owner, CCC contractor will install the gates.
- (ii) Willow Tree, Memorial Hall/Wallmans Lane. Quotes to be obtained to pollard or cut back the tree.

8.2 Memorial Hall

- (i) The Hall Committee Chairman gave a report on the discussions held recently with the Hall Committee and Sovereign Management with regard to the future charity status of the Hall. Further discussions are still required and advice will be sought from Cambs Association of Local Councils as to the role of Councillors and Trustees. Also Trustee indemnity insurance cover to be investigated.
- (ii) It was reported that lights are being left on in the Hall overnight, Hall Administrator to investigate.
- (iii) The Committee Chairman reported that the Hall Committee is working very well, with 4 Parish Councillor members and 5 user group members.

8.3 Recreation/Playgrounds

- (i) Request received from Perrett's Amusements to site a traditional fair on the main recreation green over the weekend of 2/3 October. Apart from the short notice, Councillors did not consider it suitable to site a fair on the recreation green.
- (ii) It was raised that vehicles are parking on the recreation green during football matches. Letter to be sent to the Spartans and Institute Clubs requesting that no vehicles are parked on the green side of the trees.
- (iii) The gate at the end of Turnbridge byway onto the back of the recreation green needs attention. Clerk to investigate and contact landowner.

- (iv) It was reported that there has been an increase in dog fouling on the recreation green in recent months, which as this is used as the junior and adult football pitches is a health hazard. A reminder to be placed in the Meridian Magazine asking dog owners not to allow their dogs to foul on the pitch areas and to clear up after them. The Clerk to contact the District Council's dog warden with regard to the enforcement of dog fouling bylaws.

8.4 Village Maintenance

- (i) Letter and emails received from local residents, concerned over the use of the footpath between Chantry Close and Moat Way.
- Cyclists ride at speed through the footpath, which causes a danger to other users.
 - Horses and riders using this footpath are also dangerous to other users as it is narrow, together with the fact that horse droppings are often left along the footpath and roads.
 - Motor scooters also use this footpath.

It was agreed that a request would be sent to the County Highways Dept to ask for cycle barriers to be erected at either end of the footpath, together with the footpath leading through to High Street.

A request had also been received asking the Parish Council to consider providing a village noticeboard within the Cherry Trees estate, possibly near the Pond in Moat Way – to be discussed at the next meeting.

- (ii) Dog waste bins. Cambs County Council has agreed to pay for the missing dog waste bin from alongside the new cycleway at Middle Fen Drove/Station Road junction. It was agreed to purchase two dog-waste bins, the second one to be sited near to the central play area in Moat Way. Bins to be purchased from Glasdon UK Ltd, £69.53 + VAT each plus fittings as required.

8.5 Handyman

The Handyman reported that a hole has been dug into the surfacing in the children's play area. Also that a metal slat from one of the benches on the front of the recreation green has been removed. Other benches also have slats missing. As these are metal benches they need new slats purchasing and welding on. Mr Foster offered to obtain quotes for repairing the benches.

8.6 Drainage - no items to report.

8.7 Constable's Rood

Mr Jones reported that the working party have arranged for volunteers to clear the site over the weekend of 14/15 November. The Parish Council approved the cost of £140-£150 to hire an 8yrd skip for the working party.

8.8 Village Events Committee

Mr Marriott, Chairman of the Committee, reported that the Christmas French Market will now be held in Market Street on 5 December, there will be approximately 25 stalls. The Police have been notified with regard to the closure of Market Street on that day.

8.9 Youth Facilities Meeting, 21 September

The Chairman, Mr Owen, Mr Bacon, Principle at the Village College and Mr Ayres, Area Youth Officer, met to discuss provision of structured youth facilities. The meeting was very positive and a working party will be set up, via Mr Bacon and Mr Ayres, to take the project forward.

8.10 Request for financial support for a Youth Theatre Group

Request received from Mrs Martin for funding towards a Youth Theatre Workshop to take place at the Memorial Hall, Swavesey during w/c 25 October (school half-term). After consideration Councillors agreed in principle to support the project but required further information on the costs and exactly how much of a grant would be required. It was also queried as to whether this would be for a start-up grant or on-going support for future workshops. To be discussed again at the next meeting.

AGENDA 9

Planning

9.1 Correspondence

The following correspondence has been received:

- Letter received from G Wimpey re outstanding matters. Wimpey are still awaiting instructions on the Deed of Rectification for title issues on the public open space land. Other outstanding matters still under discussion.
- Amended plans for replacement of Dining Room window and French doors at Rose Cottage, High Street – for information only.
- The Clerk reported that a telephone call had been received from Marshalls of Cambridge regarding a possible relocation of the Marshall Specialist Vehicle Works to a new site near Swavesey. Representatives from Marshalls would like to meet with the Parish Council to discuss these proposals. No further information is presently available. The Clerk to arrange a meeting as soon as possible.
- Further information from Gallagher, developers for Northstowe.

9.2 Planning Enforcement, Land at Cow Fen Drove

S Cambs District Council has confirmed that the landowners are going to appeal against the two Enforcement Notices issued by SCDC. Enforcement action will effectively be on hold until the appeals have been determined.

9.3 Applications

- (i) Ref: S/1663/04/F – Wind Farm comprising 16 wind turbines, anemometry mast, substation and associated infrastructure on land west of Huntingdon Road (A14) in the parishes of Boxworth and Conington.

Correspondence received and circulated to all Councillors:

- Letter received from a resident in Moat Way, informing the Parish Council of opposition to the proposed Wind Farm development.
- Letter from StopCWF, to all Parish Chairmen, outlining the group's objectives and seeking the support of the Parish Council. Offer by StopCWF to hold a presentation for the Parish Council if they would like further details on the application.
- Emails received during the past month from StopCWF updating the Parish Council on the objections lodged by other Parishes and giving additional information on the proposals.

StopCWF will be holding a public exhibition in Swavesey Memorial Hall on Saturday 2 October, 10am – 4pm.

With the agreement of the Council the meeting was adjourned at this point to take further comments from members of the public.

The meeting re-opened and following discussion, the Chairman asked Councillors to make their decision on the planning application. The deadline date for return of Parish Council comments is 20th October, which is before the next scheduled Parish Council meeting. A proposal was tabled to refuse the application, vote recorded 4 in favour, 0 against, 4 abstentions.

Objections:

Environmental impact on the surrounding landscape and residential areas. This includes the visual impact the turbines will make, potential hazard to wildlife and construction impact on the rural area.

Proximity of the site to the A14. The A14 is one of the most busiest and dangerous stretches of highway in the country, particularly between Huntingdon and Cambridge. The potential distraction the turbines will cause to motorists is considered to be an unacceptable risk.

Noise Pollution. From information received from StopCWF, it is considered that the impact of noise pollution on Swavesey village would be unacceptable.

- (ii) Ref: S/1379/04/F & S/1846/04/F – Persimmon Homes. Balancing Pond and Scheme of Ditch Widening to serve approved residential and commercial development. Land west of Longstanton,

Home Farm development. Reply received from SCDC Land Drainage Manger answering the concerns expressed over flood risk to Swavesey and drainage of surface water from the development. Mr Dodson added that the Swavesey IDB are still querying who will maintain the new balancing pond. Clerk to ask for clarification on this query from SCDC.

- (iii) Ref: S/1811/04/F – 54 Middlewatch. Conservatory. No objections.
- (iv) Ref: S/1869/04/F – Tecvac Ltd, Buckingway Business Park. Insertion of mezzanine floor for storage area.
- (v) Ref: S/1893/04/F – DC Hall, Buckingway Business Park. Alterations to west elevation by repositioning of service door and installation of additional service door. No objections.
- (vi) Ref: S/1745/04/F – Drayton Cottage, 36 Boxworth End. Garage with storage above following demolition of existing outbuildings. No objections.
- (vii) Transfer Sessions Weds 3 November 2004. Little Chef Cambridge West 604 Service Station, Swavesey. No objections.
- (viii) For information only. Ref: S/1692/98/F – 16 Ramper Road. Addition of velux rooflights to the rear roofslope.
- (ix) For information only. Ref: Removal of bedroom window in the rear elevation.

9.4 Permissions

Ref: S/1539/04/F – 8 Blackhorse Lane. Permission granted for extension including removal of bedroom window in rear elevation.

Ref: S/1454/04/F – 17 Gibraltar Lane. Permission granted for extension.

Ref: S/2554/03/F – 33 Station Road. Permission granted for house & garage.

9.5 Refusals - None received

9.6 Appeals

Ref: S/0246/04/RM - Land West of Longstanton. Appeal against planning condition 16 (Ref: S/0682/95/O) - max 500 dwellings. RM application now also subject to an appeal.

Ref: S/0682/05/O – Land West of Longstanton. Notice that appeal will be heard 5 Oct 2004 at SCDC offices.

AGENDA 10

Accounts

10.1 Payments this Month

- (i) All payments approved:

	Net	VAT	Gross
Administration and salaries	1,542.13	24.43	1,566.56
PWLB Half-yearly loan repayment	3,073.85		3,073.85
Memorial Hall – maintenance	260.00	45.50	305.50
Memorial Hall – Fire Extinguisher annual service	55.78	9.76	65.54
Memorial Hall – consumables/admin	34.69	3.00	37.69
Memorial Hall – cleaning contract July/August	457.00	79.98	536.98
Memorial Hall – electricity & rates	138.00		138.00
Total:	5,561.45	162.67	5,724.12

- (ii) Receipts

Hall Booking receipts (August/Sept)	309.80		309.80
Hall – Donation towards new cooker	50.00		50.00
Recycling Credits (Doorstep collection boxes)	791.36		791.36
Precept – 2 nd 50%	21,500.00		21,500.00
Total:	22,651.16		22,651.16

10.2 Income & Expenditure Update

The Clerk handed out copies of the receipts and payments to date and reminded Councillors that budget planning for 2005/06 will start in October. A draft budget is to be put together during October/November for consideration at the December Parish Council meeting. The Precept is to be set at the January meeting.

AGENDA 11

Correspondence

- Swavesey Pre-School Ofsted Report
- Play Area Committee AGM Report
- Trafalgar Weekend 2005 – notice of plans for national celebrations. Pass to Events Committee.
- ODPM consultations – 1) Draft code of Conduct for Local Government Employees, 2) Review of restrictions on the political activities of local authority employees and pay of political assistants. All responses to be received by 19 November 2004.
- Highways Agency – general information on responsibilities
- Newsletters and Magazines

AGENDA 12

Items for Information and Next Meeting Agenda

- Discussion on provision of a noticeboard within the Cherry Trees development.
- Query with CCC Passenger Transport Dept the statement from Stagecoach that they consulted with CCC with regard to the new bus route through Swavesey.
- During the recent work to the hall car park, some soil was removed from the back gardens of those properties bordering the car park – Clerk to contact the contractor regarding this.
- Feedback from the Wind Farm Exhibition to be held on 2 October requested.
- Chase-up installation of additional bin on Market Street Green.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 9.50pm.

Signed & dated

Chairman

Minutes approved & signed as a correct record by the Parish Council on 25 October 2004

