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# *Swavesey Parish Council*

**7.30pm**

**Public Open Forum**

No comments made from the public

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**7.30pm**

**Minutes**

Parish Council Meeting, held at The Memorial Hall  
Monday 13 June 2005, 7.30pm

**PRESENT**

Mr M Johnston (Chairman)

Councillors: P Marriott, J Pook, K Shepperson, W Wright

Clerk: Mrs L Miller

County Councillor Ms Mandy Smith

Cambridgeshire County Council, Traffic Management Policy Engineer, Mr David Brace

Parishioners: 1

**APOLOGIES**

A Day, J Dodson, J Foster, R Owen, S Rogers, J Tait

**AGENDA 2**

*Declarations of Interest*

None made.

**AGENDA 3**

*Traffic Calming*

The Chairman welcomed Mr Brace to the meeting. The Council wished to discuss the various traffic calming installations within the village following their letter to the County Council of 10 May and Mr Brace's reply of 27 May.

**Swan Pond**

A complaint had been made to the Parish Council about the parking around the narrowed entrance to the low road passed Swan Pond. At times parking restricts access to the road by larger vehicles. Mr Brace stated that if vehicles are parked on the footpath then this is an offence and if the footpath becomes blocked then this is a matter for the Police to investigate. Following discussion about the reasons for narrowing the entrance to this road and the off-road parking available at houses in the area, it was decided that it was not causing a serious problem at present. The situation would be monitored and if any further complaints were received then it would be reviewed.

**Over Road Give-way Build-out**

The Chairman stated that this installation was considered to be a major hazard. The road had been widened on the east side only (approaching the village) and many complaints had been received that traffic travelling from Over to Swavesey went on the right-hand side of the central island and did not go through the give-way feature. Mr Brace stated that again this was a serious traffic offence and the Police should be informed and asked to take the relevant action. The County Council has commissioned an independent Stage 3 Audit on all of the traffic calming installations in the village, which will be carried out very shortly and this will identify if the installation is dangerous. The results of the Audit will be made available to the Parish Council.

The road had not been widened on the west side due to the existing foot and cycleway. Mr Brace also stated that if any particular vehicles had a problem with manoeuvring around any of the installations then he would be happy to arrange for an engineer to meet on site with the vehicle operator to test access.

The Parish Council to write expressing their concerns regarding the Over Road give-way feature and ask for this to be reviewed in detail by the Audit team. Also to ask if a traffic camera could be placed at this feature to monitor road use around the give-way feature. This request was agreed at the meeting by David Brace.

### **Street Furniture**

David Brace to arrange for an engineer to meet with Councillors to walk through the village in order to identify any street signs that are no longer required and could be removed. All temporary signs erected for the new traffic calming installations will only be in place for three months.

### **Taylors Lane/Station Road Junction**

Parish Councillors expressed their concerns over the lack of traffic calming around this junction. It was originally intended to install a mini-roundabout here to slow down the traffic approaching from Station Road around the bend towards High Street, however a safety audit had rejected the installation, due to the lack of stopping distance and visibility. No other safe form of traffic calming can be identified for this junction.

### **Budget**

Parish Councillors were still unhappy that no final figures had been provided for the costs involved in installing the traffic calming features and therefore are not able to answer parishioners queries or their own concerns as to whether the whole project is worthwhile. Mr Brace added that traffic speeds were recorded prior to the project and will be recorded again following completion. These figures will be passed to the Parish Council and these will show whether traffic speed has been reduced by the traffic calming features. The original estimate for funding available to Swavesey was approximately £250,000.

### **Plans & Discussions**

Mr Brace stated that the County Council had been tasked with providing 23 schemes within two years. They had stated at the start that the programme would have to be an accelerated one, which had caused some problems with providing final plans and information when requested, however information had been passed on when it was available.

### **Ramper Road**

The Parish Council considered that the passing bays provided were of poor quality and had concerns that they would very soon crumble and have to be re-surfaced. No kerbing had been provided around them and more signs were required. Mr Brace replied that the bays had been provided to the correct standards and there were signs in place.

### **General Comments**

Mr Shepperson stated that there had been no obvious change in traffic speed along Boxworth End. The 3-2-1 signs and bumps on the approach had not slowed down traffic and the interactive speed sign was constantly lighting up. There should be additional traffic calming along Boxworth End and there should have been a give-way feature, or similar to slow traffic in Buckingham Road, before it entered the village.

A letter to be sent asking for confirmation of the final budget figures for the project.

Mr Brace apologised for the problems caused by the speed of implementation of the project, which had been due to the amount of work required in the timescale dictated. There had also been staffing problems with the highway contractor, which had added to the difficulties.

There were no other comments to be made with regard to the traffic calming. The Chairman thanked Mr Brace for attending and discussing the project.

## AGENDA 4

### *Planning*

#### **Applications**

- (i) Ref: S/0976/05/PNT – Land at The Farm, Boxworth End. 15M high telecommunications monopole and associated development.

No objections from residents received. Noted that comments from both schools had been sent querying emissions levels from such masts.

Mr Shepperson declared a personal interest, as Boxworth End Farm was listed as a possible alternative site that had been rejected.

Comments to be returned from Parish Council:

The Parish Council is surprised that a site could not be found for the monopole outside of the village boundary, given the number of other possible sites listed in the accompanying documentation. The Parish Council would prefer to see the monopole situated outside of the residential boundary of the village.

The Council is aware of concerns raised by some residents and the two schools in the village, over possible emissions and the concerns this raises amongst residents in general. The Parish Council also has similar concerns over the effects of increasing numbers of antennae close to residential areas.

The Council would also like to ask why additional antennae could not be sited on existing masts, as there are many already in place around Swavesey. Could more consideration please be given to this possibility, rather than siting another monopole.

- (ii) Ref: S/1000/05/F – Land adj. 41 Priory Avenue. 3-bed detached dwelling.

Letter copied to all from applicant's solicitor, outlining reasons why permission should be granted.

Letter of objection from resident in Gibraltar Lane, copied to all.

The Chairman allowed comments from the applicant, who was present at the meeting, and the Chairman asked questions to clarify points in the application.

Parish Council objected to the application on the following grounds:

- 1 Access point in Gibraltar Lane. There are currently no other access points/driveways to properties on the north side of Gibraltar Lane (rear of Priory Avenue). Allowing this new development access from Gibraltar Lane would set a precedent for future applications from other properties in Gibraltar Lane, which have been refused in the past.

The Parish Council believes that there were original conditions within the development of Priory Avenue, which did not allow access from properties in Priory Avenue into Gibraltar Lane. The Parish Council to ask for confirmation of this from the Planning Authority.

- 2 Access in Gibraltar Lane. The proposed access is close to the junction of School Lane, which at this point bends round into Gibraltar Lane and with the hedges along the north side, gives poor visibility.
- 3 Gibraltar Lane is the main route for school children to and from the Village College. Vehicles travelling to/from the Cherry Trees development off the top of School Lane also extensively use it. A new access at the proposed point and on the north side would cause additional hazard along this narrow lane.
- 4 Additional dwelling on a garden plot. The Parish Council does not consider this plot a suitable plot for an additional dwelling to the Priory Avenue development, it is in-fill building and there is no safe or suitable access to the proposed development.

Mr Marriott raised a point of order with the Chairman over allowing a member of the public to speak other than during the 10 minute Public Forum at the start of the meeting. The Chairman replied that he wished to clarify points regarding the application, however he accepted Mr Marriott's point about setting a future precedent.

There was no other business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 9pm.

Signed

Chairman

**Minutes approved & signed as a correct record by the Parish Council on 27 June 2005**