

Swavesey Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes

Swavesey Annual Parish Meeting, held at The Memorial Hall, High Street
Wednesday 9th April 2008, 7.30pm

PRESENT

Mr M Johnston (Chairman of the Parish Council)

Parish Councillors : S Boylan, J Dodson, P Marriott, T Parish, J Pook, J Tait, K Wilderspin, W Wright

Clerk : Mrs L Miller

Parishioners : 13 (list attached)

County Cllr Ms M Smith

Neighbourhood Police: PCSO J Mason, Sgt A Bartlett

Item

1 To receive apologies for absence

Parish Councillor Mrs S Rogers, Parish Councillor Mr D Whiter, District Councillor Mrs S Ellington

2 To sign & approve the minutes of the meeting dated 3 April 2007

Copies circulated to Parish Councillors and members of the public.

The Minutes were approved and signed with no amendments.

3 Swavesey Parish Council

3.1 Annual Report

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a verbal report on the main items of discussion for the Parish Council over the past year.

During 2007 the Parish Council was very pleased to have been awarded Quality Status, which shows that the Council is working to the highest standards and gives it an advantage over future grant applications and partnership working with County and District Councils.

The Chairman thanked all of the volunteers within the village who have helped on various projects, Alan Morris for his work on the village website, Trevor Wake (village handyman), Nicole Mullee (Hall Administrator), District, County and Parish Councillors for their work over the past year and Linda Miller the Parish Council's Clerk.

3.2 Memorial Hall Committee

The Chairman of the Committee gave a detailed verbal report on the discussions of the Hall Committee, with particular reference to the ongoing refurbishment work. The Chairman wished to thank Mrs Nicole Mullee, the Hall Administrator, for her excellent work in co-ordinating the administration for the hall.

One question was raised regarding the refurbishment work, to ask whether the Hall will be energy efficient. The Chairman replied that energy efficiency is being considered within each refurbishment decision.

4 Representatives from the following organisations gave reports and took questions

4.1 County Council

Cllr Ms M Smith gave a brief verbal report. Questions were raised on:

Q -Will bus passes be able to be used on the guided busway services?

A – CCC is working towards this and it was generally considered that they would be.

Q – Guided Busway construction, the budget appears to be increasing on this work, who will pick up the shortfall between the funding and final cost?

A – The County Council has a 4.5% contingency fund in place, after that it is a condition of the contract that the construction company would be responsible for any costs over budget.

Mr Pook wished to thank County Cllr Ms Smith for all of her work on behalf of the village over the past year and added that the Parish Council and County Cllr Ms Smith have been able to work well together on various issues.

4.2 District Council

The Clerk read out a report on District Council business over the past year provided for the meeting by Cllr Mrs S Ellington. Questions were raised on:

Q – A resident wished to register unhappiness that the Travellers site in Rose & Crown Road still proceeds when other local residents' planning applications are refused, why is this? Also will this site become an identified 'new' gypsy and traveller site?

A – The Clerk replied that the site has now received a temporary three-year permission, granted during 2007. This was granted as part of the ongoing consultation on the Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan, which aims to provide for new gypsy and traveller sites throughout the whole country within local development plans. It is not known yet whether the site in Rose & Crown Road will become permanent or will be one of the new sites.

Comment – A resident informed the meeting that he has been refused permission to site a mobile home on land he owns in Swavesey, which is contrary to the permission granted to the site in Rose & Crown Road.

Comment – The meeting was informed that an injunction had been granted through the District Council recently to stop potential expansion of the site in Rose & Crown Road.

Q – Could an Officer from the District Council be asked to attend a Parish Council meeting to explain exactly why breaches in planning regulations are not being fully enforced?

A – The Chairman replied that the Parish Council would arrange this.

The Clerk to pass the above questions and comments on to District Councillor Mrs Ellington for further follow up.

**Action
DCllr SE**

4.3 Neighbourhood Police

PCSO John Mason gave a report on recent crime figures. The main issues over recent months have been anti-social behaviour and S.59 warnings and seizures regarding illegal riding of mini-motos and motorbikes. The Police are working well with the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and the Parish Council. Inspector Ormerod has recently moved on from Histon Station and a new Inspector is now taking over.

Sgt Andy Bartlett introduced himself and gave an update on recent actions he has been involved with regarding anti-social behaviour and illegal motorbike riding in the Fen Drayton/RSPB Nature Reserve Area.

4.4 Neighbourhood Watch

Mr Alan Morris, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator spoke about the scheme and encouraged residents to take an active part in establishing NHW schemes in their areas. There are quite a few areas within the village that do still need NHW co-ordinators.

4.5 The Thomas Galon Charity

Mr Shepperson, Chairman of the Trustees was present to take any questions. No questions were raised.

4.6 The Frere Cottages Trust

Mr Pook, Trustee, informed residents of recent work to the cottages. There were no questions raised.

4.7 Byways Committee

Mr Wilderspin gave a brief background to the responsibilities of the Byways Committee. No questions were raised.

4.8 Swavesey Action for Youth

The Clerk gave an update on the progress of the Group. A weekly Junior Youth Club has now been established, held at the Youth Centre on the Village College Site, with plans for an older teenagers' club to start later this year. A grant for £6,850 has been won from Awards for All for a music and dance workshop project planned for later this year, another grant for just under £3,000 has been won from the County Council for equipment for the youth clubs. The Connections Youth Bus visits are well attended and successful and these have been funded by Swavesey and Fen Drayton Parish Councils. Swavesey Parish Council has also committed further core funding for another year to the Group.

4.9 Parish Plan Steering Group

Mr Pook reported that the questionnaire is about to be distributed to every household in the village and urged people to complete and return it, in order to ensure everyone's views on the future of the village are included. The Chairman thanked all of the volunteers involved for giving a lot of time towards this project.

4.11 RSPB

Mr Renwick from the RSPB introduced himself and there was a display of information and leaflets available for people to take at the back of the hall.

5 Parish Council Accounts

Audited accounts for 2006/2007 were circulated for information.

Draft subject to audit accounts for 2007/2008 were circulated for information.

No questions were raised.

The Clerk was thanked for her work to complete and present the accounts.

6 The Thomas Galon Charity Accounts 2007

These were circulated for information. No questions were raised.

Agreed to bring this item forward**8 Any other Business, at the discretion of the Chairman**

- Mr Lachlan, resident in Over, thanked the Chairman for allowing him to attend and speak at the meeting. Mr Lachlan wished to inform the meeting of the concerns of Over residents of the increase in HGV traffic through the village, which is seriously damaging the quality of life for residents in Over. He is organising a petition of residents, to present to the Over Annual Parish Meeting, asking the Parish Council to support the concerns raised with the South Cambs Joint Area Traffic Committee. He would like to ask if Swavesey would mount a similar campaign against HGV traffic using village roads and would Swavesey Parish Council support this? The Chairman replied that it was certainly a concern, although he was not aware that the problem was as great within Swavesey. However if Over Parish Council wished to approach Swavesey Parish Council for support then they would certainly consider it. Mr Lachlan thanked the meeting for listening.
- On behalf of the churchwardens and Parochial Church Council, the meeting was informed that they were very disturbed over the lack of timely collections of recycling materials from the bins located on the Church car park, despite many meetings and complaints to South Cambs District Council.
The Clerk replied that the Parish Council was aware of the continuing problems and fully supported the churchwardens' complaints to the District Council. It was for the churchwardens to take the lead with this issue, as the land is private land, however the Parish Council will continue to help as much as it can.
The District Council has already announced that when plastics doorstep collections start later this year, plastics banks in the district will be removed from recycling centres. The Parish Council has therefore asked if this policy will extend to cans, newspapers and bottles, as these are already doorstep collected. No reply has yet been received.
The Clerk also said that the Parish Council would be represented at the next meeting to discuss this problem with South Cambs on Monday 14th April.

7 Swavesey Festival 2008 – a project update

Mrs Jacqui Fuller and Mrs Gloria Milne gave an update on the Festival and circulated final copies of the Festival Programme, which will be delivered to every household during April. The Parish Council was thanked for its support both financially and for the contact information and advice received from the Chairman and Clerk.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Fuller and Mrs Milne for attending the meeting and wished to extend thanks to all of the residents involved in the Festival organisation, which has a very extensive programme of events planned. The programme looks to be extremely varied and interesting and should be a huge success.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 9.15pm.

Signed & dated, Chairman