

# *Swavesey Parish Council*

## *Planning Meeting*

7.30pm

**Minutes**

Swavesey Parish Council Planning Meeting, held at The Memorial Hall, High Street  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2010

**PRESENT**

Mr M Johnston (Chairman)

Councillors : Mr Boylan, Mr J Jullien, Mr N Dennis, Mr J Pook, Mr K Wilderspin, Mr Whiter

Clerk : Mrs L Miller

Parishioners : 4

County Cllr: Ms M Smith

In attendance: Mr T Rouse, Ms L Tilbrook, Atkins Ltd

**Item****Power Action****1 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Mr P Marriott, Mr T Parish, Mr Wright

**2 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations received.

**3 Meeting suspended to allow 10 minutes for the public participation forum and for persons declaring prejudicial interest relating to the business to be transacted, to address the meeting.**

- No items raised

**Public forum closed in order for the Parish Council meeting to commence.****4 Flood Risk Consultation – Covell's Drain**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Tom Rouse and Ms Liz Tilbrook to the meeting, from Atkins Ltd. Atkins has been commissioned by the Environment Agency (EA) and South Cambs District Council (SCDC) to undertake an assessment of the fluvial flooding issues associated with Fen Drayton and Swavesey relating to modifications to Covell's Drain eastern embankment.

Mr Rouse gave an explanation of the scope of the assessment and then answered questions and comments from Parish Councillors. Main items discussed were:

- The assessment will look at the overall effect on the flooding of areas around Covell's Drain under three different models: existing eastern bank height; eastern bank lowered to the 'original' levels; a scenario incorporating a potential Fen Drayton defence embankment.
- The assessment is to find out if a change to the height of the eastern embankment is made, ie lowering it, what effect will that have on the flood waters around the Covell's Drain area.
- The assessment will look at the magnitude of flood risk with each scenario. It will not detail exact height changes, but will give an overall view of how flood waters and flow will change under each scenario.
- The modelling will use existing readily available information and will look at what overall effect the bank height changes have on that existing information, for flood water height and area flooded.
- It will look at all flows, both coming down the Covell's Drain and water coming across the nature reserve from St Ives.
- Mr Parish had written up some notes on past discussions relating to Covell's Drain bank height, flood scenarios and flood protection for Swavesey village. These were circulated to everyone for information.
- Mr Rouse was asked what the 'original' bank level is that will be used. Mr Rouse replied that this was still to be determined and the levels for lowering the bank height were also not yet agreed.

- Councillors raised concerns that many properties within Swavesey village are at between 5M and 5.5M and are at risk of flooding if water overtops the Covell's Drain eastern bank. Cllrs asked that Atkins take this into consideration during the assessment.
- The assessment is starting this week and is expected to be a 3-month programme.
- Cllrs asked who was the lead authority, the EA or SCDC? Mr Rouse replied that Atkins are working with both authorities equally, there is no lead authority from their view point.
- Mr Rouse was asked if the strength of the eastern embankment would be investigated. Mr Rouse replied that this was not part of the assessment.
- Cllrs raised concerns over the embankment and potential undermining of it at lower levels when there are flood situations. Mr Rouse agreed to discuss this further.
- Cllrs asked that Atkins link in with the Planning and Development section of the EA with regard to discussions relating to Northstowe and Uttons Drove Sewage Treatment Works (STW) and the new pump at Webb's Hole. If flood waters from Covell's Drain affect the area around Webb's Hole then the pump will be ineffective in times of flood, therefore modelling relating to Covell's Drain needs to include its effect on Webb's Hole. Mr Rouse would investigate this.
- Swavesey Internal Drainage Board will be meeting with Mr Rouse on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March to discuss the consultation further.

There were no further questions raised. The Chairman thanked Mr Rouse and Ms Tilbrook for being able to attend the meeting and asked if the Parish Council could be kept fully informed of the progress of the assessment over the next few months.

8.05pm - Mr Rouse & Ms Tilbrook left the meeting.

## **5 PLANNING**

### **5.1 To consider applications received**

- (i) Ref: S/0222/10/F – 11 Whitegate Close, Dr P Hansen. Extensions. No objections.
- (ii) Ref: S/1840/09/F – Swavesey Pre-School, Primary School site, Middlewatch. Pergola. No objections.

**5.2 Permissions** None notified

**5.3 Refusals** None notified

**5.4 Appeals** None notified

**5.5 General Correspondence** - None

## **6 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND NEXT MEETING AGENDA**

- (i) Next meeting: Full Parish Council Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2010, 7.30pm

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 8.10pm

Signed & dated  
Chairman

**Minutes approved & signed as a correct record by the Parish Council on 22 March 2010**