

Swavesey Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes

Swavesey Annual Parish Meeting, held at The Memorial Hall, High Street
Wednesday 2nd July 2014, 7.30pm

PRESENT

Chairman: Mr M Johnston (Chairman of the Parish Council)

Parish Councillors : Mr J Jullien, Mr C Parsons, Mr J Pook, Mr K Wilderspin

Parishioners : 12

District Cllr Mrs S Ellington

Minutes taken by : Mrs L Miller

Total Present: 19

Item

1 To receive apologies for absence

Parish Councillors: Miss L Boyes, Mr J Dodson, Miss H Parish, Ms S Smith, Mr W Wright
County Cllr Ms M Smith; Festival Chairman Mr S Shore, Pavilion Trustees Mr G Peet, Mr J Ladell

2 To sign & approve the minutes of the meeting dated 17th April 2013

Copies circulated to Parish Councillors and members of the public.

The Minutes were approved and signed with no amendments.

3 Swavesey Parish Council - Annual Report

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a report outlining the main items occupying the Parish Council during the past year. A summary of the report is attached. The Chairman added that the full report would be available on the Parish Council's website.

He concluded by thanking Parish Councillors for their time and commitment over the past year, the Clerk, Linda Miller, Mr Alan Morris for his work on the Meridian magazine and village website and Mrs Polly Wilderspin for her time and work in keeping the village NHW Scheme together and working so effectively.

Question from Mr Shepperson: With regard to the cycleway construction, having spoken to contractors concern was raised that nothing is being done to rectify the blockage at the culvert under the sub-station entrance, where previously in heavy rainfall there is a flood across the road at this dangerous point. Whilst the construction is underway, surely work should take place to sort out the drainage problem?

Chairman replied that this would be taken up with the County Council to ensure the flooding problem is solved and not made worse.

The Chairman informed the meeting that a public exhibition of proposals for building works at the Primary School would take place on Thurs 10th July, from 5.30pm to 7.30pm at the Primary School.

4 Parish Council Accounts 2012 - 2013 Audited Parish Council Accounts 2013 - 2014 Draft - Subject to Audit

Copies of the accounts were circulated amongst the public.

Question from Mr Dyer: Why are the S106 receipts shown as zero for the past two years?

Clerk replied that no receipts had been received, however the expected new build S106 receipts have now started to arrive and just missed the last financial year.

5 Representatives from the following organisations gave reports and took questions

5.1 County Council

Apologies received from Cllr Ms M Smith. No report given. The Chairman noted the Parish Council's thanks to Cllr Ms Smith for all of her work relating to the Parish. Cllr Ms Smith attends all Parish Council meetings and works very hard to bring our issues with County responsibilities to the front and gain immediate response and action.

5.2 District Council

Cllr Mrs Ellington thanked the village for her re-election as Ward Councillor for a further four years. Mrs Ellington is currently Vice-Chair of the District Council and sits on a number of committees and attends a variety of civic engagements.

A brief report was given on SCDC business including:

- Savings are being made in links with other authorities, eg admin/office collaboration with Hunts District Council and refuse/recycling work with Camb City Council.
- Increases in housing service by buying additional housing stock for rent.
- Planning has been struggling with Planning Officer shortages however new staff are now being recruited.

5.3 Neighbourhood Police & Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Mrs Wilderspin, Village NHW Co-ordinator thanked Ms Lisa Boyes for her help as Deputy Co-ordinator, however Lisa had now stood down and a new Deputy was urgently required. Thanks also given to all in the village for support, especially the Parish Council and District Cllr Mrs Ellington. Crime figures for the past year were briefly reported on. The Chairman thanked Mrs Wilderspin for all the time and hard work she gives to the Scheme.

5.4 George Long Charity for Swavesey Memorial Hall

In Mr Wright, Chairman of Trustees, absence Mr Johnston gave a report on the Hall Charity (summary of report attached). The Hall continues to be very busy and income is increasing, enabling further improvements to be made. New internal doors were fitted earlier this year. A number of comments praising the doors were received. The flooring in the main hall will be replaced this August. Repairs to the roofing had also been carried out over the past year. Mr Wright wished to thank Mrs Nicole Mullee, the Hall Administrator for all her work in promoting and managing the hall.

5.5 The Thomas Galon Charity

Mr Shepperson, Chairman of the Trustees informed everyone that copies of the Charity Accounts for 2013 had been circulated with the meeting Agenda and gave a brief explanation of the Charity's income and expenditure. The Trustees had reviewed the annual donation to the elderly and a new Energy Grant Scheme is being introduced to replace the previous donation this winter. The Trustees had also agreed to help fund the Community Warden Scheme.

Question: Query that expenditure for the last year was low compared to income.

Mr Shepperson and the Trust's Clerk replied that previously income was being held with a view to possibly purchasing land for allotments, however this was resolved by leasing existing land to the Parish Council. Expenditure had been reduced in anticipation of land purchase. With the new Energy Grant and Warden support it is anticipated that expenditure levels will rise again after this forthcoming year.

5.6 The Frere Cottages Trust

Mr Pook, Trustee, gave an explanation of the history of the Charity. There were no questions raised.

5.7 Byways Committee

Mr Wilderspin, Byways Committee member, reported that the byways are private roads, maintained to agricultural status by local landowners. Noted that Cow Fen in particular is suffering badly from increased vehicle use. No questions were raised.

5.8 Swavesey Community Pavilion Trust

In Mr Peet, chairman of Trustees, absence, Mr Johnston gave a report on the management of the community pavilion on the recreation green. The football clubs are the main users, with summertime children's parties also taking place. Repairs are a constant issue. No questions were raised.

5.9 Swavesey Festival Group

Mr Dyer gave a brief report on the success of the recent Festival week. Residents comments on the events would be gratefully received. The Committee had put in a great deal of work to organise the Festival, in particular Mr Shore and Mrs Guest, huge thanks were extended to both. The Group is now looking to the future and hand-over to a new Committee later this year, to organise the next one. A new Chairman is required. Thanks also to the Parish Council for its support and funding.

From the Floods DVD sold during the Festival, £700 is going to the Festival funds and further funding is being donated to the Pavilion Trust.

5.10 Hale Road Allotment & Gardening Association

Mr Richardson, Chairman of the Allotment Association Committee, gave an informative and entertaining overview of the very successful community allotment site on charity land in Hale Road, which is now in its second season. The tenants help with fundraising and the Compass Café will be in aid of the Allotment Assoc on the last Thursday in August. Plus a recipe book has been produced which is for sale.

6 Discussion – Market Street Parking

The Parish Council wished to review whether marking out parking spaces in Market Street would increase available parking and what residents and local business comments on this are. Comments received:

- T-marks would be less obtrusive
- Herringbone parking would be easier to drive in and out of and may provide more spaces
- Provision of cycle racks should be included, either within the parking area or on the front of the green
- An analysis of who currently parks there, what for and for how long should be carried out
- Should residents parking be provided?
- Should loading bay or PO area parking be provided?
- Professional advice should be sought, perhaps from the County Council Highways, as to the best way to layout parking spaces.

The chairman thanked everyone for their comments and these would be taken to the Parish Council for further review.

7 Open Public Forum

- Mr Pook noted that a working party will meet at Constable's Rood shortly to carry out grounds maintenance to the hedges and flower beds. All volunteers welcome.
- The Swavesey Your Library will move from its premises in the Resource Centre at the Village College on 18th July, to temporary facilities at the front of the College site (former entrance hall, accessed by the Caretaker's entrance near the roundabout). This will be during the building works at the College over the next year. Following that a purpose built area within the new Community Resource Area in the College will be provided for the Library.
- Mrs Stevens – the Walking Bus for the Primary School which operates one day a week from Over Rd to School, and which the Parish Council helped to fund, does not attract very many children and of the 10 children using it, only 3 have moved from walking previously. Which is not a huge success. Brief discussion took place over parking issues around the Primary School site.
- Discussion also about bus services and guided busway drop off area. The Clerk reported that the possibility of short-term parking at the site was being investigated. Also that the County Council's Future Transport Project is investigating a link bus between Elsworth and the Swavesey guided bus stop, which would bring a bus service back through Boxworth End. It would only be a mini-bus service probably 4 times a day, but would provide a link to the busway for residents unable to walk there.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and reminded people that they could also attend Parish Council monthly meetings and raise questions and comments at the public forum sessions at the start of each meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 9.05pm

Signed & dated, Chairman

MINUTES SIGNED AS AN ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING AT THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ON 15TH APRIL 2015