

Swavesey Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes

Swavesey Annual Parish Meeting, held at The Memorial Hall, High Street
Wednesday 13th April 2016, 7.30pm

PRESENT

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

Parish Councillors : Mr J Dodson, Mr D Hunt, Mr J Pook, Ms S Smith, Mr K Wilderspin, Mr W Wright

Parishioners : 32

District Cllr Mrs S Ellington, County Cllr Ms Smith (from 8.45pm)

Minutes taken by : Mrs L Miller

Total Present: approx. 40

Item

1 To receive apologies for absence

Parish Councillors: Ms L Boyes, Miss H Parish, Mr S Faben,
County Cllr Ms M Smith, Mr G Peet (Community Pavilion Trust), Mr A Jennings (NHW Co-ordinator)

2 To sign & approve the minutes of the meeting dated 15th April 2015

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 new website. A short overview of the website was given, showing where all the information can be found and how to access linked documents. He concluded by thanking Parish Councillors for their time and commitment over the past year, together with the Clerk, Linda Miller. Also Mr Wright and Mrs Mullee for their work on managing the Memorial Hall.

Question from Mr Fuller: with regard to the Cambridge Water main replacement along Boxworth End. When is this due to end as it was originally quoted as ending at the end of March. There have been periods of very long roadworks/traffic lights. The Chairman replied that the works will not be moving any further along Middlewatch but will now connect into Ramper Road, so they should be finished in the next couple of weeks. It was also noted that properties on the east side of Boxworth End, still hadn't yet been connected to the new main. The Clerk was asked to contact Cambridge Water to find out.

Question from Mrs Fuller: with regard to parking around the Primary School, Middlewatch. Parking stretches a long way back along Middlewatch and is often very difficult to pass, with vehicles on the verges and very close together. Mr Pook replied that the County Council had been reviewing the problems and new school entrance warning signs will shortly be installed together with an advisory 20mph limit. White lines to protect driveway access will also be provided for residents. The Clerk added that drivers can be prosecuted for blocking driveways.

4 Parish Council Accounts 2014 - 2015 Audited Parish Council Accounts 2015 - 2016 Draft - Subject to Audit

Copies of the accounts were circulated amongst the public.
No questions were asked. The Chairman thanked the Council's Clerk for the reports.

5 Representatives from the following organisations gave reports and took questions

Where available, reports will be appended to the Minutes.

5.1 County Council

Apologies received from County Cllr Ms Smith, no report received. No questions raised.

5.2 District Council

Cllr Mrs Ellington gave a short report on items from the past year including:

- Also serves on the Health & Wellbeing Board and gave an update on discussions with regard to the recent Older Peoples Services contract and improvements to Addenbrookes and Hinchingsbrooke services.
- An update on the Local Plan revision and re-examination, which is due to start in June through to approximately September.
- The 20 affordable homes on Fen Drayton Rd are almost complete and bidding for tenants has now taken place.
- City Deal - £500M towards infrastructure improvements around Cambridge. SCDC is not keen on the proposal for congestion charging, as all SCDC residents would end up paying this. Other proposals include increasing P&R facilities, improvements to the A428 and a Guided Bus route to Cambourne.
- Devolution proposals – SCDC does not agree with joining in with Norfolk and Suffolk as one governing area.

Comment from Mrs Fuller – very disappointed in South Cambs District Council with regard to the lack of approval for the Local Plan, as this has caused a tremendous amount of stress and work to S Cambs Parishes who are now being swamped with speculative residential development proposals. Considers that it is the fault of SCDC that the Local Plan was not able to be approved and in place to have stopped this current situation.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Mrs Ellington.

5.3 Neighbourhood Police & Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

A report from the village NHW Co-ordinator had been circulated with the Agendas. No questions were raised.

5.4 George Long Charity for Swavesey Memorial Hall

Mr Wright, Chairman of Trustees, gave a report on the work of the Memorial Hall Trustees and thanked Mrs Nicole Mullee, Hall Administrator, for her work in managing and promoting the facilities at the hall. No questions were raised.

5.5 The Thomas Galon Charity

Annual report and accounts for the Charity had been circulated. Mr Day, Chairman of Trustees gave a brief report to highlight the charity's support of the Community Warden Scheme and its involvement in the A14 improvement project, as the charity will lose some of its agricultural land to compulsory purchase. The Trust hopes to be able to re-invest the capital received to be able to continue to provide its level of assistance to residents of the village. No questions were raised.

5.6 The Frere Cottages Trust

Mr Pook, Trustee, gave an explanation of the history and management of the four Cottages in Station Road. There were no questions raised.

5.7 Byways Committee

The Clerk gave a brief explanation of the Byways and acknowledged the work of local farmers in keeping the byways maintained. No questions were raised.

5.8 Swavesey Community Pavilion Trust

Mr Ladell gave a brief report on the Pavilion. Unfortunately due to the drainage work taking place on the green over the winter, there has been no football played and therefore no income for the Pavilion in recent months, which has proved difficult. However the green is now in excellent condition for football for the future. The Café, although good had had to stop trading but it is hoped that something will be able to start again this summer. Financially the Trust is just about breaking even. No questions were raised.

5.9 Swavesey Festival Group

Mr Shore gave an update on the programme of event for this year's Festival which will be from 18-25 June. Full information on all events will be published in the next Meridian, some initial information has already been published in the current issue. There is a Facebook page with further details on. The Clerk added that links to the event information would be added to the Parish website.

5.10 Hale Road Allotment & Gardening Association

Mr Richardson, Chairman of the Allotment Association Committee, gave an unusually brief report on the allotment association. In particular that just recently two grant applications had been successful in securing a considerable amount to provide a fully accessible, waterless toilet for the site.

6 A Neighbourhood Plan for Swavesey

The Chairman of the Parish Council gave a presentation on A Neighbourhood Plan for Swavesey, explaining what the plan is and how it could help residents and community services and businesses set out their vision for the village over the next 5, 10, 20 years.

Following the recent speculative residential proposals received for land around the village, amounting to a potential of approx. 200 new homes, an increase of around 20% in the size of the village, the Parish Council considers that a Neighbourhood Plan would provide the Council and community with a much stronger voice with regard to future development.

A Neighbourhood Plan **has the same legal status as the District Council's Local Plan** so, decisions on planning applications **must** take the Neighbourhood Plan into consideration. Communities can put in place planning policies that will help deliver how they wish to see their area develop. The Parish Council leads the project to draw up the Neighbourhood Plan but it needs the full involvement and support of the community, as the final plan has to be approved by a village referendum.

To move forward with this project a lot of support and involvement from local residents and businesses will be required. If people would like to find out more about what is involved and join the working group to make this important document happen, they should contact the Parish Council either via the Clerk at clerk@swavesey.org.uk or tel: 01954 202982

A copy of the presentation given at the meeting will be put onto the website.

7 Open Public Forum

- Mr Blunt – could the guided busway car park area on Over Road be made larger by removing kerbing and shrub areas, to allow more cars? It is very well used and on many days completely full, although there are areas where additional spaces could be provided. The Chairman replied that it is County Council owned land, therefore the County would need to be approached. However the lack of budget for this type of project is often a huge problem.

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.

Also all information about Parish Council meetings and items relating to the village can be found on the Parish website at www.swavesey.org.uk and encouraged everyone to take a look.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 9.00pm

Signed & dated, Chairman

Approved by the meeting and signed as a correct record by the Chairman at the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12th April 2017