

September

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4th SEPTEMBER 2013

PRESENT: Guy Allen, Sid Bishop, Vince Jones, David Lomax, Gordon Wilson (Chairman), Liz Carmichael (Clerk) and 5 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES

Andrew Bennett (Ward Councillor)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

David Lomax declared an interest in agenda item 11.2 as he's the Parish Council's representative on the Village Hall committee.

3. GUEST SPEAKER, CHRIS COYLE, WILTS & BERKS CANAL TRUST

The Parish Council welcomed Chris Coyle and Kath Hatton from the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust. Chris took the meeting through a presentation about the canal, starting with its history. It was noted that the canal is in the local plans of all councils along the route, including Oxfordshire County Council, as a protected route. Only a small percentage of users are boaters. The canal is a multi use leisure resource. It is an important creator of a standing water habitat with three areas: in the water itself, among reeds at the waters edge and in hedgerows along the towpath. There are 4 serious blockages along the original route. It was noted that Swindon is the most difficult blockage. The Trust's preferred route is partially through the town and along the A419. The canal will become part of the new proposed long distance path from Bath to Oxford.

The Parish Council, and the general public, can help the Trust by:

- 1) ensuring that Swindon Borough Council's Core Strategy supports the restoration of the canal*
- 2) ensuring that landowners are aware of the value of the waterways and long distance footpath to the local community*
- 3) watching out for any planning proposals that conflict with the canal and its proposed route. (This can occur despite the fact that it is a protected route)*
- 4) becoming a member of the Trust*
- 5) volunteering. Skilled volunteers, from engineers to project managers are needed.*

The biggest problems facing the Trust are the large number of landowners along the route (over 300 of them), getting public support and obtaining funding. Chris Coyle advised the meeting that the cost of restoration of the Swindon section is about £50,000,000 however putting the canal back through the town centre could be worth £10,000,000 a year to Swindon. With a marina approximately every 10 miles there is likely to be one on each side of Swindon. Houses on the canal side have a premium of about 15% therefore it would be hoped that any developers would support the restoration of the canal. It was noted that Coate Water was built as the main reservoir for the canal and the Trust would like it back. The Trust believes that it can take water out for the canal without impacting the SSSI (site of significant scientific interest). It was suggested that it may be beneficial to do a joint promotional day for the villagers of Liddington and Wanborough.

The meeting was suspended for public question time. During this session issues were raised regarding vehicles accessing the top section of Church road, either to go to the playing field or in error, and that subsequently some damage had been caused to property. It was noted that the path to the playing field was a bridleway and therefore should not be obstructed.

6. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

6.1 Broadband Speed Improvement – Gordon Wilson advised the meeting that SBC had backed out of the agreement with BT. It was noted that Vodafone may be able to carry out an upgrade of the station on Ham road but may need a business case based on the number of villagers willing to take up their service. It was noted that BT have a monopoly and are the only company that can get government grants. BT, however, have no plans to upgrade the connection from the exchange at Wanborough. The Parish Council agreed that concerns regarding low broadband speeds in Liddington should be escalated to the local MP.

Send letter to Robert Buckland detailing the Parish Council's concerns with local broadband speeds

Action: clerk

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th August were approved and signed as a true record.

5. *MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES*

Actions completed

Send letter of confirmation placing order for the new village hall heaters

Action: clerk

Send link to FA health & safety guidelines to clerk

Action: GA

Send letter to Wanborough Wasps responding to request to alter goalposts

Action: clerk

Report incorrect village sign to the borough council and request replacement

Action: clerk

Contact PGL and ask that they remove Liddington Hotel signs

Action: clerk

Send feedback from neighbours of Manor Farm to developers

Action: clerk

Open dialogue with developers of Manor Farm about the coomb

Action: GW

Arrange for SBC to attend a meeting to discuss any additional traffic calming

Action: clerk

Actions ongoing

Consider locations for

trees

Action: All

Arrange Neighbourhood Watch handover from Jonathan

Miller

Action: VJ

Get price list for trees and find out deadline for ordering disease resistant elms

Action: clerk

Get prices for fruit trees for a Community

orchard

Action: clerk

Contact Kompan and report fault with play

equipment

Action: clerk

The meeting noted that the clerk had been collecting information and prices for the different types of disease resistant elms that are available for purchase in the UK. This information needs to be collated for the Parish Council to review prior to making a purchase.

Sid Bishop and Gordon Wilson spoke with the neighbours of Manor Farm about the proposed development. Their main concerns were regarding the blind access in and out of the lane. It was noted that the developers have currently put the planning proposal on hold.

The clerk advised the meeting that as the FA Health & Safety Guidelines specifically state that goalposts altered from their original size are not allowed, it had been necessary to advise the football team that no alterations could be made to the goalposts. The clerk had also reminded the football club of the restrictions on parking. The Parish Council agreed that the football club should be asked to display a temporary sign on Church road, on match and training days, with the following wording "No football traffic beyond this point". Vince Jones advised the meeting that as parking at the village hall was limited, the pub car park could also be used.

6. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

6.2 Ordinary Meeting Date - The Parish Council agreed to move the date of the ordinary meeting to the first Wednesday in the month.

6.3 Reasons for Absence - The Parish Council approved Vince Jones's reasons for absence.

6.4 Police Visit - It was noted that the main topics for discussion with the Police Inspector would be speeding, frequency of speed checks & the results, police presence in the village and priorities for policing in the villages. In addition the Parish Council would like to know more about the crime issues likely to affect villages and to discuss concerns regarding traffic backing up through the village as a result of an accident of the motorway.

6.5 Church & hall signs and posts on Church road - It was agreed that this matter be carried forward to a future meeting.

6.6 Footpaths - Corrugated sheets and sarsen stones are blocking the path to the dells. The meeting noted that Mike Enwright has confirmed that the Borough Council has had conversations with the landowner regarding these issues with the footpath. In view of the fact that this matter has been ongoing for at least 12 months, the Parish Council decided to contact SBC to find out when legal action will be pursued.

Find out when legal action will be pursued regarding issues with footpath 21

Action: clerk

6.7 *Purchase of Disease Resistant Elms – It was agreed that this matter be carried forward to a future meeting.*

6.8 *Highways Matters – It was agreed that this matter be carried forward to another meeting.*

7. *PLANNING*

7.1 *Planning Applications – The Parish Council has no objections to the following application:*

S/13/0869/MS Erection of two air conditioning units and extension of the existing timber enclosure at the Great Western Hospital.

7.2 *Decisions – Permission granted for planning applications:*

- ♦ *S/ADV/13/0956NISM Display of non-illuminated fascia sign and 1 directional sign for the Great Western Hospital*
- ♦ *S/13/0957NISM Erection of external walkway shelter and canopy at the Great Western Hospital*
- ♦ *S/LBC/13/0727/HC 10 Inglenook Cottage, The Street, replacement of bay window*

8. *FINANCE*

8.1 *Account Summary – The Parish Council reviewed the account summary.*

8.2 *Payments – The Parish Council approved payment of the following:*

- ♦ *clerk's remuneration Apr – Sept 2013 £750*
- ♦ *clerk's administration costs £50*

9. *CORRESPONDENCE*

9.1 *The following correspondence for action was discussed :*

- ♦ *South Marston draft Supplementary Planning document, deadline 16th September*
- ♦ *Eastern Villages draft Supplementary Planning document, deadline 16th September*
- ♦ *Core Skills for Councillors training course, East Grafton 6.00pm – 8.30pm on 12 September £42 per place*
- ♦ *Wiltshire Core Strategy – Consultation on schedule of proposed modifications (inc. sustainability appraisal & habitats regulation assessment updates), two ministerial statements relating to wind farm development, and national*

planning practice guidance for renewable and low carbon energy, deadline 9 October

- ♦ *Consultation on revised master plan for Wichelstowe and notification of public consultation events*

9.2 *The Parish Council noted the following correspondence for information:*

- ♦ *Notification of Community First AGM 25 September 2013, Devizes*

10. *WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT*

10.1 *Andrew Bennett was unable to attend the meeting.*

11. *COUNCILLORS' REPORTS*

11.1 *Playing Field - Sid Bishop advised the meeting that he had carried out his fortnightly safety inspections of the play equipment on 7th and 21st August that that there were no new issues except for the board that was not fixed in one corner. This was considered a minor problem and does not present a safety issue. It was noted that incidents of dog owners not cleaning up after their animals was on the increase again and that some dogs had been allowed to foul in the churchyard.*

11.2 *Village Hall Committee - David Lomax advised the meeting that the committee was planning a safari supper in October to raise funds and is also considering organising carol singing in December.*

11.3 *Neighbourhood Watch - Vince Jones advised the meeting that he had been in contact with Jonathan Miller and that he was waiting for Jonathan to agree a convenient time to do a handover.*

11.4 *Community Speedwatch - It was noted that more volunteers are needed to run the community speedwatch scheme successfully. Vince Jones stated that he would be happy to display a poster for the Community Speedwatch scheme in the pub.*

Create Community Speedwatch poster for display in the Village Inn

Action: GA

11.5 *Jeffries Land Trust - Nothing to report.*

12 *PARISH MAGAZINE*

It was agreed that the following items be put in the Lyden magazine:

- *Police visit in October. Members of the public to send any questions to the Parish Council in advance*
- *Villagers to look out for notices regarding a public meeting to discuss the possible closure of Dayhouse lane*

- Dog fouling on the playing field and in the church yard

13 *ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/ITEMS FOR A FUTURE AGENDA*

It was noted that bus service no.47 is being affected by cut backs.

The following items for a future agenda were noted:

- *To discuss the maintenance of the grass verges and to consider getting a grant to do the work locally*

- *To discuss the next village clean up*

The meeting concluded at 9.55pm