

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9th FEBRUARY 2011

PRESENT: Sid Bishop, David Lomax, Maurice Spillane, Gordon Wilson (Chairman), Liz Carmichael (Clerk) and Andrew Bennett (Ward Councillor).

1. APOLOGIES

Stephanie Penfold and Jonathan Miller

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

David Lomax declared an interest in agenda item 10.4 as he is the Parish Council's representative on the Parish Plan committee.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Paragraph 5.8 was changed to read "Church road" not "Church street". Subject to this amendment, the minutes of the meeting held on 12h January were approved and signed as a true record.

4. UPDATE FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Actions completed

Produce proposal for improving the playing field and its facilities

Action: JM

Investigate feasibility of historical buildings project Action: MS

Circulate list of activities for 2011 Action: MS

Actions carried forward from previous minutes

Consult villagers to gauge interest in a second meat feast Action:

All

5. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

5.1 Ongoing Matters

(i) Electricity Poles – No further update.

(ii) Flooding & blocked drains – No update.

5.2 Traffic Survey – Mo Shaffi advised the meeting that the survey showed that 2000 vehicles were travelling in each direction in a 24 hour period and that the speed of traffic between 7am and 7pm had reduced. It was noted that the odd vehicle passing through the village in the early hours of the morning was travelling well in excess of the speed limit.

5.3 Communication Activities – It was noted that with village groups all organising their own events throughout the year, there may occasionally be a conflict with two events being held very close together. Maurice Spillane advised the meeting that the Village Hall committee had proposed that there should be joint village events organised between the Village Hall, the Church and the Parish Council.

5.4 2011 Projects – The following shortlist of projects for 2011 was agreed i) improving the playing field ii) the restoration of the church iii) a central village sign iv) the landscaping of the verge near the Jubilee gardens v) landscaping of the area in front of the

village gates. These projects will be discussed in detail at the March meeting and priorities will be assigned.

5.5 Cultivation Project – David Lomax advised the meeting that the area needs thinning and some native trees could be planted alongside a new path. It was noted that Swindon Borough Council may be prepared to adopt the scheme and takeover responsibility for it. Before any planting goes ahead the Parish Council will need to speak to arboreal officer and highways to obtain advice and guidance and to ensure that the proposed scheme does not cause any road obstructions. The impact of the landscaping on the conservation area needs to be considered. Andrew Bennett advised the meeting that if this was a ‘community’ project, it may be possible to get LEADER funding from the AONB. It was noted that other assistance may be available from Great Western Forest and Wanborough Forest.

5.6 Church Road Verges – The grass triangle is being eroded. It is believed that in part this may be as a result of vehicles missing the turning for the Church and Village Hall and using it as a point to turn around. Another section of grass verge has been significantly eroded. It was suggested that a “private road” sign placed at the point the public road ends may prompt car drivers to reverse their vehicles rather than turning them around at the grass triangle.

5.7 Memorial Bench – The Parish Council is waiting for more information about the proposed memorial bench and its location before discussing it further.

5.8 Restoration of milestones – It was agreed that if any milestones need restoring this work will be added to the list of jobs for the Community Payback Scheme.

5.9 Playing Field Hedge – The Parish Council discussed the maintenance of the playing field hedge and it was agreed that a new quote for the work is required.

Get quote for trimming hedge Action: SB

6. PLANNING

6.1 The Parish Council had no objections to application S/10/1864/SASM, which is an amendment to S/10/ 1864/SASM, and agreed that its original comments should be re-iterated.

6.2 No applications have been decided since the last meeting.

7. FINANCE

7.1 Account Summary – The Parish Council reviewed and approved the account summary.

7.2 The quotes for the website sign were reviewed. It was agreed

that the order will be placed with the company providing the cheapest quote. Before an order is placed clarification is required from Swindon Borough Council regarding any required permissions.

Speak to Emily Sykes about website sign & any associated permissions
Action: clerk

7.3 The Parish Council approved payment of invoice 2182 from Stratton St Margaret Parish Council for dog waste collection service £7.13

9. WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

9.1 Andrew Bennett advised the meeting that the North Wessex Downs AONB position statements are being drafted. These will be useful to refer to when the Parish Council is looking at planning applications. The borough council is looking at responses to the Local Transport Plan consultation.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Correspondence for discussion/action

– Swindon Surface Water Management Plan, Community Flooding Information request, deadline 18th February. It was agreed that Gordon Wilson should respond to this.

– Consultation on Swindon Borough Council's revised Parish Charter and Planning Protocol, deadline 17th March. It was agreed that this will be discussed at the March meeting.

– Swindon Borough Council Strategic Conference 18th March.

Noted.

– The Royal British Legion letter & brochure regarding the 'Great Poppy Party Weekend' fund raising event. Passed to Gordon Wilson.

8.2 Correspondence for information – The Parish Council noted the following correspondence:

– SBC Members Bulletin, Issues 543 – 546

– Poster & letter from Spinal Injuries Association

– Life Cycle UK, Details of 'Take a Stand' Scheme for cycle parking

– St John Ambulance, request for a donation

– Swindon Borough Council, Posters for South Cluster event on 24 February

– This is Swindon Winter 2011 Partnership Newsletter

10. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

10.1 Playing Field – Sid Bishop advised the meeting that he had

carried out safety inspections on the play equipment on the 12th and 26th January and that there were no issues to report.

10.2 Village Hall – Report given earlier in the meeting.

10.3 Watch Scheme – No report.

10.4 Parish Plan – It was noted that the survey results are being processed.

10.5 Jeffries Land Trust – Nothing to report.

11. PARISH MAGAZINE

It was agreed that the following items be put in the Parish Council's report:

Results of traffic survey

Vacancy for Parish Councillor

Robert Buckland attending April meeting

12. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/ITEMS FOR A FUTURE AGENDA

None.

The meeting concluded at 9.35pm