

SWILLAND & WITNESHAM GROUPED PARISH COUNCIL
Clerk: Mrs.Libby Cotton, The Old Vicarage, Swilland, IP6 9 LP. 01473 785355
old.vic@onetel.net

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 17th January 2007 at
Witnesham Village Hall.

Present: Mr.Hindle, Mr.Lightfoot, Mr.Leggett, Mr.Cotton, Mr.Tyrrell, Mr.Coe,
Mr.Rush, Mr.Butler, Mrs.Camp, Mrs.Reynolds, Mrs.Shaw.
Also present Mr.Farrow and WPC Vicky Gilmore.

1. Apologies received from Mr.Laughlin and Mr.Noble. Councillor Bellfield had also sent apologies – he has had a minor heart attack. The Clerk had already conveyed good wishes from the Council and it was reported that these had been gratefully received.
2. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved unanimously.
3. Declarations of interest- received from Mr.Cotton re clerk's salary and Mr.Hindle, Witnesham PCC.
4. Finance: the following payments were authorised en bloc:
 - a) clerk's salary £345.25
 - b) Lubbock Fine – 06 audit £176.25
 - c) Witnesham PCC – maint. 06 £385.00
 - d) Swilland PCC maint. 06 £196.00
 - e) Elmy Landscapes hedge/Wit. £319.63 R
 - f) W Archer – bus shelter Oct/Dec £ 50.00 R
 - g) SCC Playing field rent Dec.06 £662.50 R
 - h) SCC Grass cutting 06 £598.13 R
 - i) VHMC – Youth group hire/11 £110.00 R
 - j) P Keys – changing room repair £253.00 R

After discussion it was agreed to send a donation of £100 to the Disability Advice Service. It was agreed not to support Optua this year.

Finance report: Mr.Cotton reported on the Finance Committee meeting held recently. The current funds held by the Parish Council are approx £15,000, spread over three accounts. It was agreed that the precept for 2007/8 would remain at £10,000.

5. Councillors report: in the absence of Mr.Bellfield, WPC Vicky Gilmore gave her report at this stage. 17 crimes in the village since last meeting:
 - 4 theft from motor vehicles
 - 5 burglaries
 - 5 damages
 - 1 interference with motor vehicle
 - 1 theft other
 - 1 taking of conveyance

WPC Gilmore reported that a recent arrest had taken place which could cover 9 of these incidents. The last crime listed referred to a car being driven away and abandoned on a playing field – it was not clear if this was Witnesham

School or not. It was suggested that the gate and its security should be checked in case this was the case.

There have been no further reports of trouble from Weyland Road. WPC Gilmore, Kate Rookyard, the Asbo officer for SCDC, Mr.Hindle and the Clerk had met before Christmas to discuss changing the bus-shelter and the benefits that this might bring to the community. She reported that she and Kate Rookyard were meeting with some of the families involved with the recent troubles to see if they will accept community mediation.

Mr.Hindle reported re: the bus-shelter that following discussion at the last PC meeting an application had been made to the CC for a replacement glass bus-shelter. Mr.Bellfield had been in touch with the Clerk and had offered £1,500 from his Locality Budget towards this. We have had a quote of approx £6,000 from SCC.

It was proposed that a definite application should be made for this shelter.

Motion approved by majority. The **clerk** would see to this.

It was pointed out that a replacement notice board would also be needed.

Mr.Rush recorded thanks to WPC Gilmore for all her help and support.

6. Village historian – Requiem for a Village.

Mr.Farrow spoke about the forthcoming showing of the film Requiem for a Village, first shown in the early 70's. This is to be on 9th March at the Village Hall and he requested some funding from the PC for this event. The costs include hire of hall, equipment, rent of the film, projectionist for the evening etc. It was agreed that the PC would provide up to £300 towards this event – Mr.Farrow would make it known when and what amounts were necessary.

7. Mr.Leggett , District Councillor, reported that SCDC were becoming a Member of the pathfinder group helping to reduce administrative costs across the country.

8. Affordable Housing: Mr.Lightfoot reported that since the last PC meeting when it was asked that the preliminary plans should be distributed to the other members, Hastoe had met with the landowners to discuss the plans. Some discussions were following about the possible change of footprint and the architects were doing these alterations. The Planning Committee had also commented that the initial plans did not seem quite in keeping in design with the neighbouring cottages, and this was also being looked into by Hastoe and the architects. The revised plan would therefore be distributed when it was available. Mr.Lightfoot also said that Chris Moor had left Hastoe.

9. Elections/ Raising Parish Council profile.

Mr.Hindle initiated a discussion as to how we could best raise the profile of the PC within the community – how also do we see ourselves? **Mr.Hindle** suggested putting together a thumbnail sketch about the parish council and its work – he and the clerk would work on a piece to put in the March newsletter in the hope of encouraging more parishioners to take part in the election in May. Mr.Rush said that we really need the website being set up by Mr.Laughlin to be up and running. It should have a home page with information about the council members, some of the things we do for the community etc. The **clerk** would put a paragraph in this month's newsletter mentioning the website, the forthcoming election and the decision to demolish the brick bus shelter and install a new glass one. In view of the problems we have getting information into the newsletter after our parish council meetings because of the publication deadline, Mr.Hindle asked whether we might

consider moving our meetings to the second Wednesday in the month rather than the third. It was agreed to raise this at the AGM in May, but reaction from the council seemed favourable. Mr. Butler wondered whether we needed a 'press officer'? **Mr. Hindle** also suggested holding a meeting with the Community Council to see how they felt things were going in the village. The date for the Annual Parish Meeting was fixed for Wednesday 25th April and the Parish Council AGM would be on Wednesday 16th May.

10. Highways. Mrs. Camp mentioned that a van is parking in the slip road at Weyland Road and then driving out straight over the grass rather than on the road. Mr. Hindle asked that she contact WPC Gilmore about this. The Clerk reported that the results of a heavy lorry traffic survey on High Road through Swilland had found insufficient HGV traffic to warrant a weight restriction on this road.
11. Youth. Mrs. Camp reported that there had been a meeting in early December at which it was decided to continue with meetings but only twice a month, once for the 11-14's and once for 15-18. Attendance had been good but the feeling of the council was that one meeting a month was not sufficient to maintain interest. **The Clerk** would contact the County Council Youth area/counselling service to see if there was any help available.
12. Footpaths. Mrs. Camp reported that the footpath from the muckheap up to Berghersh had been quite badly cut up by the hunt two weeks ago. **The clerk** would follow this up with Mrs. Parkes at Berghersh House. There was discussion about Strawberry Hill and **Mr. Hindle** was going to ask Highways if it would be possible for any improvements to be made, e.g. hardening of the surface.
13. Playing field. It was noted that there is still a vacancy for Playing Field Manager. We must not forget that we are responsible for checking the playground equipment at Witnesham School.
14. Planning – Mr. Lightfoot reported that the minutes of the last meeting had already been circulated to members of the council.
15. SALC – nothing to report.
16. VHMC. Mrs. Shaw agreed to be the representative on the council at least until the AGM.
17. Correspondence. This had been circulated.
18. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 21st March at 7.30p.m.