

SWILLAND & WITNESHAM GROUPED PARISH COUNCIL  
Clerk: Mrs.Libby Cotton, The Old Vicarage, Swilland, IP6 9 LP. 01473 785355  
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Minutes of Annual General Meeting of the Swilland and Witnesham Grouped Parish  
Council held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2007 at Witnesham Village Hall.

Present: Mr.Hindle, Mr.Lightfoot, Mr.Cotton, Mr.Rush, Mrs.Reynolds, Mrs.Camp,  
Mr.Laughlin, Mrs. Shaw, Mr.Noble, Mr.Butler, Mr.Coe.  
District Councillor Kate Waddell also attended.

1. Apologies: received from Mr.Nicol, Mr.Tyrrell. Mr.Bellfield and WPC Gilmore.
2. Election of Chairman: Mr.John Lightfoot, proposed by Mrs.Reynolds, seconded Mr.Cotton, elected unanimously.
3. Election of Vice-Chairman: Mr. Rush, proposed by Mr.Cotton, seconded Mrs.Reynolds, elected unanimously.
4. Mr.Lightfoot then took the chair and thanked Mr.Hindle, the outgoing chairman, for all his work over his 8 years as chairman.
- 4a. Owing to his absence from the country during the elections, Mr.Butler was co-opted onto the Council.

Standing Orders: following some discussion about a possible change to our existing orders regarding dates of meetings, it was agreed that the clerk would find out whether the Village Hall would be available to make a change of dates possible. Mr.Cotton reported on the revised Code of Conduct, a copy of which is being distributed to all councillors electronically. Mr.Cotton proposed adopting the previous standing orders for the time being, seconded by Mr.Noble and agreed unanimously.

5. Committee members: the following were elected en bloc.

**Finance:** Mr.Tyrrell, Mr.Cotton, Mr.Nicol.

**Planning:** Mr.Lightfoot, Mr.Rush, Mrs.Reynolds, Mrs.Shaw, Mr.Laughlin, Mr.Noble

**Footpath rep:** Mr.Hindle

**Playing field management :** Mr.Coe – there is to be a meeting on Mon 4<sup>th</sup> June.

**SALC:** Mr.Lightfoot

**VHMC:** Mrs.Shaw

**SORR:** Mr.Noble

**Tree officer:** Mrs.Reynolds

**Notice boards maintenance:**

**Weyland Road -** Mrs.Camp

**Moon and Mushroom –** Mrs.Shaw

**War Memorial:** Mr.Butler

**Swilland Church Lane:** Mr.Cotton

**Burwash:** clerk

6. Declarations of interest received from Mr.Cotton in respect of clerk's salary and broadband payment to himself, Mrs.Camp SBS payment.
7. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved unanimously.
8. Finance: the following payments were authorised:

Clerk's salary	£400.32	inc.election extra hours
D Cotton broadband Apr.	£ 21.00	
W Archer Jan-March	£ 50.00	R
SALC '07 sub.	£286.20	
SBS repairs	£ 40.00	

End of year figures: Mr.Cotton reported that the end of year figures are not completed yet and he proposed that there should be a meeting of the Finance committee in the near future to authorise these. This was agreed unanimously. The balance at the end of the year was approx £15,900 credit. We will be spending £5,500 approx on the new bus shelter in the coming month or so.

There was discussion about the repairs needed in the playarea at Winesham School; it had been felt that the quote Mr.Hindle had received prior to the last meeting was high and this issue needs to be pursued. The **Clerk** would try to contact ROSPA again. Mr.Hindle reported that the annual inspection of the playarea had recently been done and the Council would be receiving the bill for this in due course.

9. Affordable Housing. Mr.Lightfoot had reported to the councillors prior to the Meeting that Hastoe had a meeting arranged for 18.5.07 and he would let everyone know the result of that meeting as soon as possible. He had queried the level of "green-ness" of the design with particular reference to insulation and was waiting for a reply.
10. Highways: Mr.Noble reported that SORR had been extremely busy on the issue of the B1078 through Coddendam. According to the Freight Transport Association survey it is the worst road in the country in terms of heavy goods vehicles using a rural road. SORR have commissioned two other reports. He reported that it is rumoured that Debach Enterprises are to lose their contract for polystyrene chips which would result in 50 trucks per day not in use. The County Council is also being taken to task for planning approvals being given to industrial sites on the road. Mr.Hindle felt that we should engage with the CC on that issue – Mr.Bellfield is well aware of the problems. Mr.Noble also asked that the Council consider making a donation to SORR (in the past there was a regular subscription to the organisation but this has changed). Mr.Cotton proposed a payment of £200, this was seconded by Mr.Hindle and passed unanimously.
11. Footpaths: As yet there had been no feedback to the clerk about the footpath lighting suggestions from the SCDC.
12. Planning: the minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated. Mr. Lightfoot reminded the **clerk** that a donation was due to the Winesham Baptist church for the use of their parish room for the meetings.
13. PFMC: Mr.Hindle reported that he had secured a rent rebate from the CC on the playing field and car park for a further 4 years. At the end of this period the rent will go up again. It was proposed to the council that this offer be accepted – agreed unanimously. Mr.Hindle also confirmed the Council's agreement to allow the Wasps to use the field for their Presentation Day on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Mr.Webb had also asked for the use of the playing field for parking for the Moon and Mushroom Charity Ball to be held on the Poors Land. This was agreed to with the proviso that cars should be parked at the top end of the field and that care should be taken not to damage the pitch. There was a suggestion that it should be taped off.

14. SALC: Mr.Hindle reported that he had not been able to attend the previous meeting – Mr.Lightfoot will now take over as the representative and Mr.Hindle would bring him up to date before the next meeting.

15. VHMC: Mrs.Shaw said there had been a meeting recently at which thanks were expressed to the Council for the recently installed cooker.

16. Youth: Mr.Hindle reported on the mediation meeting which had been held recently in the Village Hall. The incidents of trouble in the village seem to have decreased and he had been impressed by the young people who were at the meeting. The problem of a play area etc still needs to be addressed. It was suggested that we look at the similar area in Otley where they have recently provided new facilities. **Mr.Coe and Mr.Lea** need to get together before the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> June to have some discussions.

17. District Council report: Mr.Lightfoot welcomed Kate Waddell our newly elected district councillor and congratulated her on her success. She said that she is looking forward to working with and for us in the near future. Mr.Hindle brought up the issue of recycling bins – it appears that we will be one of the last parishes to go ‘green’ in about three years. He wondered if there was a possibility of this date being brought forward. Kate Waddell will enquire. Mrs.Shaw also complained about the time taken to empty the bottle banks in the village. It was pointed out that we could do with more bins for green glass since this colour glass seems predominant in bottles at the bins.

18. General Correspondence – there was little to report. A request for a donation to Home Start Charity was not taken up.

19. AOB – There was discussion about the recently set up website [www.witnesham.org](http://www.witnesham.org). Currently this needs more input from village organisations etc. Possibility of a link with Ashbocking’s website? Mr.Laughlin has set out site up and would welcome any input from others in the community. There was discussion about possibly getting some professional help but this would be expensive and it was felt better to let the site get established as it is and watch progress.

Mr.Cotton raised the question of the lack of representation on the School governing body which we used to have. It appears that our link with the school has gone at present. Mr.Rush gave a brief précis of a report he had from Witnesham School including the imminent visit from the Dutch school with whom there have been strong links for a number of years. He also suggested that the Parish Council might make a contribution to the travelling costs of the Dutch party as a gesture of goodwill to Witnesham School and in recognition of Mrs.Gough’s time as Head. This was agreed. The **clerk** will send a cheque for £100 to Mrs.Gough.

20. Dates of future meetings: following discussion as to the availability of the village hall the dates were fixed as follows:

Wed. 4<sup>th</sup> July \* this is two weeks earlier than normal – please note.

Wed.19<sup>th</sup> September

Wed.21<sup>st</sup> November

Wed.16<sup>th</sup> January 2008

Wed.19<sup>th</sup> March

Wed.21<sup>st</sup> May AGM.