

Swilland and Winesham Grouped Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs. Libby Cotton, The Old Vicarage, Swilland, IP6 9LP

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Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 18th November 2009 at Winesham Village Hall.

Present: Mr. Lightfoot, Mr. Rush, Mr. Cotton, Mrs. Reynolds, Mrs. Shaw, Mrs. Camp, Mr. Nicol, Mr. Noble, Mr. Laughlin.

Also present: PC Debbie Howgego, PCSO Michael Sarbutts, County Councillor Peter Bellfield and District Councillor Steve Hudson.

1. **Apologies:** received from Mr. Hindle, Mr. Tyrrell and Mr. Coe.
2. **Minutes of previous meeting** were approved.
Matters arising: Parish Clerk vacancy – there was now one applicant, Mr. Nick Stanley who had held recent discussions with Mr. Lightfoot & Mr. Rush. He was proposed for the post by Mr. Rush, seconded by Mr. Nicol and elected unanimously. Mr. Lightfoot welcomed him to the meeting and said how pleased the Parish Council were to have him as the new clerk.
3. **Declarations of interest:** Mr. Cotton in relation to clerk's salary and broadband payment.
4. **Finance:** Mr. Cotton reported that as at 20.10.09 there is £15,800 held in Ipswich Building Society and £1900 in the current account with Barclays; £900 worth in cheques were outstanding. There is also £750 from Wasps imminently in the account for the 2009/10 rent.

Mr. Cotton suggested that the Council should look at the cheque mandate arrangements, perhaps having a third signatory from which any two signatures could authorise Council cheques. It was also suggested that the Clerk should have the facility to write cheques up to an agreed amount. This idea was supported and Mr. Lightfoot will deal with the bank. Mr. Lightfoot was also keen to make headway with some projects to utilise the money in the IBS account to the advantage of the villages.

Payments:

Clerk's salary	£	395.80	
D Cotton: Broadband July-Nov.	£	76.00	
REJB & Co Playarea inspection	£	34.50	R
Elmy Landscapes Ltd grass cutting	£	162.15	R
SALC AGM Mr. Lightfoot	£	17.25	R

These payments were proposed by Mrs. Reynolds, seconded Mr. Rush and approved unanimously.

5. **Police report:** PC Howgego's report is attached. She said that the Speed Checks are continuing. She reported damage to a car parked

in the recreation ground and asked if there was any possibility of a light being put up there. Mr. Lightfoot to put on his pending file. Mr. Lightfoot briefed the council on the new 12PT meeting processes – he will attend the next meeting on Monday 7th December at Kesgrave. He had received an email from the owner of Marble Hall on Rose Hill with continued worries about speeding there.
Re: Speedwatch – the volunteers are getting on with the task.

6. **County Councillors report:** Mr. Bellfield started by stating the financial problems that the CC are facing – there will be a budget deficit of £48 million p.a. by the end of the current council term. The total spending last year was £4.9 billion.

There was strong need for more co-operation between all CC departments. Local Government reorganisation: a ruling on the appeal is awaited. Waste recycling: Suffolk recycles 48% of its waste and is the 7th best county in the UK

District Councillors report: Mr. Hudson asked about the latest Local Development Framework consultation – Mr. Lightfoot said that SWgPC has already replied, the 18.11.09 being the closing date. Mr. Hudson spoke briefly about Ipswich Northern fringe/Valley Road/Westerfield developments. Currently development of individual sites has been refused with a view to developing the area as a whole and not piecemeal. An appeal is to be heard shortly.

7. **SORR:** Mr. Noble spoke about problems with SCDC granting planning permission retrospectively e.g. Debach Enterprises which make changes to existing permission virtually impossible. Mr. Bellfield has arranged a meeting between the heads of SCC and SCDC to see if they can arrange for planning applications using the retrospective loophole NOT to be granted. There is to be a meeting of SORR on 24th November which Mr. Noble will attend.

8. **Footpaths:** Mr. Hindle was not present but he had sent an email about the Witnesham village sign. There was no support for moving the sign at this point but it was agreed that the adjacent trees should be trimmed, as is the case with the Swiland sign as well. The repainting of the signs is being done by PPA in Ashbocking. There was comment about the footpath on America Hill being badly overgrown – Mr. Lightfoot will inspect.

Hedgerow Survey Witnesham – Mrs. Reynolds reported that this is now complete and she has received a letter from Mr. Guy Ackers congratulating the team on the high standard of the survey. A copy of the map similar to the one done by Swiland will be sent to SWgPC with a dedication to Bob Farrow in his memory. Mrs. Reynolds will arrange a copy of his letter to go into the community newsletter with photocopies on the notice boards and an entry on the website.

9. **Planning:** there have been no meetings since the last Parish Council meeting.

10. **PFMC:** Mr.Coe was not present: Mr. Lightfoot reported that the Clerk had arranged for SCDC to empty the Play area rubbish bin and it is hoped that this is being done. Mrs. Hubbard had reported problems with potholes in the driveway to the school car park but the Clerk had heard no more from her. Permission for a burger van to be present on Saturday mornings for Wasps Football has been given – the Moon and Mushroom had been given first refusal on provision of refreshments but had declined. Mr. Rush reported that there had been a very good meeting with Nikki Gavin at the Moon and Mushroom and that Saturday mornings seem to have been going more smoothly. They have been given six cones to make off spaces in the car park for customers if this is necessary.
11. **SALC:** Mr. Lightfoot had attended the AGM on 9th November and reported it was a good event with interesting presentations and demonstration stalls including one on the latest street lamps, the Land Registry and Gipping Press.

SALC Training: Mr. Lightfoot stressed that there is a real need for the Council to take more part in the excellent training opportunities offered. The new Clerk will of course be taking part in some of these at the earliest opportunity but it would be appreciated if other members could try to attend at least one appropriate session(s) in the coming year.
12. **VHMC:** Mrs. Shaw asked who owned the fence at the back of the Village Hall car park – a new one is needed and there is a question about whose responsibility this is. The VHMC need to find out – check the posts and wire positioning etc.
13. **Affordable Housing:** Mr. Lightfoot said that the project is finished apart from the rear hedging which is still to be planted- and grow! The rented units are all occupied; the 2 bed for sale has apparently now been allocated, the other is still available. An advertisement will be in the WASCC newsletter and on the Village notice boards about this. Mr. Rush asked if there could be some communication between Hastoe and those applicants who were on the list but appear not to have been contacted. Mrs. Camp enquired about a second phase. Mr. Lightfoot said that there was still the possibility of a site in the area of the Baptist Church but that at present there are no further plans for more houses. Mr. Rush offered a vote of thanks to Mr. Lightfoot for all his efforts in getting the whole project through.
14. **SCDC:** Mr. Lightfoot reported on
 - a) The bring Swiland site – this is not to be resited and indeed we have been asked to support further recycling units on the current site e.g. for clothes, books, and a tetrapak facility at some time in the future. These were agreed.
 - b) A Service Efficiency Consultation with Pcs was held on 21.11.09. He had attended this “services prioritisation” exercise across the full range provided by SCDC.

- c) Melton PC had circulated papers on their grave concerns with SCDC Planning Services and asking for support- SWgPC have had no general problems with the Planning Department. Mr. Noble repeated his concerns with the lack of enforcement of planning rules re SORR.
 - d) Local Strategic Partnership Forum 18.11.09 held at Snape. This had been a wide-ranging gathering. Mr. Lightfoot had been on two groups discussing a) transport services and b) effects of antisocial behaviour on business.
15. **Talitha Koum** report: the project leaders had held a public meeting on 19.10.09 in the Village Hall. It had been a well ordered meeting and there was nothing further to report on this at the moment.
16. **Out of hours medical service** at Wickham Market – this was not thought to be relevant to our community.
17. **Allotments:** Mrs. Camp reported that all the allotments at Cooper's Close are now taken. There have been problems with keys etc and she suggested that we change the system and have a combination padlock on the gate in future.
There was a discussion about raising the rent – it was suggested that it should be fixed at £10 per plot, or double the current amount. This was agreed unanimously.
18. **Resignation:** Mr. Cotton tendered his resignation from the Parish Council at this point and was thanked by Mr. Lightfoot and the whole Council for all his hard work over the past few years. Mr. Lightfoot also offered thanks to the clerk for her work and there was a presentation of flowers. This was her last meeting and she thanked all the Council for their patience with her over her time as clerk and wished Mr. Stanley good luck with the take over.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 20th January 2010.