

SWILLAND & WITNESHAM GROUPED PARISH COUNCIL  
Clerk: Mrs.Libby Cotton, The Old Vicarage, Swilland, IP6 9 LP. 01473 785355  
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Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2007 at  
Witnesham Village Hall.

Present: Mr.Lightfoot, Mr.Leggett, Mr.Cotton, Mr.Noble, Mr.Rush, Mrs.Shaw, Mrs.Reynolds, Mrs.Camp,Mr.Laughlin, Mr.Tyrrell and Mr.Coe.  
Mr.Bob Farrow and Miss Kate Waddell, prospective District Council candidate, were also present.

1. Apologies received from Mr.Hindle, Mr.Butler, Mr.Lea, Mr.Bellfield (CC) and WPC Vicky Gilmore.
2. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved, proposed Mr.Leggett, seconded Mrs.Reynolds, passed unanimously.  
Matters arising: a) the bus shelter is in hand and will be mentioned later. The question of a new notice board has still to be addressed.  
b) A Village Requiem – Mr.Farrow presented an account of expenses which the council had agreed to cover to help with the showing of the film.  
c) Mrs.Camp reported that the van which had been parked in Weyland Road and was using the verge as an exit onto the road had stopped doing so immediately after the last meeting, but she noticed that it has begun to do so again.
3. Declarations of interest: Mr.Cotton with regard to the clerk’s salary and his broadband connection payment.
4. Finance: the following payments were agreed en bloc:

a) clerk’s salary	£385.48	
b) Mr.Cotton broadband nov/apr	£ 95.96	
c) VHMC – Youth group hire	£ 40.00	
d) Elmy Landscapes/allotments	£293.75	
e) Mr.Farrow – Requiem expens.	£211.59	
f) SALC – clerk’s training	£ 11.75	R
g) Tomlinson Groundcare	£ 82.28	R
h) Concord Video and Film Co	£ 32.19	R

Mr. Hindle had informed the council that he had received a quote for repairs to the equipment at the playground at Witnesham School – ref: loose floor tiles as mentioned at previous meetings – this quote was £,2375 + VAT. Discussion followed as to whether these were “running repairs” or a one off incident. Mr.Cotton pointed out that there is a reserve fund for the maintenance of the playground and equipment but general surprise was expressed at the quote. Mr. Leggett proposed that this matter be deferred until the next meeting unless the repairs were urgent in which case a decision would have to be made by the Finance Committee. Since Mr.Webb resigned from the Council we do not have a designated councillor with responsibility for inspecting the equipment. This should be rectified and an inspection carried out before the next meeting. Mr.Rush seconded.

Mr.Cotton reported that there is some £15,400 in our bank account. We are committed to around £4,000 for the new bus shelter.

5. Councillors report : none. 5a). Police report - WPC Gilmore's report had been circulated to the councillors prior to the meeting. Mr.Lightfoot read out a letter from PC Debbie Lyford about the new rural team to be based in Wickham Market.
6. Affordable Housing: Mr.Lightfoot reported that the legal work involved is in hand – the plans are being drawn up for presentation to the landowner and the planning committee after which the process of planning application will start – it is hoped that this will be in time for the autumn bidding round for finance.
7. Election: Mr.Leggett announced that after 25 years on the PC and some 9 as District Councillor he is not standing for the current elections. Mr.Lightfoot offered a vote of thanks on behalf of the whole council and the parish for all the immense hard work that Mr.Leggett has put in over the years.
8. Highways: SORR – Mr.Noble reported that discussions are continuing about the B 1078 from Coddenham to the Wyevale roundabout out side Woodbridge to try to limit the heavy lorries currently using the road, largely due to Debach Enterprises. The Freight Transport Association has agreed that the B 1078 is not suitable for heavy vehicles and is backing SORR's complaints. There is a view that Debach Enterprises are using the airfield at Debach illegally as the land should apparently "be used only for storage of English grain". The District Council seem unwilling to take the matter to court.  
Footway Lighting : the clerk has received a letter suggesting that it may be possible to have the footway lighting switched at certain times to preserve energy – there was discussion about a possible switch-off time of midnight, and it was agreed that the clerk would put a notice in the newsletter to try to gauge response from the parishes.
9. Youth Group : Mrs.Camp reported that this is continuing to meet twice a Month with one meeting for each age group. Numbers are increasing, some progress is being made with finding funding through Suffolk Acre to help fund youth workers. Activities outside the hall are being organised and Mark Bannister has been assisting.  
There was also mention of a mediation meeting with several families in the village which was to take place on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March, organised by the District Council ASBO officer Kate Rookyard.
10. Footpaths: a letter from Tim Parkes at Berghersh House was read out in connection with the complaint at the last meeting about damage to one of the footpaths, possibly by the hunt during a meet in January. Mr.Parkes could give no answer as to who was responsible but apologised for any inconvenience caused to walkers.  
P3 grant: Mr.Hindle had proposed that the council vote on asking the CC for this grant towards mower expenses etc – Mr.Rush seconded and agreed unanimously.
11. Playing Field. It was noted that we still need a Playing Field Manager to come forward to replace Mr.Webb. This should be done by the next meeting.
12. Planning : the minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated to the Council prior to the meeting.

13. SALC : Mr.Cotton had circulated a summary of the Open Day which he had attended. Mr.Hindle had reported that in terms of wheelie bins we are low in the plan and it is likely to be a few years before we are fully served by the recycling department.
14. VHMC: Mrs.Shaw reported that there has not been a meeting since our last one. Mr.Webb has the cooker in hand.
15. Correspondence: this had also been circulated prior to the meeting.
16. AOB: Mr.Lightfoot reported that he and the clerk would be looking at the standing orders etc with a view to improving current practice before the new council takes office in May.
17. The Annual Parish Meeting is on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 and the AGM of the Parish Council on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30.