

**Minutes of Swaffham Prior Parish Council Meeting held on
Thursday, 10th February 2011 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

Present: Mr John Covill (Chairman), Mr David Almond, Mr Andrew Camps (Vice-Chairman), Mr Eric Day, Mr Peter Hart, Mr Paul Latchford, Mr Steve Kent-Phillips & Mr G Woollard plus 2 members of the public.

837. In Attendance:

Cllr David Brown – CCC

Cllr Allen Alderson – ECDC

Karen King - Clerk

838. Apologies for Absence:

Mrs Sandra Gynn – *work commitments*

839. Members' Declaration of Interest for Items on the Agenda:

None.

840. Public Participation:

No matters raised.

841. Approve and Sign Minutes of Parish Council Meeting – 13th January 2011: Geoffrey Woollard thanked Sandra Gynn for taking the minutes in the Clerk's absence. All agreed. The minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record. *Proposed: Geoffrey Woollard. Seconded: Steve Kent-Phillips.*

842. Reports:

CCC Matters – Cllr David Brown reported to the meeting.

January meetings at the County Council started with a meeting of the Highways Policy Review Group. The group has nearly concluded our report on a number of ways in which highways policy could be made more flexible and deliver cost-effective solutions to local issues by working more closely with parishes. The findings of the group will now go through the democratic processes at County.

There have also been a number of member seminars and other meetings to flesh out more details on spending plans at the County Council over the next 5 years. It is intended that there will be no increase in the County Council's element of Council Tax in the next financial year, and probably no increase for a further four years. The Integrated Plan covering the next five years aims to save £50.4 million in 2011/12 and £160.6 million over the life of the plan. The proposals were considered by the Cabinet and, are the Council's answer to the most difficult financial situation in its history. They are defined by a new set of Council priorities, -supporting and protecting vulnerable people when they need it most, helping people to live independent and healthy lives in their communities, and developing the local economy for the benefit of all. The savings proposals cover all aspects of the Council's business.

- In Children's Services a fundamental shift from universal to targeted services is proposed, which over the next four years would save £1 million from youth services, £761,000 from home to school transport and £600,000 from children's centres. Direct support to some children and young people will end, saving £1 million from disability services, £527,000 from specialist teaching, £315,000 from budgets for educating looked after children and £301,000 from the Cambridgeshire Racial Equality and Diversity Service. The Council aims to save £950,000 from children's social care, £240,000 from the early year service, and £3 million from mainstream and special educational needs school transport.
- In Libraries, Learning and Culture, the Council will save £282,000 through operational efficiencies, income generation and new ways of working, £108,000 from redesigning the mobile library service, and £100,000 from introducing more self service and using volunteers in libraries. Working in partnership with other councils to provide support services and creating

a Trust to run libraries will save a further £294,000. In social care, promoting prevention and localism will save £2.9 million, adopting reablement approach a further £4.75 million, and decreasing the cost of high cost and complex placements will save £1.3 million.

- In Environment Services, a proposed restructuring of Trading Standards will save £641,000 over four years, reducing spending on environment and climate change £492,000, a proposed restructuring waste services will save £159,000 and a proposed reduction in senior management will save £100,000. Further efficiencies from the highways services contract will save £2.4 million, and restructuring Highways and Access £1.1 million. In public transport, phasing out subsidised bus services will save £2.7 million but there will be an extra £1 million invested in supporting community transport schemes over the next five years as well as a summit on how to make public transport more locally focused and value for money. There will also be a £1.4 million saving in revenue funded highways maintenance but an extra £3.85 million investment in this area from capital funds.
- In Corporate Directorates, over a four-year period, reducing properties and maximizing office space in retained buildings will save over £1 million, reducing the contact centre opening hours and standards and moving more services being accessed and delivered online £426,000, reducing IT functions and delivering services in different ways will save £989,000 and reducing communications and marketing activity will save up to £550,000.

Paul Latchford asked if the 13.2% savings overall met with Government targets. Cllr David Brown replied that the Government grant was reduced by 14%.

John Covill asked if the cuts in bus services affected local area. Cllr Brown confirmed that there were none in our area.

ECDC Matters: Cllr Allen Alderson reported to the meeting.

- *District Council Funding:* Council's funding to Ely and Newmarket Citizen Advice Bureau's to be cut by 11% if approved by Full Council. ECDC will no longer receive Government funding for the concessionary bus fares scheme. This will in future be given direct to CCC. ECDC made a profit from this scheme, part of which was used to give grants to Ely, Newmarket and Cambridge Dial-a-Ride. This will leave ECDC unable to give any grants in the next financial year.
- *Housing Benefit Changes:* A lot of changes to housing benefit from 1st April and this will generate queries from the public to Councillors and Parish Councillors. Anglia Revenue Partnership has produced a leaflet summarising the changes.
- *Housing:* A total of 206 dwelling were completed in 2009/10, 38 of which were affordable. This is the lowest level of growth in recent years as a result of the slowdown in the housing market. The proportion of dwelling completions for smaller 1 & 2 bedroom dwellings fell to 32% of the total.

In addition to above report Cllr Alderson reported that he had spoken with Alan Dover about the issues surrounding 30 Green Head Rd. He referred to Condition 4 of the Planning Permission which noted that vehicles must park and leave premises in forward gear. Cllr Alderson explained that Alan Dover was not certain how this condition had been included as he said this was difficult to enforce. In addition he had said that there was no way of stopping people parking on the road. Cllr Alderson offered to take this further with Alan Dover if the Parish Council wished but felt there was little that could be achieved.

Councillors discussed concerns about the use of the property as business rather than residential premises and the need to protect the local amenity. There were mixed views.

Following discussion the Chairman suggested that the above could not be taken any further. He considered that the problems relating to chemical odours and disposal of waste materials from the premises were of higher priority and reminded the meeting that the HSE in partnership with Environmental Services, Environment Agency and Anglian Water were currently looking at this. Councillors were generally in agreement.

At this point, John Covill reported that he had received an enquiry about the possibility of building some affordable housing on the 'Dencora' field plus some market value housing to enable owners to recoup some of the costs.

Cllr Alderson said he had spoken with Giles Hughes, Forward Planning Officer and confirmed the site as an 'exception site' which meant that only affordable housing would be considered. He said that there were changes pending in planning legislation and it was a matter of "wait to see what happens".

843. Correspondence for Circulation/Consideration (see Appendix 1 for correspondence received)

Clerk reported general correspondence.

CCC wrote to the Parish Council about the proposed reduction in highway grass cutting from 4 cuts to 3 cuts per year with only visibility grass cutting the rural areas. This would mean a reduced offer of 75% of the grant received for 2010. Peter Hart commented that visibility grass cutting is all that should be needed. Kelley Harrington was to be informed of this possible reduction.

844. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes (for information only):

Min.ref.835: *Allotments*: The Clerk confirmed that there were currently 5 allotments in full use plus 2 people on the waiting list. There followed discussion about the piece of land on the opposite side of the B1102 and whether this was suitable for allotments. The Clerk was to ask those on the waiting list if they would be interested in setting up an allotment on this land.

845. Repair Works to the Pound Wall:

The Clerk confirmed that Listed Building Consent for these works had been received. Kim Sheldrick had been informed so that work could start as soon as possible – Kim had confirmed that weather permitting work would start on the 14/2/11. The Clerk had written to neighbours of the Pound to inform them of the work.

Cllrs Brown and Alderson left the meeting at 8.20pm

846. Purchase of New Noticeboard:

Following discussion it was agreed to ask Kim Sheldrick to liaise with his joiner and look at the costs involved to reposition and repair the noticeboard before considering further the purchase of a new one. Steve Kent-Phillips asked if it would be possible to get a grant - carried forward to next meeting.

847. Accounts for Approval including:

Payments

a) Karen King – Clerk's salary	£ 290-40
b) Inland Revenue – Clerk's tax	£ 72-60
c) Information Commissioner's Office – reg for data protection	£ 35-00
d) CCC – salt bin	£ 109-28
e) CCC – maintenance/supply charges for streetlighting	£ 569-24
f) SBPC – repayment amount (A.W. invoice)	£ 47-64

Total: £ 1147-92

The above payments were agreed. *Proposed: Steve Kent-Phillips. Seconded: Paul Latchford. John Covill told the meeting of the difficulties encountered in requesting a new cheque book but was hopeful that one would be received shortly.*

Transfer of £1,200 was agreed. *Proposed: Steve Kent-Phillips. Seconded: Peter Hart.*

Steve Kent-Phillips had carried out quarterly accounts check and confirmed all was in order.

Receipts:

None.

848. Clerk's Report:

- *Review of East Cambs Core Strategy:* Katie Child, Principal Forward Planning Officer for ECDC, will be attending the March Parish Council meeting to talk about this review which is to take place in 2011.
- *Training:* Training sessions for “The Power of Wellbeing” and “Management of Allotments” during the month of March.
- *Street lighting:* Faulty street lights on Cage Hill & Tothill Road were repaired.
- *Parking on verges:* Letters were sent asking residents not to park on grass verges at Fairview Grove & Lower End. These were followed up by phone calls with residents agreeing not to park on verges wherever possible.
- *BT inspection chamber cover:* Mark Lewinski had kindly repositioned the cover. *The meeting thanked Mark for his help.*
- *Repairs to Village Hall front gate & fencing:* The Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee confirmed that repair works were to be carried out during February.

849. Parish Councillors' Reports:

Green Head Road Garages: The meeting was made aware of residents' concerns about the use of this area.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

850. Open Question Time:

Mr Limb told meeting that he had been made aware of additional damage to the rear wall of the Pound. *Kim Sheldrick was to be asked to inspect this whilst carrying out the work to the front wall.*

851. Appendix 1:**CCC**

Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive – Localism Bill PC Briefing/further details of County's Integrated Plan and Budget Proposals...

Kate Day – Parish Paths Partnership Scheme 2010-11

Amanda Warburton – Cambridge Older Persons' Newsletter

Graham Mallott – Village Maintenance Budget

Christine May – Cambridgeshire Library Service Review

ECDC

Chairman – Weekly Highlights

Masterplan Team – Newsletter

Lin Bagwell - Draft Sexual Establishment Policy – consultation

Alan Williams - NHP Meeting Details

Planning

Listed Building Consent for The Pound, Cage Hill

General

Cambridgeshire Playing Fields Association Newsletter

CPALC – Winter Bulletin

The Royal British Legion – “Great Poppy Party Weekend”

CPALC – online newsletter

Cambridgeshire ACRE – News Digest

E-Cops – double yellow lines

Cambs ACRE – “Trailblazer Communities Needed – Pioneers for Big Society”