

**Minutes of Swaffham Prior Parish Council Meeting held on
Thursday, 13th March 2014 at 7.30pm Village Hall.**

Present: Mr J Covill-Chairman(JC), Mr David Almond(DA), Mr Andrew Camps(AC), Mr Eric Day(ED), Mrs S Gynn(SG), Mr P Hart-Vice-Chairman(PH), Mr Steve Kent-Phillips(SKP), Mr Paul Latchford(PL) & Mr Geoffrey Woollard(GW) plus 2 members of the public.

1446. In Attendance:

ECDC – Cllr Allen Alderson
Karen King - Clerk

1447. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr David Brown (*conflicting appointment*)

1448. Members' Declaration of Interest for Items on the Agenda + Requests for
Dispensations:

Geoffrey Woollard declared a personal interest for item 10 of the agenda (Min.ref: 1456)

1449. Public Participation:

No items raised.

1450. Approve and Sign Minutes of Parish Council Meeting – 13th February 2014:

The minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record. *Proposed: Geoffrey Woollard. Seconded: Peter Hart. Agreed unanimously.*

1451. Reports:

CCC Matters: Clerk read out written report from Cllr David Brown:

- Full Council met to debate and decide the business plan for the next 5 years including the budget for 2014-15. After a long debate the amended plan proposed by Cabinet was agreed. The headline figures, as widely reported, include over £32 million of savings in the coming year (with £149 million to be found over the 5 year period of the plan) and a Council Tax increase of just below 2% for 2014-15. The current financial situation and demographic changes in Cambridgeshire mean that we had little option but to recommend the business plan approved by Council and means that we should be able to deliver the services needed by the local population.
- I reported last month on the decision by Cabinet for the County Council to undertake a business plan about becoming a property developer and landlord of rented housing on Council land, including Newmarket Road, Burwell. A politically inspired call-in has thrown that earlier decision into doubt.

There were no questions or comments for DB.

ECDC Matters: Cllr Alderson reported to the meeting.

Waste Service Change update:

- *Recycling rate – District moved 33% to 54% recycling.*
- *Bin roll out – completed successfully. A few outstanding issues.*
- *Assisted collections – requests for assisted collections higher than projected but it was hoped to reduce these through visits to addresses to confirm such a service was necessary.*
- *Staffing – the phased dismantling of the project team has commenced.*

Council Tax: The Conservative Group's budget for 2014/15 was agreed at Full Council. This includes a nil increase in Council Tax.

Buildings of Local Interest: Campaign launched to protect distinctive and historical buildings in District. Following consultation in 2013, ECDC now seeking nominations for buildings/structures to be included on a local register of ‘Buildings of Local Interest’ – *item included on agenda (min.ref.1456).*

There followed discussion with Cllr Alderson on fly-tipping and travellers in the Fen.

1452. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes (for information only):

Min.ref.1437: Request for skate ramp. DA/SKP confirmed a meeting with the young people had been arranged. *Report back to next meeting.* **Action: SKP/DA**

Village sign: Steve Kent-Phillips updated everyone on the condition of the sign and possible remedial works including stripping the paintwork from the upright/plinth and leaving as natural wood. GW suggested that councillors meet to inspect the sign for themselves and then discuss further at a future meeting (July). Also invite village residents for their views.

Min.ref.1438: Trees on Village Hall/School boundary: Paul Latchford said he spoke with Chairman of VHMC and confirmed that they would not be taking any action.

Min.ref.1439: Application for Proposed Solar Farm Development on Swaffham Prior Fen: Clerk confirmed that this had been withdrawn.

1453. Correspondence for Circulation/Consideration (Appendix 1):

CCC – Local Highway Improvement Initiative 2014/15. *Confirmation received of application approval for funding to install “lorry sized passing place” on Station Road.*

ECDC – Extra Garden Waste Bins. *Details of a scheme where people could request an additional bin for an annual cost of £48. To be included in The Swaffham Crier.*

General – Open Day, Wicken Fen. *Noted.*

1454: Swaffham Prior Community Car Scheme – Request for Contribution towards Running Costs:

Min.ref.1441: JC had spoken with Janet Willmott about the financial position of the scheme and confirmed that all the users contributed 30p/mile and that the Parish Council’s donation had been used to top up to 45p/mile as a fair payment for the drivers. No other funding had been obtained so far but JW was confident that the scheme would carry on. SKP asked the minutes to record that the Parish Council was subsidising the mileage amount paid by 15p/mile. Following further discussion a donation of £250 was agreed. *Proposed: Geoffrey Woollard. Seconded: Paul Latchford. Agreed by all.*

1455. Confirmation of Date and Discussion on Agenda for Annual Village Assembly:

The date for the AVA was agreed as Wednesday, 28th May, 7.30pm at the Village Hall. The Clerk suggested a less formal meeting inviting groups and organisations in the Parish to attend and agreed to circulate a list of possible attendees and asked councillors to add any suggestions. A note was also to be included in the Crier invited residents to become involved and put forward ideas. **Action: Clerk**

1456. Discussion on Nominations for inclusion on Buildings of Local Interest Listing:

Min.ref.1436: There was discussion on possible buildings/structures that might be included on the list. It was noted that the Little Chapel in The Fen had already been put forward. PL agreed to collate any requests and draw up a map to give an indication of locations, etc. **Action: PL**

1457. Repairs required to Cemetery Water Supply:

Min.ref.1435: SKP reported that he had met on site with Harrisons Plumbers and determined that there was a leak but it proved difficult to find exactly at what point. It was concluded that it would be much easier with less disruption to lay a new poly pipe

to the allotment fence. SKP approved these works. Following discussion, GW put forward motion to endorse the work and payments. *Proposed: Geoffrey Woollard. Seconded: Paul Latchford. All agreed.*

1458. Accounts for payment included:

a) Karen King – <i>Clerk's salary</i>	£ 225-60
b) Inland Revenue – <i>Clerk's tax</i>	£ 56-40
c) Anglian Water – <i>cemetery water supply</i>	£ 82-30
d) Swaffham Prior Community Car Scheme – <i>donation</i>	£ 250-00
c) Mead Construction (Cambridge) Ltd	£ 660-00
<i>Total:</i>	<u>£1,274-00</u>

Proposed: Steve Kent-Phillips. Seconded: Paul Latchford. Agreed unanimously.

Transfer of £1,250 was agreed. *Proposed: Steve Kent-Phillips. Seconded: Paul Latchford. Agreed unanimously.*

Receipts:

Barclays – <i>interest (2/12/13 – 2/3/14)</i>	£ 3-73
Ivett & Reed	
- <i>memorial/kerbing (Day)</i>	£ 47-00
- <i>inscription (Rush)</i>	£ 15-00
- <i>inscription (Tingey)</i>	£ 15-00
- <i>memorial (Day)</i>	<u>£ 47-00</u>
<i>Total:</i>	<u>£127-73</u>

Payment on behalf of Community Land Trust: The Clerk requested on behalf of the CLT payment of invoice in the sum of £2,900 received from Foundation East relating to set up fees. This payment was to be made from the ring-fenced monies held by the Parish Council on behalf of the CLT. SKP put forward motion to pay invoice on behalf of the CLT. *Proposed: Steve Kent-Phillips. Seconded: Paul Latchford. Agreed Unanimously.*

Steve Kent-Phillips proposed a transfer of £2,900. This was seconded by Paul Latchford. Agreed unanimously.

David Almond left the meeting at 8.30pm

1459. Clerk's Report:

- *Min.ref.1443 - Community Land Trust:* Meeting held to discuss the allocation policy for the affordable housing.
- *Bin at The Beeches:* ECDC was informed that this bin continued to be full to overflowing and was not being emptied regularly.

1460. Parish Councillors' Reports:

Coopers Lane: SKP reported complaints about dog fouling and suggested that a dog poop bag dispenser be erected in the area to encourage people to clear up after their pets. Clerk to look into costs. **Action: Clerk**

Horse Chestnut in Play Area: AC/JC reported on discussion at recent Parochial Charities meeting and the condition of the tree and advice from ECDC's Tree Officer not to install a circular seat around base of the tree in memory of the late John Norris. *Alternative locations for a seat were discussed. Item for future meeting. Action Clerk*

Meeting closed at 8.50pm

1461. Open Question Time:

Discussion on whether there was a village sign before the current one.

Mr Limb asked that the ivy be removed from the Pound building. *Clerk to follow up.*