

**SWAFFHAM PRIOR ANNUAL VILLAGE ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 18th May 2015 at 7.30PM**

Present: Parish Councillors: John Covill (Chairman), Paul Latchford, Steve Kent-Phillips, Sandra Gynn, Mark Lewinski and David Greenfield plus 21 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr David Brown, Andrew Camps, Peter Hart, Mike Carrington, Tim Doe, Betty Prime, Michael Limb.

In Attendance: Paul Catling (Clerk), Cllr Allen Alderson

Chairman John Covill welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes from Meeting – 27th May 2015: The minutes were agreed by all as a correct record.

District Councillor's Annual Report: *(Cllr Allen Alderson reported to the meeting)*

Cllr Alderson presented a written report. Discussion followed including mention of the Rural Grant and Local Plan. The council does not have adequate land supply and therefore granted permission for the building in Stretham [Witchford]. It is possible to claim that proposals are outside the village building envelope but there is no enforcement. The Government Inspector is asking for 4000 houses in East Cambs. Results of ECDC Local Plan discussions will be published soon. Dave Jackson asked if Swaffham Prior should have a neighbourhood plan. Allen Alderson agreed and that it would help protect against unwanted planning but it was discussed and agreed that such a plan takes time, effort and significant cost. Allen Alderson pointed out that Swaffham Bulbeck took a year to complete theirs. Charlotte Cane stated that Reach are considering producing a plan and there are grants available to help pay for the plan. David Greenfield asked if Witchford had a plan. Allen Alderson said they had not completed one. Emma Fletcher pointed out that a neighbourhood plan is only a guide so a planning application may still go through. There was further discussion relating to the enforceability of the protections and costs of up to £25K. Emma Fletcher added that identifying open spaces was a good way to protect them; Alastair Everitt asked if the PC had agreed to the areas to protect and David Greenfield said the PC had registered them but the planning inspector could still override the protection. David Greenfield added that the meeting on June 6th was related to these requested areas going into the Local Plan. Emma Fletcher suggested that Open Spaces and Green Spaces registration were stronger protection than the Local Plan. It was asked if information relating to this was available and Steve Kent-Phillips stated it is on the PC Web site. It was pointed out that only 7 Parishes had neighbourhood plans so far.

Parish Council Report: *(John Covill reported to the meeting)*

There had been some problems relating to parking near the school. A County Council expert had been consulted and so far there were no conclusive acceptable suggestions. The clearing and tidying of the cemetery had been addressed by a contractor. Barclays Bank had provided many forms to fill. The CIL and Open Spaces projects were moving on thanks to Paul Latchford and Steve Kent-Phillips. Pot-Holes were being reported but it was taking a long time to get them resolved. The perennial overgrown paths were being addressed. Street Lights had been reported as unsatisfactory resulting in 2 that need to be replaced and Paul Latchford was looking after the work. Paul Latchford stated that this was now in progress. The Village Sign was in the process of being restored, thanks to Peter Rand for the top section but the post will also need significant work. David Greenfield is attending the Local Plan meetings and John Covill also noted that the village was now classified as "Medium" as we have a school and over 600 residents. The PC gave donations to Proud of Prior and the car scheme, many thanks to Janet for her work; it is nice to see a tidy village. The Red Lion has been registered as an Asset of Community Value. There had been some road works down the fen that were now complete. David Almond had moved away, so the PC would co-opt a new member soon. Steve Kent-Phillips had kept a tight ship on accounts and signs, play area etc. Hill Construction's project had gone well but it would be nice when the grass verges in Rogers Road are re-instated. He also noted the proposed building on the field on Mill Hill. This may come back but it was clear that the village was not in

favour. The Gaye Bullied award had been given to Andrew Camps and Shirley Wilkins, so they would have to share; 6 months each.

Steve Kent-Phillips presented the PC's accounts. The "profit" is not as such but under budget by £5 000. Including the CIL money there is around £76K in the bank. The precept has not gone up in last 2 years. Emma Fletcher offered thanks for the work Steve Kent-Phillips had done repairing the play area. Steve Kent-Phillips added that it is worth it as the RoSPA report is good. He added that we are replacing the front and back gates in budget. Janet Willmott added that it was nice the pot-holes were repaired but the work was not good. John Covill agreed. He agreed that David Brown should follow up on the problems and that after being reported they had 3 weeks to repair and that damage caused could be claimed for.

Additional Village Reports including:

Community Land Trust: *(Emma Fletcher reported to the meeting)*

7 out of the 8 residents had moved in after diligent work done by many people, some present. It was surprising that out of 27 applications, so many were single. All residents were very happy and surprised that they could stay in the village. Out of the other houses, 9 were sold with 3 remaining. Paul Latchford noted that the reserved parking on the road was now causing problems. Steve Kent-Phillips said that the PC had received the CIL money, did Emma know when and how much the Open Spaces money would be. Emma Fletcher agreed to chase. Alex Kirby suggested this was good but could we have more. Emma Fletcher stated that there were only 2 of the original 3 that owned the field but the remaining 2 still did not want the field developed any further.

Emma noted that the Queen's Birthday Proms in the Park were on June 11th and thanks to the PC for the donation. She also asked if anyone present knew where the bunting was. Paul Latchford suggested asking Martin Mead, who took it down when it was used last. Steve Kent-Phillips added that the village was purchasing daffodils to celebrate the Queen's Birthday. There would be a large amount of them and the PC would be giving them away for everyone to plant. Janet Willmott asked if PoP could help.

Report for School: *(Charlotte Cane reported to the meeting)*

Charlotte Cane presented a written report and reported 114 pupils at the school. It had been challenging year with new curriculum, methods of assessment and tests and staff were working hard on this. Pupils had been involved in the May Pole at Reach Fair, the Feast and Molly Dancing. They received a grant which paid for professional help with their play called "War Through our Windows". Various staff problems had the Head Teacher stepping in to teach. Sandra Gynn has joined as joined as associate governor. Mr Godfrey, who has done a great deal for the school and Assistant Head, will be leaving at the end of term. CCC will be carrying out major refurbishment work, thanks for the help of the PC and residents to get the CC to do the work. There was further discussion regarding the Station Road Parking.

Swaffham Prior Youth Club: *(There was no report)*

Scout, Cubs & Beavers Group: *(Steve White reported to the meeting)*

The group has good leaders and numbers with around 65 to 70. Apparently Scouting is different now; the tents are lighter and with girls, it is cleaner. In the field, they now have a kitchen container, a concrete base and flush toilets since the cess-pit replace the chemical toilets. There is also an electric generator. They attended the Remembrance Day Parade, St Georges Day Parade and Christmas Party. Beavers is 30 years old this year and they have been sending post cards around the world communicating with other groups. The Beavers visited the Tesco "Farm to Fork", working with the NT in Reach, Art workshops, drama nights and building hedgehog hibernation homes. The Scouts attended Easter camp, came 2nd & 7th in the snow out of 35 teams at a CUSAG – country wide event, hiking, served over 800 burgers at Reach Fair, attended Mepal 24, Peddars Way II, Summer Camp and Kolding Fjord, Denmark. They will be helping with the Feast and Queen's Birthday events. This year is the 100 anniversary of the Cubs and Newmarket group and 30th for the Beavers. It was asked where the group have members from. David said Swaffham Prior, Reach and Bottisham; Burwell have 2 groups.

Burwell Tigers Football Club: *(There was no report).***CIL Monies:** *(Steve Kent-Phillips presented the potential projects)*

Steve presented the CIL and Open Spaces monies, the consultation with the village on possible projects and circulated the resultant list of possible projects for discussion. He also explained the process and selection criteria. The possible projects and those rejected that were reviewed. The full report and the review will be available on the PC Web site, which will be updated with the following discussion and results as the projects proceed. The projects and other possibilities were discussed, including Station Road path, Youth Club hut, Basket Ball hoop, pique-nique tables for the play area, tennis court and a table tennis table. There was a discussion about what the Open Spaces money could be spent on and what Open Spaces specification is. Alex Kirby stated he had a new project suggestion Paul Latchford said that the process had already been long therefore, a new project added at this stage would muddy the waters. The project suggestion was to replace or help replace the swimming pool changing hut. Paul Latchford also asked if the Scouts groups could use the Youth Club. Steve White said that they would be interested if they did not have their field. It was suggested that an assessment of the Youth Club should be undertaken to understand its status. It was agreed that this should be done through the PCC. Steve Kent-Phillips also underlined the period of access to the money was now limited to less than 2 years. We spend it or return it. The overall decision was to spend the available monies on one large project or take on many small ones. After some confusion regarding the order of proposals and amendments being voted on it was agreed by all present to assess the Youth Club Hut and adopt the current list of possible projects. Proposed: Steve Kent-Phillips, seconded: Paul Latchford, all in favour.

Village Hall Management Committee: *(Peter Rand reported to the meeting)*

Peter Rand outlined the refurbishment that the committee had undertaken costing £7800, during the year. There had been some problems with the High-Street sewage but Anglian Water had looked after it. They had found tree roots with a camera. The Hall had an average of 2 books every week day. Peter reminded the meeting to support the Village Feast on Saturday. The summary of accounts was:

Opening Balance	£ 28 661
Receipts	£ 14 003
Out	£ 18 579
Refurbishment	£ 7 800
Closing balance	£ 24 652

Parochial Charities Accounts: *(The Clerk presented the written accounts)***Swaffham Prior Community Car Scheme:** *(Janet Willmott reported to the meeting)*

Janet Willmott reported on some of the users of the service, which is for residents of the village. The longest journey was Papworth – Addenbrooke's. Most of the journeys are just to drop off. The PC had helped with mobile 'phones which do not make outgoing calls, so no top-up required. Adverts for the service are in The Crier and notice boards. Janet reminded the meeting that volunteer drivers are required and always welcome.

Proud of Prior Community: *(Janet Willmott reported to the meeting)*

The Church yard had had 2 visits with the help of the Scouts and there had been ½ dozen litter picks around the village. There is a hard core of volunteers from the village and new volunteers are welcome. The picks are mainly Saturday, one was tried in half-term and one evening. Some equipment had been purchased funded by the pop-up tea shop and the PC had funded the purchase of bag hoops and pickers. ECDC generally pick up the refuse bags well. Janet asked Allen Alderson if "please take rubbish home" signs could be provided.

Business was completed at 21:58

Open Question Time:

Deal Hole was discussed as a possible project for CIL or OS money. As the PC don't own it, a discussion continued regarding past attempts to do something with it. Alastair Everitt remembered John Norris having cleared it with help but that had subsequently been dropped. Janet Willmott suggested a passing place by the Alex Arms and a passing place sign. Steve Kent-Phillips agreed to ask High-Ways. The ponies on the verges on the Drove were discussed. The RSPCA were made aware but as the ponies were in good condition, no action was taken / required. The trees planted along the drove had been damaged by them. One of them is very young and should not be there. A car had been seen that had gone in a ditch avoiding one. Janet Willmott suggested that all horses need passports and these did not. It was suggested sending a bill for the damaged trees to the owner. CM commented on a problem with the path to the Dyke, that the gates need to be opened and asked if this was PC business. The path from Pulpit Corner was now a metal gate that used to be a stile. John Covill suggested the path should be re-instated after ploughing. Peter Hart suggested consulting Karen Champion (CCC's High-Ways paths and by-ways).

Meeting closed at 22:11.