

**SWAFFHAM PRIOR ANNUAL VILLAGE ASSEMBLY  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 7.30PM**

**Present:** Parish Councillors: John Covill (Chairman), Peter Hart, Steve Kent-Phillips, David Greenfield, Michael Malster plus 27 members of the public.

**Apologies:** Sandra Gynn

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

**Chairman John Covill welcomed everyone to the meeting.**

**Approval of Minutes from Meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016:** 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 the type of low cost housing, which is decided by the local CLT as to rental or purchase. Allen Alderson added that the general rate would be 80% of the going rate for the area. There was also a discussion of the new Ely by-pass and railway crossing arrangements. There was some concern at the possible one-way road traffic at the railway underpass.

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

John Covill presented a written report, which included introducing Michael Malster who has taken the seat that was made vacant when David Almond moved out of the village, the improved reporting on travellers, revised allotment contracts, improved management and communication with the grass cutting contractors, some attempts to improve parking in the village and some bollards. He also mentioned many upgrade and repair works in the village including the village sign for which he thanked amongst others, Peter Rand. He also thanked Andrew Noyes for his excellent work mapping and documenting the cemetery. The new Speed Indicating Device, which has done some fine work reminding drivers of their speed at the top of Rogers Road.

The Gay Bulleid Award was presented to Steve Kent-Phillips for his many good works for the PC and around the village.

Steve Kent-Phillips presented a report on the PC's accounts. The general state is that the year was around £4600 under budget and therefore no need for the precept to go up.

**CIL:** Steve Kent-Phillips covered the current state of the Community Infrastructure Money projects. Money has been paid for new equipment and facilities not just repairs. The VAT claim on money spent should provide a further income of around £5300 in the coming year. All the expected CIL money had been received, which is in the region of £71K, over £52K has been spent or committed to projects leaving around £18K. He presented a list of projects with 1 addition, which is to repaint the play area slide in the summer. The swimming pool changing hut should provide class room space out of swimming season. The remaining funds would be spent mostly on the Village Hall and Pound. The village hall windows were being refurbished rather than replaced by Viv Elston (Elston Decorators) and the drive was due for further repairs. Jon Taw was repairing the Pound replacing rotten wood, some of which was plywood, not oak. This will now be done with the correct materials due to its Grade II listed status. There was some discussion about public visiting the Pound, Steve Kent-Phillips said they can and a new plaque was being put up explaining its history. There were some questions about SID which is recording speed and traffic counts. In some cases, over 1000 cars per hour around 5:45 to 6:45pm on the top road. The 30 and 40 MPH sticker signs had been purchased by Martin Mead.

**Additional Village Reports including:**

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

Charlotte Cane presented a written report with thanks for the new changing rooms, especially to Steve Kent-Phillips and Alex Kirby. They are bright, airy and the storage boxes mean no damp floats

etc. The school was undergoing a refurbishment project, including repointing walls, roof, removing asbestos. There had been a big push to get the County Council to do all the work, which the PC had helped with. Staff during the year: Gordon Godfrey had left but there were new staff. The results for the previous year had not been good; the new system had not been grasped and using mastering maths. Topic skipping was leaving pupils behind, so they have now changed to keep on topic until it is understood, which is better for staff and pupils. They had visited Burwell House and Aymerton field trips, also more locally, the maypole dance. They will be at the Saturday event. Another seaside trip is planned – going as Romans. There is a funding crisis coming up despite saving on refurbishments a £38K shortfall is predicted, so changes will have to be looked at. This year should be OK but next year will not. Janet Willmott asked how many children were attending. There are 110. They sometimes have to have 2-year groups per class, so too many - ideally. Alastair Everitt asked about the over-budget of £38K. This is lost income of around 3%, costs of salary and that the Council was paying for less. Adjusting to fairer funding is not simple and cannot be just a switch. Cambridgeshire is better off in most schools but not so for smaller schools. There was discussion relating to "Build it, make it draw it" teaching methods, low aptitude pupils and number blindness. Further discussion around funding mentioned FoSPS and that fund raising should not be for staff costs etc. but for projects like the seaside trip, which Meads are helping with.

**Swaffham Prior Youth Club:** *(John Covill reported to the meeting)*

There was no report from the youth club. John Covill reported that the PC had looked at the state of the youth club hut and had left it with the land owners, the Parochial Charities.

**Scout, Cubs & Beavers Group:** *(There was no report).*

**Burwell Tigers Football Club:** *(There was no report).*

**Sports & Social:** *(Steve Kent-Phillips reported to the meeting)*

Steve Kent-Phillips reported that Sports & Social are meeting now and had a request for funding for picnic tables for the swimming pool area.

**Village Hall Management Committee:** *(Mike Carrington reported to the meeting)*

Mike Carrington presented an extensive written report including the VH management team, a summary from 2008 to recent accounts showing fund and costs explaining that only the refurbishment costs in 2013 made them close, the major costs, fundraising from 2008 show great improvement and an advert for the Village Feast (on Saturday!) There was also a profile and summary of healthy looking bookings.

**Parochial Charities Accounts:** *(The Clerk presented the written accounts)*

John Covill added that Parochial Charities were looking for help finding deserving people to help, especially at Christmas. It was asked if this would be in The Crier. John Covill agreed.

**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 and the types of service provided. Hospitals, dentists and opticians were included in the types of runs provided. There are no passengers from Burwell or Bottisham Day Centres. They have 2 new drivers but they had also lost 2. All the drivers are from the village. They were able to provide transport for every requested run in the year. The mobile 'phone, funded by the PC, is mainly used to receive calls as arrangements are mainly by email. The team were grateful to the family of one of their passengers, Janet Cooper, who sadly died and they made a generous donation, to show appreciation for the service. The usage is currently quite low, which Janet said is encouraging as this means family and friends are helping. The Community Car Scheme information can be found each month in The Crier. Janet reminded the meeting that volunteer drivers are required and always welcome.

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

Janet reported that they had now been running for three years, undertaking tasks in and around our beautiful village that may not get done or at least not so frequently. Janet reported on the year's tidy up in the Churchyard and had had assistance from the Community Pay Back team. They had helped

with most of the daffodil planting. Their main activity has been litter picking, where the top road and slip road into the village have had most attention. Heat Road, Lower End and Station road have also been visited and picked. They have a small "hard core" of people that help but they would be very grateful of any additional help. Janet thanked Mead Construction for their support including tea at the pop-up tea shop for every litter picker. ECDC provide bin bags and organise Veolia to collect litter. Janet asked residents to "bear with us" on the odd occasion when they have not collected the bags in a timely fashion. PoP have been waiting for Allen Alderson as to whether signage could be provided asking people to take their rubbish home with them. Janet asked for ideas from the residents as to the kind of other jobs they may like tackled. A request was also going to appear in the Crier. John Covill expressed, on behalf of the PC, how grateful we were for the work that PoP do.

Business was completed at 20:50

### **Open Question Time:**

Janet Willmott asked about the ground source heat pumps, David Greenfield explained that a grant had been applied for to do a study, which has been awarded so the study will take place. SKP asked about the village plan, David Greenfield replied that there were notices around the hall detailing the plan. The 2 options the PC voted against were also shown. Some discussion about the history of the plan, which David Greenfield agreed to circulate if required. The recent traffic surveys were asked about and the village envelope and local plan. David Greenfield explained some of the history including the problem where a Witchford development got approved despite being outside the envelope. The government inspector's argument was based on 4000 houses being required in the area and only 183 built. This prompted ECDC to improve the plan. Swaffham Prior will be changed from a small village status to medium. This may change to possible developments allowed. David also covered the employment, housing and green space requested in the plan. Most of the draft plan had included the PC suggestions, including housing in Rogers Road, which is already completed, Heath Road industrial and green spaces. This stage was open to comment from anyone. ECDC published the plan with some changes on March 21. This was discussed in the April and May PC meetings. The response is only open to Parish Councils and the closing date is May 31<sup>st</sup>. The next stage is to be September / October. Allen Alderson added to the history relating to Witchford and that as the housing sites target had not been met in the area, the local / village plan and village building envelope did not apply. He said that he had just "called one in" in Reach but these 2 houses have been approved. The updated 5-year land supply would be decided in full council in October, published in November, then we can say we have a 5-year land supply then early next year the village stop lines will be back in. Allen Alderson also noted some local housing plans in Soham, North Ely (3K) Burwell (350 now 420) Reach Road Burwell (70) and Burwell, Toyse Lane (around 150) all without in-fill. David Greenfield stated that the plan would be put forward with the comment that SPPC are in favour of social housing. The CLT adding a strong message for social housing. John Covill added that Swaffham Prior CLT was one of the first with Rogers Road. David Greenfield pointed out that a development with 10 houses or less does not have to have social or affordable housing but a development with 11 or more houses does. Allen Alderson also added that once the local plan is back building will not be allowed outside the stop lines, only social housing could. Also, with non CLT social housing, the points allocation system is country wide, with CLT housing the CLT decides who get a house allocated. It was asked if the Swaffham Prior CLT housing could be sold. David Greenfield answer that it could not, the CLT does not sell, it is locked for local use.

Meeting closed at 21:44.

Thank you letters for the swimming pool changing room were received during the meeting from the school from: Hannah Curtis (head teacher) and Charlotte Cane (chair of governors),