

**Minutes of Swaffham Prior Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 14th March 2019
at 7.30pm Village Hall.**

Present:

Mr John Covill, Mr Peter Hart, Mr Steve Kent-Phillips, Mr Andrew Camps,
Mr Paul Latchford, Mr Alan Durrant, Mr Sandra Gynn, Mr Michael Malster

There were 5 members of the public in attendance.

2527. In Attendance:

Cllr Allen Alderson, Paul Catling (Parish Clerk), Jude Griffiths (Trainee Clerk)

2528. Apologies for Absence:

Mr David Greenfield.

2529. Members' Declaration of Interest for Items on the Agenda + Requests for
Dispensations: None.

2530. Public Participation: None

2531. Approve and Sign Amended Minutes of Parish Council Meeting – 14th February
2019:

The minutes were agreed as a true record. *Proposed: Peter Hart, seconded: Steve
Kent-Phillips, unanimously agreed.*

2532. Reports:

CCC: No report was provided.

ECDC: Cllr Allen Alderson reported to the meeting, including the new underpass in
Ely, the new swimming pool is going well, and the local plan where Allen Alderson's
ward is nice unlike some others – nothing really spoils the villages. The new
Governor, which they are happy with (see written report) 7 policies have been thrown
out including CLT housing and all the work put into the plan that was passed before
(by a more capable Governor). The lines around the building envelope will be back in
April 2020.

*The meeting was suspended for a few minutes from 19:40 – 19:44: Alastair
Everitt asked about the 2015 plan. Allen Alderson suggested that as the recent
plan was rejected, the 2015 plan would carry more weight.*

Michael Malster asked about developers that had land with planning permission, if
there was any constraint on actually developing houses. It was noted that just digging
footings probably complied. The development in Witchford and Fordham were
discussed where the same developer had not built any houses in either location. Sandra
Gynn asked when they would lose planning approval. Allen Alderson would check. It
was suggested to contact CCC – Joshua Schumann and local MP - Lucy Frazer. The
Clerk agreed to ask both for an update. Paul Latchford asked about building for people
to stay in, Allen Alderson stated that they want to use later life design but the new
governor had also increased the number of builds per site, thus reducing land per
property.

2533. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes (for information only):

Steve Kent-Phillips commented on *Min.ref.2520* – The new trainee Clerk was
introduced. Jude Griffiths is available to start in April. Steve Kent-Phillips had moved
and installed the equipment purchased for Rosie. *Min.ref.2517* – There were some

changes suggested to the rental agreement for SID. Agreement to be on the next meeting's agenda.

2534. Correspondence for Circulation/Consideration:

The local plan withdrawal letter was noted and agreed to be covered under item 11. Paul Latchford asked about the lack of correspondence, especially from ECDC. Steve Kent-Phillips explained that a great deal, that is now via email from ECDC, is not relevant to Swaffham Prior.

2535. Consideration of planning applications: None

2536. Village Hall

Due to a previous repeat booking, the AVA needed to be moved. Tuesday, May 14th was suggested and Steve Kent-Phillips agreed to book this with the VH – on-line, if possible. David Greenfield's email reported that the VH Amalgamated Trust Deed Documents – Amendment & Resolution were forwarded on 28th February to our Solicitors (F.A.O. Roger Taylor) at Wellers Hedleys Law Group. Steve Kent-Phillips reported that the windy conditions recently had upset the VH notice board. He proposed getting Andy Martin to look at the foundations and Jon Taw to look at the woodwork. This work would come under a health and safety issue but should also be under £100.

2537. Allotments

Steve Kent-Phillips reported that the allotments map is now on-line (on the Web site) and one plot is still vacant. There had been one enquiry but they had not yet applied to the Clerk.

2538. East Cambridgeshire Local Plan

a) Notification of withdrawal

David Greenfield's email had been circulated. The formal letter from ECDC was circulated to the meeting. This was read to the meeting: “

In February 2018, ECDC submitted its draft Local Plan to the Secretary of State for examination. The examination process took place throughout 2018 and the Planning Inspector concluded that the Local Plan was 'sound' subject to making a number of modifications. Planning law permits local planning authorities to withdraw a Local Plan prior to adoption and at the meeting of the council on 21 February 2019, ECDC voted to withdraw the emerging Local Plan with immediate effect.

“

b) Implications for Swaffham Prior

David Greenfield's report was read to the meeting: “

The decision to withdraw the emerging Local Plan does not affect the present Development Plan, so the Local Plan 2015 is still in place and will not be replaced in the foreseeable future. Although there are some issues with the 2015 Local Plan in the area of planning, I believe this decision to withdraw the draft Local Plan is good for Swaffham Prior though not without some risks for the next 12 months. Our village envelope will stay as we currently understand it and there's no major housing development for the village in the Local Plan 2015. However due to ECDC's inability to demonstrate a Five-Year Supply of Housing Land a number of planning appeals have gone against ECDC in recent months and this is the risk / exposure we face if a planning application is put forward for Swaffham Prior that's inside or outside the village envelope,

not approved by ECDC and the developer subsequently goes to appeal. Following the Local Plan withdrawal, it is anticipated that ECDC will continue to be unable to demonstrate a Five-Year Supply of Housing until April 2020. In April 2020, the Local Plan will be more than five years old, so the government's standard method of calculating local housing needs would be applied – rather than using the target set out in the Local Plan 2015. In fact, using this new method is unlikely to change the housing requirement of 575 dwellings per year as set out in the Local Plan 2015. The frustration is that although ECDC has granted more than sufficient planning permissions to meet its five-year requirement, the number of homes being built by developers has been relatively low, producing a significant backlog. The backlog is so great, that realistically the district has no chance of ever 'catching up'. The effect of applying the new method of calculating housing needs from April 2020 will remove this backlog effectively 'wiping the slate clean'. ECDC therefore anticipates that in April 2020 it will be able to demonstrate a Five-Year Supply of Housing Land. This should mean, under the Five-Year Land Supply test, development envelopes will regain their status. Swaffham Prior should again have 'small village' status and planning rules will be corresponding to this status – 'in-fill' only with a maximum of two dwellings and that only within the envelope. We will lose the two additions to the 'Local Green Spaces' in the draft Local Plan – Play Area & Coopers Green, but we have a woodland TPO in place at the SW entrance to the village that's independent of the draft Local Plan."

2539. Accounts for payment:

a.	Clerk's salaries	£ 352.00
b.	Inland Revenue – Clerks' tax	£ 88.00
c.	ICO Data Protection registrar (P CATLING paid by CC)	£ 40.00
d.	CCC street lighting energy	£ 418.57
	Total	<u>£ 898.57</u>

Payment of the above invoices was agreed. *Proposed: Steve Kent-Phillips, seconded: Paul Latchford, unanimously agreed.*

No transfer was required.

2540. Clerk's Report.

The Clerk made sure the election proposal forms were available and pointed out that the completed forms could be taken in as a batch if they were all presented to the Clerk by the end of play 24th. The VH had been booked for the day (May 2nd) and ECDC are staffing the polling station.

2541. Parish Councillor's Reports.

Sandra Gynn mentioned that the VH lights had been left on and on occasion, all night. Steve Kent-Phillips reported that he had been made aware of the cemetery bins being full – he will look into it. Paul Latchford reported that a vehicle had been parked at the Swffham Bulbeck end of the village for some time. Sandra Gynn suggested calling the Police non-emergency number, Steve Kent-Phillips suggested a license plate number would help.

The meeting closed at 20:29

2542. Open Question Time.

LK noted there were a number of “unapproved” minutes on the Web site. There was a discussion about the Web site not coming up in search engine searches and it was suggested putting the Web address in The Crier. LK also pointed out the as the village was encouraging parking in the car park rather than the High Street, it should be kept in good repair.

Business finished at 20.33

Appendix 1 – Correspondence Received:

As above. No other correspondence.

Unapproved