

**Minutes of the Swaffham Prior Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 14th January 2021
at 7.30pm via Zoom.**

Present: Mr John Covill (Chair) (JC), Mr Andrew Camps (AC), Mr Alan Durrant (AD), Mr David Greenfield (DG), Mrs Sandra Gynn (SG), Mr Peter Hart (PH), Mr Paul Latchford (PL) and Mr Steve Kent-Phillips (SKP).

In attendance:

Cllr Charlotte Cane (ECDC)

There were 4 members of the public in attendance.

147/20-21 Apologies for absence

Mrs Jude Griffiths (Clerk) – illness. SKP took the minutes as Deputy Clerk.

Mr. Limb – technology issues. The website was down due to Air Broadband overnight maintenance.

148/20-21 Members declaration of interest for items on the agenda and requests for dispensations

None.

149/20-21 Public participation for items on the agenda

Members of the public spoke regarding the 28 dwelling development 154/20-21(1)

Mr. Hargreaves strongly objected. The outline is for 28 houses but the road is definite. He said it was the wrong scheme in the wrong location. It is likely to harm the setting of the two listed churches when viewed from the South East. He said the development would harm the users of Laundry Lane as the development would carve a new road through the existing trees. He added that the development appears to contravene many clauses in the National Planning Development Framework and that the ECDC Heritage Officer advises refusal.

Mrs. Richards was worried about the apparent secrecy to the application and said she did not see any postings locally. She was worried about the high density of the social housing in an “enclave”.

Mr. Sumner noted the application is posted in the Bulbeck slip road area, albeit in inconvenient places to read.

150/20-21 Approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 10th December 2020

DG proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting; seconded AD, passed unanimously.

151/20-21 Reports

- a) CCC representative - none received
- b) ECDC representative – Cllr Charlotte Cane (CC) reporting.

A report had been circulated by email prior to the meeting. CC noted that the Mepal development is out for consultation. SKP noted some rare pond life had been discovered, and CC replied she thought it was covered by the application.

152/20-21 Matters arising from previous minutes (for information only)

Min Ref 140/20-21 PL reported that the Ground Penetrating Radar project was on hold due to Covid.

Min Ref 143/20-21 DG reported that PC reply to the Greater Cambridge Partnership transport consultation was sent by email on 23/12/20 after being circulated and approved by email.

153/20-21 Correspondence for consideration/circulation:

- a) NALC latest Covid update email. It was noted that the playground can remain open.
- b) ECDC Elections – It was noted that the 2021 May local elections are scheduled to go ahead, but they are under constant review.

154/20-21 Consideration of planning applications received:

**1) 20/01633/OUM Construction of 28 dwellings and provision of access.
Land at rear of 69 High Street, Swaffham Prior.**

DG presented a draft reply. It stated: Swaffham Prior is an infill only village in the 2015 Local Plan, meaning only two house developments are allowed. This development is outside the defined Village Envelope and there has been no local engagement or consultation. The development situates some house very close to the B1102, raising pollution concerns. The poor local public transport means more traffic on the already (at times) busy High Street and B1102.

PL noted the ECDC Tree Officer recommended refusal due to the many trees that would be removed, possibly some with TPOs in place.

PL asked that Mr. Hargreaves' comments be included.

SKP noted comments from two other residents and asked that they be included also, specifically that the development had a private access road so 28 wheelie bins would be placed on the High Street every week as the Refuse Collectors would not go and pick them up. SKP also asked that the previous PC's response be merged in and that Mr. Hargreaves' comments re NPFD be specifically included. DG agreed.

AD noted that the Highways Agency are also opposed to the development due to the private access road.

DG offered to collate suggestions and formulate then circulate a response to be given to the Deputy Clerk to pass on.

SKP responded that the Clerk is only temporarily indisposed, and that all responses should go through her.

DG proposed that the PC objected to the application; seconded PL, passed unanimously.

DG proposed that the PC requests CC to call in the application; seconded PL, passed unanimously.

Action: DG to produce a response, to be circulated for agreement by the PC and then sent to the ECDC planning department.

**2) 20/01646/CLP Single storey extension
1 Orchard Close, Swaffham Prior**

DG proposed that the PC had no objections to the application; seconded PL, passed unanimously.

**3) 20/01412/FUL Alteration and extension of existing bungalow – resubmitted
8 Tothill Road, Swaffham Prior.**

Approved. Noted.

**4) 20/01417/LBC Proposed reinstatement of cap, fantail and sails to restore windmill to working order, together with installation of electricity microgeneration plant.
The Smock Tower Mill, Mill Hill, Swaffham Prior**

Approved. Noted.

**5) 20/01739/FUL Installation of air source heat pump to replace oil fired boiler
The Oaks, Manor Farm Court, Lower End, Swaffham Prior**

PL proposed that the PC had no objections to the application; seconded SKP, passed unanimously.

**6) 20/01740/LBC Installation of air source heat pump to replace oil fired boiler
The Oaks, Manor Farm Court, Lower End, Swaffham Prior**

PL proposed that the PC had no objections to the application; seconded SKP, passed unanimously.

**7) 21/00014/FUL New 3 bed dwelling and outbuilding/garage - Replacement dwelling
Bridge Lodge Upware**

It was noted that this appears to be outside our parish.

**8) 21/00062/SCREEN Proposed development for a solar farm
Land South Of Breach Farm Ness Road Burwell**

It was noted that this lies outside our parish but that we were invited to comment. The application was for additional screening. PL stated that we were originally invited to comment due to the potential noise pollution across Devil's Dyke, and that he would look into it.

**21/00016/FUL Hip to gable loft conversion with front and rear dormer windows
Highfen Farm Prior Fen**

DG proposed that the PC had no objections to the application; seconded PL, passed unanimously.

156/20-21 To discuss the payment for the Village Hall chairs

This item was brought forward by the Chairman at the request of the Treasurer.

SKP reported that there are shipping problems from China since Brexit, the costs had risen sharply, and that the chairs are now not expected until the summer.

Action: AD to monitor the situation and report back.

PL proposed that the PC not pay the deposit on the chairs yet; seconded DG, passed unanimously.

155/20-21 Accounts for payment including:

SKP reported that the Clerk's cash card was now ready and requested £200 be paid into it to start things off.

a) Clerk's salary and taxes	£ 150.00
b) Clerk's expenses – postage	£ 76.00
c) Clerk's expenses - payment for cash card	£ 5.00
d) Village Hall chairs	£1233.00 – NOT PAID
e) Initial payment into Clerk's Bank Card	£ 200.00

Total £ 431.00

Direct Debits

Eon electricity bill for street lights	£150.52
Wave water bill for cemetery tap	£135.98
Information Commissioner	£ 40.00

Total £326.50

SKP noted the cemetery water seemed high, but the tap has been checked and is operating normally.

SKP proposed that the PC pay the indicated amounts bar the deposit; seconded DG, passed unanimously.

SKP noted no transfer was necessary.

157/20-21 Clerk's Report

The Clerk had left a written report.

The cemetery tree maintenance will be done by Eastern Tree Surgery on Tue 19th January from 7.30 am and should be done in a day.

The hedge was trimmed back on Mill Hill, but there was a further complaint about soil encroaching path.

The Clerk is requested to contact County Highways.

The Cash card is organised , £150 of which will go straight away on book of Local Council Law.

The Treasurer noted that this expenditure is already authorised from the training budget.

There are two online CAPALC courses: "Understanding annual meetings" and "Understanding elections and the clerk's role" at £30 each. The Clerk requested authorisation.

The PC authorised this expenditure from the training budget.

There are online CAPALC courses for councillor-ing, chairman-ing and "cemetery management and compliance" available. AD expressed an interest if a 'Memorial Management' course is run.

An incidence of fly tipping by the Bulbeck slip road has been addressed.

158/20-21 Parish Councilors' Reports

PH reported that there is an overgrown hedge with ivy on the back path leading to the Beeches.

Action: the Clerk to contact No. 34 Lower End to request it is trimmed back.

JC noted overgrown hedges at Stocks Farm and Manor Farm (laurel). There was some discussion by SG and AC that Stocks Farm hedge has recently been trimmed.

Action: the Clerk to contact the Mr. Dickens of Manor Farm to request him trim back hedge.

JC noted the Sewerage Works undergrowth had been cut back.

PL noted developments and a hard surface installed on Driest Drove.

Action: JC to investigate.

The meeting ended at 8.40pm

159/20-21 Open Question Time

Mr. Sumner mentioned potential noise pollution problems in the 28 houses development for houses very close to the B1102.

Action: DG to include in the objection letter.

Business closed at 8.45 pm