

**Minutes of the Swaffham Prior Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 10th June 2021
at 7.35pm at Swaffham Prior Village Hall.**

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

In attendance:

Mrs Jude Griffiths (Clerk)
Sheryl French (Cambridgeshire County Council)
Caroline Stoop (Cambridgeshire County Council)
Miles Messenger (Bouyges Energy and Services Ltd)
Helen New (Pinnacle Power)

There were 5 members of the public in attendance.

27/21-22 Apologies for absence

John Covill – work commitments

In the absence of Cllr Covill, the Vice-chair, DG took the chair.

Cllr Charlotte Cane

Cllr John Trapp

The Chair proposed that Item 37/21-22 move to be heard after Item 29/21-22; this was agreed.

28/21-22 Members' declaration of interest for items on the agenda and requests for dispensations

SKP declared a financial interest in item 35/21-22 – the payment of the Heartbeat Trust bill.

29/21-22 Public participation for items on the agenda

33/21-22 1) Mr George Hurrell spoke regarding the restrictions on length of vehicle that can use Reach Road as described on the sign that recently appeared at the bottom of Cage Hill. Mr Hurrell's grain trailers are over the allowed length and this would cause serious inconvenience for a few days during harvest time, when the trailers would have to reroute around the village. SKP noted that the Traffic Regulation Order referred to an area outside of the parish, but that the PC could write in support of a local exemption for the days needed.

37/21-22 To receive a response from the Heating Scheme to questions posed by letter.

Sheryl French (SF) introduced the rest of the attendees. She then summarised the development of the scheme so far and outlined the proposed timescale for the building of the Energy Centre (to begin July 2021) and circulating system (August 2021-February 2022). SF then responded to the questions sent by letter by the PC.

1) *Have enough people signed up the scheme to allow the scheme to go ahead?*

SF stated that enough households had expressed an interest for the scheme to go ahead.

2) *Please provide a written guarantee that the village heating scheme will not contaminate or adversely impact the local aquifer upon which it is to be built and will not contaminate the local water supply.*

SF stated that if water supply contamination occurred, the County Council would be liable for the costs – if it was their fault, they would not run away. SF also pointed out that the heat exchange will be a closed system and that the boreholes did not penetrate the aquifer – this was later corrected to the boreholes did penetrate the aquifer.

3) *Please provide a guarantee that the Swaffham Prior Heating Scheme will be and will remain the cheapest energy solution for the duration of its serviceable life and thereby will not burden some of the least well-off in our community with higher than the cheapest heating costs.*

SF stated that the scheme had been developed to avoid fuel poverty for the heating of homes, through taking them off oil and gas, the prices of which would continue to rise. For the first five years of running, the price would be pegged to that of oil, then would move to being pegged against the price of electricity. It is a condition of the funding received that the price remains lower than that of oil.

Regarding future development of cheaper heating systems, SF noted that the energy centre could change, but that the project had evolved over four years and had involved much consultation with academics and engineers to be the best possible.

- 4) *Would new building schemes be more likely if they were needed to make scheme financially viable?*

SF noted that any house could join the scheme.

- 5) *It is proposed that charges for the scheme are benchmarked against the price of oil. Please confirm how the benchmark will be calculated and how these will take into account cheaper alternative procurement arrangements for oil.*

SF stated that there are to be two tariffs:

- a standing charge calculated on the expected costs of boiler maintenance and replacement and adjusted for house size; this would be between £262 and £472 a year (including VAT)
- a variable charge, based on current oil prices and indexed to oil prices for 5 years then gradually transferring to electricity; this would be 5.15p per kWh including VAT. This was calculated as the equivalent to 45.0p per litre for oil; $4.9 \text{ ((energy price)} \times 10.3 \text{ (energy in oil)} \times 85\% \text{ (boiler efficiency))} + \text{VAT (5\%)}$.

SF then handed over to Helen New (HN) of Pinnacle Power who outlined the planned timetable and process for installing the pipe network.

HN stated that installing the pipework was planned to take place over 6 months, starting in August with three teams working concurrently, leaving a stub at each house to enable connection. Heath Road, Cage Hill, the High Street, Lower End and Rogers Road would take place August-October 2021; Tothill Road, Greenhead Road, Fairview Grave and Mill Hill in October 2021-Jan 2022. Pipe would be laid on both sides of the road but only a single lane closure of 100m at a time – each 5m section is planned to take 3 weeks to complete.

The Chair invited questions.

SKP asked if the work would close parking to the pub for three weeks? HN said yes.

SKP asked if the pub would be offered compensation for this? HN said no.

It was noted that the aim was to work on the roads round the school during school holidays to minimise the disruption to parents needing to park and the pick-up and drop-off points of the school buses.

It was pointed out that during harvest, agricultural vehicles would need a road width of 4m.

SG asked if driveways would remain accessible. HN said this was the aim.

PH asked the depth of the excavations. HN said between 0.7m and 1.5m. SF noted that a detailed survey of all utilities had been obtained.

PH asked what was the estimated heat loss per metre?

Miles Messenger (MM) stated that the calculated heat loss over the whole system was 4°C.

PL pointed out that the chalk at the church end of the village is extremely hard, which could slow down proceedings and that there was a potential problem of vibrations from works damaging nearby buildings, noting it would be wise to stay on the side of the road furthest from houses – this was noted.

PL asked who was doing the re-instatement and if they would return if it slumped? HN said a civil contractor and yes.

PL asked if the boreholes could be replaced if a better system for heating came along e.g. hydrogen.

SF noted that hydrogen was more for industrial use presently but yes, the boreholes could be replaced with a different source of heating.

PL asked for reassurance that more housing would not be built to increase numbers on the scheme. SF noted that it was not in her gift to give this reassurance, but also that the scheme did have finite capacity.

PL asked if all the household showing interest currently heated by oil? SF said no. PL asked that this be taken into account for future statistics regarding carbon reduction.

SKP asked for confirmation that the heating units fitted were internal boilers – not ideal for small houses.

MM confirmed that it had not been possible to source external boilers, although they were looking at adapting some.

SKP noted that at rush hours, 1000 cars per hour passed through Swaffham Prior on the B1102, therefore traffic restrictions should take account of this and the direction of flow. SF agreed.

There was a discussion of where cars were to park when sections of the road were being dug up and what would happen if someone refused to move their car from outside their house. SF said that this would have to be thought about. Several councillors stated that Cooper's Green should not be used as a car park and this was noted.

SKP asked why compensation in case of breakdown was capped at £500? SF said that capping was a normal process and £500 was judged to be reasonable as it was not anticipated that the scheme would break down. SKP pointed out that the scheme was contracted to supply sufficient heat to customers; if through e.g. a very hard winter, this was not possible, how could the cap be legally applied. SF said there were plans to cover heat shortages as the scheme would have a duty of care.

SKP asked if not enough people signed up, would the scheme be run at a loss? SF replied that there was a 5 year plan that could be reviewed if necessary but that ultimately the scheme could not leave people without heat. Several councillors noted concerns that this situation could increase pressure to build new houses that would join the scheme.

Several councillors noted concerns that the scheme itself, no matter how good, was not suited to retrofitting in a small old village.

SG asked what numbers of household were pro/anti the scheme. SF said that 160 expressions of interest were taken as pro; there were no figures for households actively anti.

SG asked if the majority were against the scheme, would it still go ahead? SF said yes.

SKP asked if a leak in a borehole would enter the aquifer? MM said that the liquid used was ecologically, chemically and environmentally inert. For a systemic leak, there was an isolation protocol. The boreholes penetrate the aquifer but do not interact with it and monitors would identify which borehole was leaking and notify more or less instantaneously.

SKP questioned why the calculation of the variable charge involved multiplying by the efficiency of the boiler, feeling instead it should be dividing. MM disagreed.

AD asked who would pay the cost of standard charges and maintenance at the Sanctuary Housing houses? SF said that Sanctuary Housing would pay for this; tenants would pay for volume used.

The meeting was closed at 8.33pm while the Chair invite questions from members of the public; there were none.

The meeting resumed at 8.34pm.

PL noted that communication with the public needed to be quicker, not appear an afterthought. SF agreed.

30/21-22 Approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 6th May 2021 and the Annual Parish Meeting of 6th May 2021

SKP proposed that the minutes of the PC meeting of the 6th May 2021 be accepted as a true account; seconded PH, passed unanimously.

SKP proposed that the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting of the 6th May 2021 be accepted as a true account; seconded DG, passed unanimously.

31/21-22 Reports

- a) CCC representative – no report received, no-one attending.

- b) ECDC representative – both Cllr Cane and Cllr Trapp had given their apologies to the meeting; a written report had been circulated by email before the meeting and no questions had arisen from it.

32/21-22 Matters arising from previous minutes (for information only)

21/21-22 SKP noted that Jon Taw was to provide a quote to repair/replace the Cooper's Green sign – to be discussed in the July PC meeting.

21/21-22 AD had received a quote from Meads regarding preparation of the next area for graves and repair work to the cemetery footpath. To be discussed at the July PC meeting.

Action: AD to circulate Meads quote and to obtain a second quote for comparison.

33/21-22 Correspondence for consideration/circulation:

- 1) Email from G Hurrell re restrictions to traffic on Reach Road.

DG noted that many parishioners had spoken against the sign regarding the Traffic Restriction Order (TRO) currently positioned on the grassy area at the bottom of Cage Hill. No-one from the village seems to have consulted before it was put up in the conservation zone and this was not acceptable. SG noted that the sign was on private property. SKP noted that the TRO referred to the road in Reach parish so was out of Swaffham Prior's jurisdiction, but the sign itself was in Swaffham Prior and the owner of the land can request its removal. The PC could also support Mr Hurrell in a request for a temporary suspension of the TRO to allow grain trailers access, if Mr Hurrell wrote to the PC requesting such support.

DG proposed that the PC feel strongly regarding these matters and put together a communication to this effect: seconded PH, passed unanimously.

Action: DG to draft the above mentioned communication and circulate to other councillors for comment.

- 2) Email from C Windsor regarding parking on Fosters Road – noted.

- 3) Email from Sarah Jones of CADNO regarding proposed solar farm by EDF.

DG noted that a public announcement from EDF regarding the proposed solar farm spoke of a substantial public consultation process being undertaken and had two potential routes for the majority of the solar farm traffic – one from the A14 via Stow-cum-Quy and the other through Fordham via the A147. The PC felt no need for EDF to attend the July meeting to explain their plans further.

DG proposed that the clerk reply to the email stating the PC's significant preference for the route via Stow-cum-Quy; seconded SKP, passed unanimously.

- 4) Email from S Richards regarding replacement of Cooper's Green sign. SKP had collected the pieces of the damaged sign and it is being repaired by Andy Martin.

34/21-22 Consideration of planning applications received:

- 1) **21/00571/FUL. Proposed first floor extension and single storey rear extension. 25 Greenhead Road, Swaffham Prior, CB25 0JT.**

DG noted that objections had been made online, mainly objecting to the scale of the proposed building and that it is too big in comparison to the surrounding bungalows.. SKP proposed that the PC make no objections to this planning application; 4 against (DG, AC, SG, AD) 3 in favour (SKP, PL, PH), proposal rejected.

Action: Clerk to respond to the consultation with the PC's objection that the house would be too big and out of scale with the line of bungalows in which it is currently situated.

- 2) **20/01739/FUL. Installation of air source heat pump to replace oil fired boiler. The Oaks, Manor Farm Court, Lower End, Swaffham Prior.** Approved.

Noted.

- 3) **20/01740/LBC. Installation of air source heat pump to replace oil fired boiler. The Oaks, Manor Farm Court, Lower End, Swaffham Prior.** Approved.

Noted.

- 4) **21/00695/TRE. T1 Sycamore - Remove ivy, crown reduce height by 5-6m, crown reduce spread to shape and balance. T2 Ash - Remove Ivy throughout tree, crown reduce height by 4-5m and shape. T3 Sycamore - Crown reduce height by 5-6m, crown reduce spread to shape and balance. T4 Ash - Fell as located close to boundary wall. The Old Vicarage 72 High Street Swaffham Prior Cambridge CB25 0LD. Approved**
Noted.

35/21-22 Accounts for payment including:

a) Clerk's salary and taxes	£520.00
b) CGM for grass cutting on 16 th and 31 st March, 14 th and 28 th April	£1348.28
c) CAPALC course on new model code of conduct	£40.00
d) Society of Local Council Clerks annual membership	£112.00
e) Cambridge County Council – 59 scanned photographs	£147.50
f) Cambridge County Council – 70 scanned photographs	£170.00
Total	<u>£2337.78</u>

Additional bills to be paid:

Highfield Event Group – hire of marquee for PC June meeting	£240.00
S Kent-Phillips – reimbursement for defibrillator replacement parts	£237.60
Andy Martin – maintenance of village noticeboard	£170.00
Andy Martin – maintenance and repairs to Pound and Keep – as agreed	£345.00

SKP reported that there had been a failed attempt to break into the defibrillator phone box, the battery of the defibrillator was dead and the gel pads out of date – these had now been replaced via an emergency order and the lock repaired, but a monthly check need to be carried out to make sure the battery was still charged.

Action: SKP to check monthly.

SKP proposed that the accounts be paid in full; seconded PL, passed unanimously.

SKP proposed a transfer of £3000.00 from the PC savings account to the current account; seconded PH, passed unanimously.

Action: DG to add the area in front of the Pound walls to the grass cutting rota.

36/21-22 To discuss a proposed new order for chairs for the village hall.

AD reported that the village hall had ordered new chairs from a different supplier. The total cost of these was higher (£3,500.00) but the village hall had agreed to pay the difference, leaving the PC contribution the same as was agreed in February 2020, min. ref. 2422 c).

PH proposed that the PC pay for chairs as agreed; seconded PL, passed unanimously.

38/21-22 Clerk's Report

- The Annual Parish Meeting took place and was attended by 5 people. Minutes to follow.
- The clerk had attended the CAPALC code of conduct training as agreed and was reviewing the PC code of conduct at present.
- The external work on the Pound and Keep had been carried out as agreed.

39/21-22 Parish Councillors' Reports

- SG reported that the previously damaged cremation plaques were becoming overgrown again.

- b) SG noted that bagged dog excrement had been left on the steps of St Cyriac. SKP noted that the dog excrement bin had been knocked over on Coopers Green but had been put back up.
- c) PH noted that two posts on Mill Hill had been knocked over – SKP had reported to Highways Agency.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

40/21-22 Open Question Time

Mr G Hurrell thanked the PC for their support.

Business concluded at 9.16pm