

Minutes of the Swaffham Prior Parish Council meeting held on Thursday, 10th February 2022 at 7.30 pm in the Swaffham Prior Village Hall committee room.

Present: Mr John Covill (Chair) (JC), Mr Alan Durrant (AD), Mr. S. Kent-Phillips (SKP), Mr. Andrew Camps (AC).

In attendance:

Mrs Jude Griffiths (Clerk)
Cllr Charlotte Cane (CC) (ECDC)

There were 2 members of the public in attendance.

143/21-22 Apologies for absence

David Greenfield
Sandra Gynn
Peter Hart

144/21-22 Members' declaration of interest for items on the agenda and requests for dispensations

None

145/21-22 Public participation for items on the agenda

None

146/21-22 Reports

- a) CCC representative – none present.
- b) ECDC representative Charlotte Cane (CC) attended. A report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

7.33pm Paul Latchford (PL) arrived.

CC noted that the January Audit Committee for ECDC had been impacted by Covid as neither the internal nor external auditor were able to attend. Also that there will be an automated business rates reduction will be going ahead and that Council and Committee meetings will now be live-streamed from the Full Council meeting of 21st April onwards – enabling people to listen in only.

The Chair invited questions.

JC asked if the auditors would be available at the next meeting? CC said, yes, in March.

147/21-22 Approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 9th December 2021

SKP proposed that the minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting; seconded AD, passed with 1 abstention.

148/21-22 Matters arising from previous minutes (for information only)

Min. ref. 122/21-22 SKP noted that the push button tap was still to be installed.

149/21-22 Correspondence for consideration/circulation.

- a) Sunnica Energy Farm email – invitation to register as an interested party.
Action: Clerk to register Swaffham Prior PC as a interested party.
- b) Email from Mr J Cook regarding B1102 – noted; to be discussed under agenda item 154/21-22.
- c) Email from North East Cambridge Area Action plan with a link to the new draft plan – noted.

150/21-22 Consideration of planning applications received.

- a) **22/00023/LBC Proposed works to the listed building including repairs and replacement of timber frame (soleplate) and replacement of front door to south east elevation.**

Goodwin Manor 1 Station Road Swaffham Prior Cambridge CB25 0LG

No objections.

Approved:

- b) **21/00982/FUL Siting of cellar cooler, garden lamp, pergola, marquee, fence and 2 replacement windows (retrospective) and installation of fire door to north elevation. Red Lion 43 High Street Swaffham Prior CB25 0LD.** Noted
- c) **21/00983/LBC Siting of cellar cooler, garden lamp, pergola, marquee, fence and 2 replacement windows (retrospective) and installation of fire door to north elevation. Red Lion 43 High Street Swaffham Prior CB25 0LD.** Noted.

151/21-22 Accounts for payment including:

a) Clerk's salary and taxes	£520.00
b) British Legion donation	£40.00
c) Reimbursement to A Camps for spray paint	£9.59
d) CGM grass cutting	£1685.34
Total	£2254.93

Direct Debit – Wave (water bill)	£87.27
- nPower (electricity)	£91.38
- ICO payment	£40.00
Clerk's January salary	£546.00 (paid)

Payment received:

Grave grant transfer	£ 25.00
Ivett and Reed – grave markers	£100.00
	£ 50.00
Payment for ERoB	£225.00
Payment for Memorial grant and grave transfers	£ 50.00

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

SKP proposed that £2000.00 be transferred from the savings to the current account; seconded AD, passed unanimously.

SKP noted that the Christmas accounts reconciliation had been carried out and the results circulated. The PC were still within budget for the year and a VAT claim had been submitted. Direct debits had been put into place for the ICO payment and the nPower bills.

152/21-22 To accept a proposed grave marker

No objections were made.

153/21-22 To adopt an update to the cemetery regulations

AD proposed that the updated cemetery regulations were adopted by the PC; seconded SKP, passed unanimously.

154/21-22 To discuss further the need for a crossing on the B1102

The Chair invited Mr Jonathan Cook to address the PC.

Mr Cook addressed the meeting in his capacity as Chair of A-B1102 and in a personal capacity as a resident; he outlined his understanding of the issues involved and the options discussed and rejected over time. He had emailed a set of 6 questions regarding this for which he wanted answers.

The Chair closed the meeting to allow open discussion 7.37pm.

The meeting was reconvened at 8.20pm.

After discussion, it was concluded that speed of vehicles through the village was the fundamental issue, combined with physical issues of the road and the public use of space. It was agreed that Mr Cook could approach Swaffham Bulbeck and Burwell PCs in the capacity of Chair of A-B1102 suggesting a potential joint application to reduce the speed limit on the B1102 between Swaffham Bulbeck, through Swaffham Prior and to Burwell from 60-40-60mph to either 50-30-50mph or 40-30-40mph. It was also agreed that Mr Cook could investigate independent guidance on what could be achieved for that stretch of road – it was noted that 3 quotes would be needed to comply with PC financial regulations.

The Chair thanked Mr Cook for his work on these matters.

155/21-22 To discuss methods of reinforcing the ban on dogs in the playground

JC noted that when passing the playground, he had noted that dog owners were sitting on the benches in the playground, with their dogs and without any children. The Clerk noted that the ‘No Dogs’ sign is still clear and legible, next to the main gate in.

Action: Clerk to put polite notice on Facebook and in the Crier reminding dog owners that dogs are not to take their dogs into the playground, because of the danger of zoonotic disease.

There was discussion of the possibility of having seating for dog owners in the field beyond the playground, but this was discounted as it was too close to the playground. It was agreed to monitor the situation.

156/21-22 Clerk’s Report

- a) The January PC meeting had been cancelled as under the Local Government Act 1972 Sch 12 para 12, no business could be transacted at the meeting as it would have been inquorate.
- b) After looking into funding for road improvements, the Clerk noted that partial funding could be available from a Road Safety Trust grant, to fund an expert to look into or design a solution.
- c) The Prospect Trust had been contacted regarding potential Small Business Grants.
- d) The hedge at the bottom of Cage Hill had been trimmed back on 10th January 2022.
- e) The Clerk had responded to the Greater Cambridge Partnership on behalf of the PC as instructed.
- f) Eastern Tree Surgery were booked to carry out the cemetery tree survey on 9th February 2022.
- g) The Village Hall had been booked for the Annual Parish Meeting on 18th May 2022.
- h) The last marked plot in the cemetery had been sold.
- i) A damaged manhole cover in the pavement on Green Head Road had been reported by both the Clerk and a member of the public, but the Highways Agency had responded that it did not need fixing yet. SKP commented that they were waiting for the Heating Scheme roadworks to be completed.
- j) The Clerk noted that the Village Hall meeting room now had a hearing loop installed.

157/21-22 Parish Councillors’ Reports

- a) SKP reported that a freedom of information request had confirmed that it was part of a loan agreement for £3.1 million that the first house be heated by the Heating Scheme by 1st April 2022 and that 160 homes were required to take part for the scheme to break even. £6.1 million in loans were intended to be repaid by selling carbon credits. At Christmas, 47 homes had signed up.

SKP also reported that 3 separate surveys of one house had confirmed that digging outside it would cause damage, that asbestos in the cellar of another would be disturbed by digging outside it and a third house had had damage to the rendering from digging outside for the Heating Scheme.

SKP reported that the slow progress on Cage Hill had been due to the make-up of the road and that the delay in filling in the excavations on Greenhead Road are due to delays in tarmac supply.

- b) AC noted that despite being trimmed back, the hedge at the bottom of Cage Hill still protrudes over the footpath.

Action: SKP to report to Highways Agency.

- c) JC noted an email reporting that a fly-tipper had been identified and prosecuted from rubbish dumped in the fen.

158/21-22 Open Question Time

A member of the public noted that older children play football in the field behind the playground so it is not ideal to encourage dog owners to make use of it.

Business concluded at 8.47pm