

Swinbrook & Widford Parish Assembly

Meeting 14th May 2018

Minutes of the Parish Assembly Meeting held at Swinbrook Village Hall, on Monday 14th May 2018 at 7.45pm

Present from the Council

Andrew Mitchell (Chairman), Christine Standen (CS), Sue Meech (SM) Jeremy Duckworth (JD) John Walker (JW)

In attendance: Lisa Harrop (Clerk)

Speakers

Ashley Smith (AS) – Windrush Against Sewage Pollution
Linda Baillie (LB)
Nicholas-Field Johnson (NFJ) - County Councillor
Alex Postan (AP) – District Councillor

0001 Chairman's Welcome

AM welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Assembly.

0002 Apologies

Iain Baillie, Sophie & Stefano Silocchi

0003 Speeding update & Widford Village Signs

LH updated everyone on the speeding application. The application was approved in April to implement a 20mph speed limit through Swinbrook and implement a new 30mp speed limit in Widford. LH informed everyone that OCC would be sending the PC a quote to implement the new speed limits and once this had been received a Parish Council meeting would be called to discuss how this should be funded which might include the use of private donations that had been offered up at past meetings.

A discussion was held about the signage and it was discussed about moving the Swinbrook Village signs from their current locations. It was thought that the current village sign near the Swan was easily missed and should be moved to either before the entrance of Wolfi & Sue Bauer's house or by the Cricket pitch. Evelyn brought up the fact that the houses in Hit & Miss are part of Swinbrook however the village sign was located below Phil & Cid Evans house, it was felt that this sign should be moved to just before the national speed limit signs by Hit and Miss Cottages. Phil Evans also asked how was the wording on the signs decided on whether it displays "please drive carefully" to "please drive slowly" LH believed it was set by the Department for Transport and it was mentioned that the reason for the difference in text could be down to the age of the signs.

Linda Baillie raised the point of having dragons teeth painted on the road near the Bauers, these are used as traffic calming measures and are typically used at entrances into villages. A discussion was had around how much input the Parish Council could have on deciding where the new speeding limit signs, village signs & road markings would go. LH will contact Anthony Kirkwood to discuss and see if the Parish Council could meet with the Contractors.

AM thanked CS and her team on the speeding project for all of their hard work and effort and asked CS and LH to work together with Anthony on the placement of the new signage.

0004 Website Update

LH informed everyone that the grant application for the website has been approved and £1,977 had been paid into the PC bank account. LH informed everyone that the grant money included funding for a Parish Council Laptop and Software along with the website

development costs and hosting fees for 12 months. LH has instructed the company to go ahead with the development work and hoped that the website would be up before the next Parish Council meeting. AM asked if the website could be used for other village information, including the village hall, LH said this should be an option however the main purpose was to address the Transparency Code required by all Parish Councils. It was also suggested that maybe the Chronicle could be uploaded to the website and to speak to Linda Baillie regarding this.

0006 Windrush Against Sewage Pollution – Ashley Smith

Ashley gave a brief update and Q and A on the activities of the Windrush Against Sewage Pollution. There was unanimous support for the premise that dumping raw and poorly treated sewage into the Windrush River is a very bad idea and needs to stop.

If anyone has any contacts that they think can help raise awareness then please contact Ashley Smith. Please also visit the Windrush Against Sewage Pollution Website & Facebook Page and share it with your friends and colleagues.

<https://www.windrushwasp.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/WASPING/>

Sue Matthews has been in contact with Country File and they are keen to come and film this issue.

0007 Brize Norton proposed increase in Airspace – Linda Baillie

LB informed everyone that she attended the Local Consultation Work Group meeting in the Officer's Mess at Brize Norton in February on behalf of Swinbrook & Widford Parish Council. Sixteen representatives from the local Parish Councils attended along with someone from OCC, WODC, 2 Wing Commanders, 1 Group Captain and 3 Squadron Leaders!

LB informed everyone that the runway will be dug up and completely re-surfaced in 2021 which will take 6 months to complete. The Hercules are not phasing out until 2035 and the A400M will be replacing the C130. There will be more training taking place in simulators to reduce the amount of C130 flying, however they expect 170 extra personnel to be arriving over the next 20 years with 200 new houses being required between 2020 to 2022. Last year there was a total of 15,000 aircraft movements at Brize Norton.

Brize Norton are proposing to increase the controlled airspace and link it up with Kidlington & Oxford London Airport. This will improve the flying training and will give more room for manoeuvre by linking in with the National Airspace which will lead to an increase of planes flying over Swinbrook. Eileen Boothroyd asked whether there was anything that the village could do about this as there will be an increase in noise, Neil Norridge commented that it used to be a lot worse than this before with more planes that were much more noisy and we should be supporting our Armed Forces. LB confirmed there will be an article all about this in the next edition of the Chronicle.

Between May 2016 and January 2018 Brize Norton received 37 noise complaints with the worse affected being Westwell. The next meeting will be taking place in September and LB encouraged everyone to go.

0008 County Council Update – Nicholas Field-Johnson

NFJ said the biggest problem the County Council is facing is the budget with over 60% of the budget being spent on social care whilst funding from Central Government has been cut.

Another issue is the state of the roads and the number of potholes in the area with repeated cycles of ice, thaws and snow created the worst possible weather condition for roads over the last few months leading to a rise in reports on Fix My Street from 3,000 pre-christmas to 7,000 during January. OCC has drafted in more staff to carry out

inspections and contractors Skanska are sending out more teams to carry out repairs. An additional Dragon-Patcher is now in action on the road network travelling round on an inspect and fix basis on the rural network. Defects that make roads hazardous will be dealt with within 24 hours and if a defect has paint markings around it then it has already been scheduled for repair and does not need a new report.

NFJ gave an update on the Burford Bridge proposal to ban HGV's driving through Burford which is currently waiting for a report from OCC Planners who have been studying the effect that displaced HGV's might have on neighbouring areas. The report will set out options for the Cabinet member to make a decision on whether to proceed or look at other available options.

An award of £1,200 was made by NFJ to Swinbrook & Widford Parish Council towards the costs of the signage for implementing the new speed limit of 20Mph through Swinbrook and 30Mph through Widford. AM thanked NFJ on behalf of the Parish Council and the Parish.

Finally NFJ gave his and Robert Coutts support to the Windrush Against Sewage Pollution campaign.

0009 District Council Update – Alex Postan

AP gave a WODC update informing everyone a number of initiatives have been undertaken. A new supplier for Waste management is doing very well collecting the same amount of waste for less money and West Oxfordshire is currently ranked 6th best for recycling in the Country.

AP also gave a talk on Planning informing everyone that the difficulty that we have had with planning, housing, infrastructure, really comes from well meaning planning but the Green belt that was introduced in Oxford has created an urban sprawl. With more houses planned along the A40 in Witney and the housing developments in Carterton along with the new Garden Village in Eynsham there needs to be more focus on Infrastructure especially along the A40 in order to cope with the new supply of housing.

AP informed everyone that GigaClear was due to roll out in our area in November 2019 and that everyone should register their interest on the website for updates.

A question was raised around the naming of new housing developments and how Swinbrook could protect the use of its name. AP advised the PC that the best way to do this would be to register the use of the name Swinbrook to protect against the name being used in the future however unfortunately this would stop the use of the name being used at Swinbrook Park in Carterton.

AP finished his talk by informing everyone that he is always available and welcomes calls on 842740

0010 Swinbrook Village Summer BBQ

LH informed everyone that a Summer BBQ would be held at the Village Hall during the summer months and to keep an eye out on the Village Distribution list. LH will be keeping an eye on the weather and if looking good for a weekend will drop a note out for an impromptu BBQ where people can come along, bring a burger, sausage and drink and get together in the Village Hall Garden.

0011 Swinbrook Village Hall

AM asked a question about what was happening with the Village Hall as it had been on the agenda for a number of years. LH informed AM that JM had passed the Constitution over as currently there are only 3 active trustees on the Charity, these are John Matthews, Malcolm & Joyce Hudson and before anything could be done the Accounts needed to be published with the Charity Commission as they have not been done for years. Robin Meech has offered to assist with getting the accounts published having had to

complete the accounts for the other 3 charities in the village. Once the Accounts have been updated then we can look at updating the Trustees and moving forward with the Village Hall. AM also informed the meeting that he would like to compile a list of Village assets, LH informed the meeting that even if the PC did not own the asset it could be listed as one so that in the event of something happening to it the PC would be informed first, LH gave an example of this by saying that The Swan Inn should be listed as a Parish Asset and that in the event of the pub being sold the PC would be informed of this and potentially given additional time to come up with a plan. Currently the thoughts around village assets are:

The Village Hall
The Cricket Club
The Swan Inn
St Mary's Church
3 Charities managed by Robin Meech
Stocks Hill
Village Green

AM asked everyone to think about what would be a village asset and send any information to LH.

0012 **Dog Waste Bins**

Linda Baillie raised the question about Dog Waste Bins and whether we should consider buying some. A number of questions were raised around the cost and who actually empties the bin, AP informed the meeting that this could be emptied and collected by WODC at a cost. It was also mentioned in the meeting that Dog waste could now be put into the General Household Rubbish Bins. The general consensus was that this should be looked into further to understand if feasible and would be actioned at the next PC meeting.

0013 **AOB**

Eileen Graham raised the point about bins in the village and how they look unsightly and especially now that we have 3 bins per household and understood not everyone was fortunate enough to have somewhere to store them, but as we are in a conservation area it would be good to maintain the look of the village and suggested people could look at bin tidyies like the ones that Richard and Lisa have recently installed or maybe they could consider some form of screening. Alex Postan also noted that smaller bins could be requested from WODC.

Robin Meech informed everyone that Richard Coombs would be leaving in November to take up another position in Cheltenham after serving the Parish for 20 years. It will take a few months to recruit a new vicar however a new curate was currently being broken in! Swinbrook Church Service on Sunday's at 11am is very good with a great turn out. Robin also mentioned that the Church are looking to see if it is feasible to install bells in St Mary's Church Swinbrook and asked if anyone had any objections. A question was raised whether the bells would chime every hour and Robin informed everyone that they would only ring out at Services and Weddings, no objections were received.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.