

**MINUTES OF SWAFFHAM BULBECK PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING NUMBER 406**

Held in the School on Tuesday 1st April 2014 starting at 7.00pm

Present: Margaret Chadwick, Chairman (MC), Sue Romero (Vice Chairman) SRo), Bert Collins (BC), Lynn Reed (LR), Gordon Reid (GR), Sharyn Robinson (SR), Mary Smith (MS), Ian Woodroffe (IW)

Members of the Public: 1

In attendance:

Interim Clerk: Mrs D Bayliss

DC Allen Alderson

3469: Apologies for absence:

C Cllr David Brown;

3470: Members' Declaration of Interest for Items on the Agenda + Requests for Dispensation.

None

3471: Open Forum for Public Participation

None

3472: To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held 4th March 2014

It was proposed by BC and seconded by IW that the minutes of the meeting held on 4th March are approved and signed.

CARRIED

3473: To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held 18th March 2014

The meeting was adjourned at 7.13pm while the council moved to another room in the building.

The meeting was reconvened at 7.17pm.

It was proposed by GR that the signing of the minutes of the meeting held 18th March are deferred until the May meeting in order that the original draft minutes of the open forum can be included.

5 In favour

Mary Smith & Ian Woodroffe abstained

Sue Romero objected

CARRIED

3474: Matters Arising

404/3457 – A letter has still to be sent to the parishioner asking her not to let her dog play in the cemetery and a notice is required stating dogs are to be kept on a lead in the cemetery.

404/3444 The Zebra Crossing will be discussed later in the agenda.

404/3453 Planning Application has been approved

4051. Did the Chairman state during the public forum that Brian's resignation was not a consequence of the discussions regarding Gutter Bridge Wood?

Answer: [MC] Yes.

2. Did the Chairman state during the public forum that Sue's resignation was not a consequence of the discussions regarding Gutter Bridge Wood?

Answer: [MC] Yes.

3. Had anyone voted against the lease of Gutter Bridge Wood on the basis of dangerous access?

Answer: [MC] No. This topic of access had been raised and discussed and, while there was one abstention on the basis of the risk of high costs of future woodland maintenance, no-one had voted against the lease on this or any other basis.

4. Did anyone present on 4th March speak against holding an extraordinary meeting with the express intention of resolving the issues raised on 4th March?

Answer: [MC] No-one spoke against holding a meeting on 18th March and all who had been present on 4th March voted in favour of it.

5. Was there an element of precept money involved in the Gutter Bridge Wood funds?

Answer: [SRo and SR] A total of £3,000 of precept money was involved, split roughly equally into thirds between the two Denny projects and the Gutter Bridge Woods, and so £1,000 of precept money was included in the money spent on Gutter Bridge Woods.

6. While GR commended Sue on her efforts, was he was right in thinking that the method and approval of expenditure on Gutter Bridge Woods had to fall within the laws regarding the expenditure of precept monies; in particular those relating to working groups?

Answer: [SR & DB] Yes.

A copy of the new NALC standing orders will be sent to all councillors for consideration and a working party meeting will be arranged to discuss updating them.

405/MC has had one emailed interest in the clerk's vacancy.

405/MC Mr & Mrs Bretscher have written to the Chairman suggesting that there should be an election for the councillor vacancy. MC informed him that in order for an election to take place 10 parishioners need to contact ECDC within the allotted time frame.

3475: County Councillors Report

The County Councillor was not in attendance however his report had been circulated before the meeting.

3476: District Councillors Report

DC Allen Alderson presented his report to the Council:

- The Maltings in Ely is being taken over by Ely City Council who are also taking over the grant funding to Arts Development in East Cambs.
- An Association of Drainage Authorities seminar was held in Peterborough to discuss Partnership Working and the benefits of Drainage Boards benefiting groups and the wider community.
- A Community and Environment Committee meeting was held to discuss the future of Neighbourhood Panels. It was agreed to run a pilot multi-agency conference in June or July, with the findings being reported back during autumn 2014.
- An update was given on Ely's Paradise Pool which was taken over by SLM in 2012.
- ECDC maintained their level of grant funding to the CAB this year.
- AA chaired March's Development and Transport Committee meeting at which the proposed Local Plan was discussed.

3477: Correspondence for Consideration/Circulation:

Buildings of Local Interest – it was agreed that the council did not want to nominate any buildings/structures to be included in the register.

The deadline for Cycle Legacy Grant applications has passed.

NOTED

ECDC can provide extra Garden Waste bins for a licence fee of £48 per year.

NOTED

A letter will be sent to Mr Sewell thanking him for his suggestion and asking him to pass the contact details of the lady who would like to adopt a tree to the council, who will write to them directly to discuss terms for adopting the existing new trees. (the council are not in favour of walnut trees) Information has been received from ECDC on the Council's Information Library.

NOTED

The date of the next CLF meeting has been changed to Wednesday 23rd April.

NOTED

3478: Planning Matters

14/00232/FUL Construction of timber footbridge to cross Gutter Bridge drain at Gutter Bridge, Station Road, Station Road, Swaffham Bulbeck for Swaffham Bulbeck Parish Council – no comment. GR requested that it be minuted that putting the planning application for the Gutter Bridge Woods bridge on hold following the meeting on 4th March, viewing it for the first time and approving it in the meeting on 18th March, and reinstating it at ECDC following that meeting had resulted in NO delays whatsoever because the application would not have been addressed by ECDC in the intervening period.

SRo left the meeting at 8.05pm

3479: Cemetery Matters

SRo returned to the meeting at 8.06pm

IW will put an article in the next issue of the Beacon asking for volunteers to help clear the trees by the cemetery wall to prevent further damage sometime in June/July.

BC asked that the council express their thanks to Geoff Reed for his report.

3480: Review of Asset Register

As SR is the only remaining member of the Property Maintenance Committee it was proposed by IW and seconded by GR that the committee is disbanded and working group is established – a meeting will be arranged to review the asset register – Sharyn; Lynn; Mary; Gordon;

CARRIED

Action: Clerk to Arrange

3481: Funding for the Pavilion

11 parishioners are meeting this Saturday to discuss what is needed at the pavilion. A plan needs to be drawn up so that grant funding can be sought. SR requested that terms of reference for the working group are established 'To explore the development/refurbishment of the pavilion on behalf of the parish council; all matters to be brought back to the parish council for approval'. SR asked for a list of members of the working group and a summary of what happened at the meeting.

SRo asked that there is money set aside in the budget to pay for planning applications and necessary legal fees. (legal and professional fees) Some of the Professional Services budget could be allocated to this.

3482: Accounts Updating

It was proposed by MS and seconded by GR that Mrs Bayliss is delegated the authority to purchase the Alpha software package at a cost of £295 + set up costs from Rialtas. Also in consultation with GR to purchase a laptop computer and back up hard drive at a maximum cost of £700.

All in favour

3483: Update on the Zebra Crossing

Confirmation has been received from Steve Dighton that the JFMHI award for the zebra will be rolled forward into the financial year 2014-15.

3484: Clerks Reports

It was agreed that the Mrs Bayliss would order 10 archive boxes from Viking and that SR would help her to pack the boxes, log the information and take them to CBS Storage Solutions at Milton.

3485: Finances Including Approval of Payment of Outstanding Accounts

Payments from Agenda:

Sue McAllister – Clerk’s Salary	Final Payment	£319.30
Sue McAllister – Expenses		£50.00
Inland Revenue – Clerk’s PAYE		£4.00
Sue Romero – ECDC Planning Application		£97.50
Fenland Leisure – Play Equipment		£26,013.58
Fenland Leisure – Play Equipment		£ 5,170.86
Came & Co – Insurance		£59.26
Herts Cambs Ground Maintenance		£262.80
Alan Newbury		£446.96
Additional payment:		£70.00
CAPALC - Councillor Training		

It was proposed by MS and seconded by LR that the accounts are paid with the exception of the invoice for Fenland £5,170.86 which will be sent when the goods arrive.

CARRIED

The cheques were signed by Cllr Mrs Smith, Cllr Mrs Robinson and Cllr Mrs Reed.

3486: Grant Funding

SRo has sent the grant claims to Julie Cornwell at ECDC.

The grant funding from Amey Cespa has been received.

3487: Website Review

MS is currently updating the website which includes uploading back editions of The Beacon. Parish Councillor email addresses can be organised through the website and this is recommended.

3488: Parish Councillors Reports

GR Play Area

- The cracks in the infant cradle swings are getting worse and will need replacing
- There are cracks in the pathway leading to the entrance
- ~~Water is leaking through~~ the roof of the shelter **showed minor damage**
- ~~The gate could do with~~ a the return spring **on the gate needed tightening**

MS left the meeting at 9.26pm

- The new wet pour surfacing is very good
- All the trim trail equipment has been checked the last two weekends

MS returned to the meeting at 9.27pm

- The hanging ladder rungs are loose in their holes
- The Bins were full the first two weekends they were checked but not the second two weekends (They are emptied on Tuesdays)

IW will carry out the inspection during the first week of next month, then SRo will continue for the rest of the month.

SRo

- Table tennis table: the shop is to sell bats and balls;
- A tree work safety inspection is required at the Denny Wood, this is estimated at £500-£1000 by Cathy White. Authorisation from Julie Cornwell to use some S106 money to carry out safety inspection. Three quotes are to be obtained.

LR Notice for the playground needs to be put up.

SR asked if there are any plans for watering the new trees.

IW responded that all the houses around the Denny have been asked to water the trees and four have responded. The trees are just coming into bud and will need watering this week.

SR reported that a lady in Vicarage Close had had an unpleasant experience with two men knocking on the door at 9 o'clock at night asking to be let in. This had been reported to the police.

3489: Dates of Next Meetings

6th May, 20th May – Annual Parish Meeting,

The meeting closed at 9.41pm