

**MINUTES OF SWAFFHAM BULBECK PARISH COUNCIL  
MEETING NUMBER 433**

Held in the School on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 7.00pm

**Present:** Lynn Reed, Gordon Reid, Sue Romero, Robin Sewell, Mary Smith, Bill Wicksteed, Ian Woodroffe (Chairman), Alan Alderson (District Councillor)  
As the Clerk was still signed off, Lynn Reed took the Minutes

**Meeting opened at 7.30PM**

**3911 Apologies for Absence**

Mark Rogers

**3912 Notice of Vacancy:**

This still stands.

**3913 Members' Declaration of interest for items on the Agenda + requests for dispensation**

SR declared an interest in 15/01438/TRE & Trees/Swaffham Bulbeck/CA Tree Work at 68 High Street, Swaffham Bulbeck.

**3914 Open Forum for Public Participation**

There were no members of the public

**3915 Presentations on Affordable Housing (Debbie Wildridge, Mark Deas & Schuyler Newstead)**

**3916** Mark Deas (MD) introduced Debbie Wildridge and Schuyler Newstead of Circle Housing.

**3917** MD gave a short description of the aim of the survey which included:-  
Canvassing opinion on the scale of need, the nature of the need to provide the right type of housing, types of housing already provided and the services available.

**3918** At the last census Swaffham Bulbeck was shown to have 23% social housing. Owner occupation is by far the most dominant type of housing. There are no houses for sale at the moment and when they do come on the market, they are very expensive, which would make it difficult for low-income people to buy property in the village.

**3919** Of the responses received; 75% supported more social housing, 19% were opposed and 6% were undecided. A selection of the responses was read out. The main themes for objection were the impact on the character of the village and no obvious need. There were only three suitable candidates who were not on the housing register, though there were 20 people on the housing register. However, the target would not be as many as 23 houses but something smaller. 16 people maybe required two bedrooms and only a few required one bedroom. However, builders do not like building many one bedroom properties.

**3920** The next stage would be looking for suitable sites.

**3921** BW queried various matters in the report such as some of the figures in the report referring to the Ward rather than the Parish, the calculations of house prices and mortgage repayments and whether there would be real opportunities for people with close connections to the village to obtain a property or whether they could be given to others with a more tenuous connection. Worries were also expressed about some of these houses being able to be purchased after five years, so reducing the social housing stock.

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- 3922** A local connection to the village is defined as living there, working there or having close family there. For rural exception sites, people on band D would have priority over those in band A if they have a local connection.
- 3923** ECDC is promoting Community Land Trusts, which keeps the housing available for rent in perpetuity.
- 3924** The Government's push to encourage right to buy social housing tenants could also reduce housing stock considerably. Housing Associations have problems buying ready-built properties as they are not built to a high enough standard to enable them to be maintained easily. Also, the Government's insistence on tenants being charged up to 80% of market rent where possible and other changes in legislation had also had an effect on monies available to build new housing stock.
- 3925** A report on possible sites for new housing compiled for the last village plan was mentioned as being a very good, even though it had been rejected by the Parish Council at the time.
- 3926** It was agreed that Affordable Housing was to be put back on the February Agenda for the PC meeting. IW was to set up a meeting for a walk around with Mark Deas and any Parish Councillors who were available, probably during the day, to look at potential sites. IW

Mark Deas, Debbie Wildridge and Schuyler Newstead left the meeting

- 3927 To Approve and Sign the Minutes of Meeting Number 431 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015**  
It was proposed by MS, seconded by RS that these be approved and signed.  
CARRIED with 3 abstentions
- 3928 Matters Arising:**  
3903 c) Sanctuary Housing have been advised that the replacement trees had been planted but had not replied as yet.
- 3929 To Approve and Sign the Minutes of Meeting Number 430 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015**  
It was proposed by BW, seconded by MS that these be approved and signed.  
CARRIED
- 3930 Matters Arising:**  
The table tennis table and climbing wall ground repairs had been carried out.
- 3931 To Approve and Sign the Minutes of Meeting Number 432 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015**  
It was proposed by Sue Romero, seconded by Gordon Reid that these be approved and signed.  
CARRIED
- 3932 Matters Arising: None**
- 3933 County Councillor's Report**  
Previously distributed.
- 3934 District Councillor's Report**  
Copies distributed at the meeting. Alan said he had some housing information that he would bring to the next meeting.  
A

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Alan Alderson left the meeting.

**3935 Planning Matters**

**Planning Applications**

15/01487/LBC Alterations to former stables to form guest room and study at Burlings Cottage, 48 High Street, Swaffham Bulbeck. There were no objections. IW

**Planning Approvals**

15/01218/FUL single storey extensions to front, side and rear at 16 Pound Way, Swaffham Bulbeck

**Other Planning Matters**

TPO/E/13/67 Swaffham Bulbeck 15/01328/TPO Tree Work Approval for Mr D Rayner

15/01438/TRE & Trees/Swaffham Bulbeck/CA Tree Work Approval for Mr Astin (Eastern Tree Surgery) at 68 High Street, Swaffham Bulbeck

15/01511/TRE & Trees/Swaffham Bulbeck/CA Tree Work Approval for Mr Rushworth at 1a Archers Close, Swaffham Bulbeck

**3936 Gutter Bridge Wood Matters**

a) A note had been received from a parishioner concerned that the search for the geocaches in the wood would be detrimental. SR was to respond to the effect that the PC has noted his reservations but that the PC will be monitoring the situation over the coming months. The letter to be copied to the Clerk and Parish Councillors.

b) Two dead trees had come down but these could be dealt with by the working party.

**3937 Recreation Ground and Denny Woods Matters**

a) An estimate of £215 + VAT had been received for equipment and labour. Warning notices have to be put out for dog walkers to keep their animals on a lead. The denny area would have to be taped off while this procedure is carried out. It was proposed by Lynn Reed, seconded by Bill Wicksteed that this should go ahead as soon as possible.

CARRIED with 1 against

b) Burwell Tigers Contract had been discussed at the Pavilion Meeting

c) Lynn Reed was to inspect the play equipment for January. Mark Rogers was to adjust the back gate as it would no longer close. LR

/ MR

**3938 Cemetery Matters**

There were none.

**3939 Pavilion Matters**

There were none.

**3940 Highways/Footpath Matters**

David Brown was to be approached to ask him to contact Matthew Pickering to chase up progress on the crossing. I

W / DB

**3941 To Consider Facebook Page**

No progress on this yet.

**3942 Finances including approval of payment of outstanding accounts**

a) Finance Report / Budget Reports were received.

b) Bank statement for November was received.

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Mary Smith proposed, seconded by Gordon Reid that the bank reconciliation for November be approved. CARRIED with 1 abstention

**c) Receipts**

a) Burial Fee 90.00

**d) Payments**

BACS	Mrs D Bayliss	Clerk's Salary	£360.50	£0.00	£360.50	LGA 1972 s112
BACS	Mr A Smith	Maintenance Salary	£60.00	£0.00	£60.00	LGA 1972 s112
300001	HMRC	Tax & NI	£90.20	£0.00	£90.20	LGA 1972 s112
300002	JCS Bookkeeping	Payroll	£10.00	£2.00	£12.00	LGA 1972 s112
300003	Herts & Cambs Ground Maintenance	Grass Cutting	£264.00	£52.80	£316.80	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9 & 10 LGA 1972 s214
300004	Ian Woodroffe	Keys	£29.72	£7.43	£37.15	LG Misc Provisions Act 1976 s19 (d)
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Grand Total			<b>£814.42</b>	<b>£62.23</b>	<b>£876.65</b>	

e) There were problems with the Unity Bank not accepting the signatures of some councillors for the new account. This might need a re-submission of the form but the problem was being investigated. I

W/MS

f) IW had received Aaron Smith's timesheet and outlined the tasks that he had been set to complete.

**3943 Dates of Next Meeting:**

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016

1<sup>st</sup> March 2016

The meeting closed at 10.05pm.