

# **SWAINSWICK PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the meeting of Swainswick Parish Council held in Swainswick School Upper Swainswick on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs Mr J Miles (Chairman): Mr G Davies: Mrs E Charrington: Mrs P Shutter: Mr R Foster: Mr R Shackell & Mr R Clist (Clerk)

Apologies: There were no apologies

### **1. Minutes of previous meeting held 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2014**

The meeting approved the minutes and they were signed as a true record by the Chairman.

### **2. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **3. Planning**

#### **New Applications**

- (a) **Application Ref: 14/00886/FUL** Woolley Mill Erection of Field Shelter & Polytunnel. (Charlcombe Parish)

Swainswick PC – No Objections: BANES decision – Pending.

#### **Previous Applications**

- (b) **Application Ref: 13/05579/FUL** Mulberry Mountain Blacksmith Lane Erection of two storey extension and replacement of flat roof with hipped roof over kitchen.

Swainswick PC – Conditional Approval. BANES Decision Refuse.

- (c) **Application Ref: 14/00040/TCA** Mackena Blacksmith Lane Remove low growing branches of Magnolia and other species.

Swainswick PC – No Objections: BANES decision – Permit.

#### **Other Planning Matters**

- (a) **GVP – Woolley Valley - New Field Shelter**

BANES had requested GVP to submit a Planning Application for this structure in early February. The 28 day deadline period was not adhered to and at this point in time a valid application has yet to be submitted.

A Mackichan (Charlcombe Parish Council) has monitored the status of this and has informed this council that GVP have until 16<sup>th</sup> April to submit a valid document.

It was noted that the shelter is on site and in line with previous discussions it was agreed to object to this application once it has been formalised.

Once again the need for this structure was challenged as the existing converted stock barn should be utilised for its initial intended purpose. R Shackell pointed out the new planning legislation came into force on the 6<sup>th</sup> April. This in general terms widened permitted development on agricultural barns. There is now a risk that further creeping developments will occur in due course.

J Miles and C Davies explained various aspects of the ‘new rules’ regarding a Permitted Development Order which could be exploited by developers. In addition to this E Charrington made reference to the recently circulated financial data regarding the GVP business which appeared to indicate a dire situation.

R Foster notified the meeting that he had been approached by Lloyds Bank who were seeking a photograph of the owner of the land in order to take some form of court action. He also raised his concerns over observations being made over his land from a newly placed ladder on GVP land!

It was noted that sheep and longhorn cattle were now on the land.

Should a valid Planning Application be submitted by GVP objections to the shelters would registered with BANES.

- (b) **Enforcement Ref: 13/00320/UNDEV** Tree Tops land usage.  
Philip Miller (BANES – Enforcement ) has revisited the site and has notified the land owners that current trading activities must cease. The current tenants are to be given notice to vacate the site by the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014. Should this not occur enforcement action will taken immediately. It was noted that currently there had been no change at the site and no evidence of vacation activity!

#### 4. **Rural Facilities Audit**

As a part of BANES Core Strategy and Placemaking Plan a Rural Audit Facility Document had been circulated to collate facility and development information about the parish. The only amendment deemed necessary was the inclusion of the new house build on the old garage site which is important in relation to the parish categorisation as RA3 and future build expectations.

#### 5. **Highways.**

(a) **BANES Transport Improvement Schemes Consultation**

A schedule of proposed works/costs had been published by BANES which had a nominal sum of £5k allocated for ‘Gloucester Road’. It was not clear what the proposed works were. The clerk to contact Adrian Clarke/Kelvin Packer (BANES Highways)

(b) **A46 – Hartley Bends Safety Measures.**

There had been much publicity about the problems on this stretch of road and a project had now been completed to improve signage and to modify the road surface with a ‘non slip’ compound, the 50mph speed limit however being left unaltered. This council maintains its opposition to this and believes a reduction in the limit was necessary. There is doubt about the long term effectiveness of the completed works. Further work on the A46 was taking place at the junction with the A420. It is understood that dual lane approaches to the roundabout are planned.

(c) **Conservation Footpath.**

It was noted that the repair works necessary near the entrance to the church had finally been completed.

(d) **Traffic Speed Sign**

The sign is still monitoring northbound traffic but no statistics have been produced for this most recent period. J Miles asked about the production of statistics. The clerk stated that all data is retained and many different sets of information can be produced for the period of the signs operation.

#### 6. **Parish Cluster Meeting – February 2014**

Due to illness K Packer (BANES – Highways) had been unable to provide an update on the Deadmill Lane/Ferndale Lane Traffic Study at this council’s previous meeting. The topic was therefore placed on the agenda of the PCM. No highways personnel were present at this meeting and the documented response was unhelpful. The clerk to request more information and include in the enquiry 5(a) above.

#### 7. **Finance.**

(a) **Year End Financial Update and Audit**

The clerk submitted a provisional year end statement of account and informed council that the Audit papers need to be submitted by the 5<sup>th</sup> June. Authorisation and approval of the accounts would be required at the next meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014.

In reviewing future expenditures J Miles stated that the marquee was in need of cleaning and C Davies referred to the potential development of a parish website.

(b) The following payments were approved:-

R Clist salary (2013/2014) £600.00; R Clist expenses £80.00; HMRC PAYE £150.00

**8. School Governors**

R Shackell reported that complaints were being made about the parking difficulties near the school and the verge opposite the school, which was used as a stopping point, was becoming very muddy. Considerations were made regarding the possible firming up of this verge using scalplings/hardcore. J Miles suggested that this could be a community or PTA project. Costs for the provision of materials would be needed but prior to any action E Charrington would speak with the owners of the property adjacent to the area concerned as they may be impacted by excessive parking activity.

**9. Correspondence**

Nothing of note.

**10. Any Other Business**

(a) **Clerks Salary**

P Shutter requested that Council reviewed the clerks salary and proposed an increase to £850.00 per annum. Seconded by E Charrington this proposal was unanimously approved.

(b) E Charrington raised concerns over the unlawful extension to the garden area of Beech House. The area beyond the ha-ha was agricultural land but had been included as a part of the garden. J Miles said that as the property was for sale it was imperative that any prospective purchasers should be made aware of this transgression and Planning Enforcement should be notified. The clerk to action.

(c) P Shutter reported that an area of land next to Gwillam Cottage was being considered for use as a parking space. This would require planning permission.

Some work was apparent and the clerk was asked to inform enforcement.

(d) R Foster reported poor road conditions along Tadwick Lane causing water to flow over the lane. Recent road works had occurred nearby and the issue should have been resolved at that time. Clerk to contact Highways.

(e) R Foster stated that he intended to retire from the Council. As elections were not due until 2015 it was hoped he would remain until that date.

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014 at 7.00pm in Swainswick School**

**Note: AGM to start prior to Council Meeting**

**Meeting Closed at 9.55pm**