

SWAINSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Swainswick Parish Council held in Swainswick School Upper Swainswick on Monday 8th February 2016 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Mr J Miles (Chairman): Mrs E Charrington: Mrs P Shutter: Mr R Shackell: Mr I Roberts : B&NES Cllr Mr G Ward & Mr R Clist (Clerk)

1. Public Participation

Simon Johnson of the Mayor for B&NES campaign gave an informative presentation on the benefits of having an elected Mayor in B&NES. Twelve members of the public were in attendance. The event was concluded by an informative question and answer session.

1. Apologies: Cllr C Davies and B&NES Cllr Allison Millar:

3. Minutes of previous meeting held 9th November 2015

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

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Planning

New Applications

There were no new applications.

Previous Applications

Ref: 15/04173/FUL: Beech House, Tadwick Lane, Swainswick, Bath.

Internal alterations to remove an existing floor, enlarge an existing skylight and move two existing doors. Swainswick PC No objections. B&NES Decision – This item is still pending.

Ref: 15/04190/FUL: Greenacres, Innox Lane Swainswick Bath. Erection of timber garden room structure following demolition of the existing building on the same footprint. Swainswick PC Observations/objections submitted as it was felt that this was more than a replacement structure and size was an issue.

B&NES Decision – Permitted

Ref: 15/04317/FUL: Park Cottage Innox Lane Swainswick Bath. Erection of two storey rear extension. Swainswick PC No objections. B&NES Decision – Refused. G Davies had informed the Council that the decision was due to the scale of the development but plans on the ‘same footprint’ had previously been approved. An appeal against this decision was being lodged.

6. B&NES Planning Courses - Feedback

J Miles updated the meeting on the most recent sessions and repeated his previous assertion that interaction between applicants and planners was inadequate. A general problem, but relating specifically to enforcement, he felt that B&NES officers expected parish councillors to have professional knowledge of the processes and responsibilities. This is their role!

G Ward stated that policies have some subjectivity and Parish Councils should be given more trust, they were not 'the enemy'.

G Davies had emailed this Council raising his concerns with the planning process and stated B&NES did not listen to feedback from parish councils

J Miles and P Shutter repeated their previous criticisms that input is not used as a useful support mechanism and agreed with G Ward regarding as being treated like the enemy. P Shutter questioned the purpose of Parish Councils if their feedback on planning issues was repeatedly ignored.

G Ward said some of the problem was related to the quality of personnel and the inseparable issue of pay. There were times when this Parish Council thought applications should go to the Planning Committee and G Ward requested involvement when this was the case.

7. Highways.

(a) Park and Ride proposals/consultation

The impact of the potential Park and Ride in Bathampton meadows was discussed at length. I Roberts stated that a reduction in through traffic, particularly HGV's, would ease the congestion and air pollution issues and a new route across to the A350 was necessary as a part of any plans. G Ward reported that as a result of the growing concerns around any developments in the area, further consultations were being planned involving all interested parties. He said that Ward Councillors can also provide valuable input and that smaller sites could again be considered such as at Box and Charmydown. A recommendation would be made in due course!

(b) Verge and Road Maintenance

Some improvements had been made along Tadwick Lane and this would be an ongoing process. J Miles stated that the condition of Langridge Lane was bad and needed attention. G Ward offered to contact Peter Clark (B&NES) who had initiated the previous works.

(c) Inox Lane – Drainage issue near The Old School House

Following the meeting with Daniel Parr (B&NES) and Judy Wedd (School House) Mr Parr promised to initiate a small project to deal with this problem. It was known to be being treated as low priority but as yet nothing further has been heard. The clerk will follow this up.

(d) Deadmill Lane/Ferndale Road

No further information available from B&NES although G Ward felt that the routing would remain as it is. He advised the Council of the recent questionnaire activities and would send details to the clerk.

8. Web-Site

The clerk reported that the original application for a grant of £1864 from the Transparency Fund had been rejected by the National Association of Local Councils, as the costs of development were seen to be excessive. A re-submission of £1264 was made and finally approved. The grant was received on 29/01/2016. Approval was given for the clerk to purchase hardware and to progress with the website development. The new laptop and prints of the proposed website design were shown to members.

9. Marquee replacement review

I Roberts reported that he had met with Edward Leigh-Woods and had identified two companies to review. An idea of the size and of the possibility of using a linked structure offering flexibility were discussed. A heavy duty product was deemed necessary and it was likely that a marquee complying with these parameters could be purchased within the agreed budget of £2000.

J Miles informed the meeting that Beechan Cliff School wanted the old marquee. The council will finalise the disposal or renting of the unit at the next (April) meeting.

10. Finance.

(a) Precept Requirements.

The Council agreed to retain its precept request at last year's figure of £2800

(b) Status Update

The clerk circulated a report showing the council's current financial status.

(c) Payments to be approved

The Council approved the following payments:

R Clist- Purchase of PC and backup drive £399.98: R Clist – Purchase of Domain Name £15.00: A Clist – Creation and Support of new Web-Site £300.00

11. School Governors

R Shackell reported that a new toilet for the children was to be installed and that the Head Teacher was still off sick.

12. Correspondence

Nothing to report

13. Any Other Business

(a) E Charrington said that the cost of renovating the Church Tower roof would be around £56k. Expensive materials and potentially a temporary roof were the likely contributing factors to this unexpectedly high figure.

(b) P Shutter referred to the triangle of land (Charlies land) as it was getting very untidy. I Roberts offered to 'have a word' with the owner.

(c) E Charrington said that the garden of the old police house seemed to be being extended into the adjacent field. After a short discussion it was felt that little could be done at this time, if indeed ever.

14. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 11th April 2016 at 7.30pm in Swainswick School

Note: Following meetings are-
13th June 2016

Meeting closed at 9.35pm