

SWAINSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Swainswick Parish Council held in Swainswick School Upper Swainswick on Monday 13th June 2016 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs Mr J Miles (Chairman): Mr G Davies (Vice Chairman): Mrs E Charrington: Mrs P Shutter: Mr R Shackell: Mr I Roberts: B&NES Councillor Alison Millar: Mr R Clist (Clerk)

1. **Apologies:** There were no apologies.
2. **Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman**
P Shutter proposed J Miles as Chairman seconded by E Charrington.
E Charrington proposed G Davies as Vice-Chairman seconded by P Shutter.
Both proposals were unanimously supported and approved.
3. **Minutes of previous meeting held 11th April 2016.**
The meeting approved the minutes and they were signed as a true record by the Vice Chairman.
4. **Matters arising**
There were no matters arising.
5. **Planning**
New Applications
Ref: 16/02664/FUL: 1 The Batch Tadwick Lane, Swainswick, Bath
Extension to the rear of the house, providing one new bedroom; internal alterations to consolidate ground floor accommodation; external landscaping to improve access up to rear garden.
E Charrington had visited the site and noted that a substantial amount of land had to be dug out and it seemed that to remove this it may be necessary to remove a wall. J Miles felt this was unlikely as specialist equipment was available for use in confined spaces. There was concern regarding the impact on traffic at this narrow point in the lane. This, and comments on the design had previously been submitted to B&NES.
Previous Applications
Ref: 16/00996/TCA: Hill Farm House, Gloucester Road Swainswick. Felling of one tree and pruning of three others. Swainswick PC No comments or Objections.
B&NES Decision – Permit
6. **Swainswick Parking**
P Shutter felt that there had been an improvement recently. I Roberts reported that he had spoken with Edward and Rachel Leigh-Woods. They run the ‘Explorers’ business and frequently have visitors. In their business publication they make every effort to explain the parking issues and this unquestionably is helping. A letter is being drafted for circulation in the village to fully explain the difficulties and the desire to minimise road markings that would be the inevitable result of reporting the issue to B&NES. I Roberts read out the draft and its contents were approved.

7. Highways

(a) Verge Maintenance and footpaths

The clerk had requested B&NES to cut back the Hornbeam hedge near the village entrance in addition to clearing the overgrown footpath between Deadmill Lane and the same junction. He reported that a local resident had also complained to him and their complaint was submitted via Council Connect. B&NES had confirmed that the tasks were on contractor schedules.

(b) Park and Ride proposals/consultation

Alison Millar reported that two options had high profile, they were the controversial meadows location and another near Ashley a little further away from the city on the A4. G Davies repeated the concerns of many regarding the potential use of the meadows site. He also said that, whatever the final solution is, a traffic plan was necessary to extend bus lanes to the point of the solution. It was not clear whether any thought had been given to this as a bus lane starting at Lambridge would be totally inadequate. A Millar agreed with this point and said that £10million was allocated for the project. G Davies said investments were needed in public services and again pointed out the problems of accessing the city via the A46 northbound turnoff near Swainswick. A Millar said that the target decision date was September and politics will be a factor in the final outcome.

(c) A46 – Safety at Hartley Bends

There had been another fatal accident at this location and Highways had just completed a further resurfacing exercise using an anti-slip material. This was still not seen as a solution as a speed limit on of 50mph on these bends was absurd. Highways still will not comply with requests to reduce the limit.

8. Web-Site

The clerk reported that the website was fully operational and that all relevant parish activities were being posted to it. Where relevant, photographs were being included and more input from Council members would be beneficial. A Facebook page has been set up for the council and can be accessed from the website. As a result of this link the number of 'hits' is now in excess of 1k. The web address for the site is:

www.swainswickparishcouncil.org

7. Marquee replacement review of the progress

I Roberts reported that the newly purchased marquee was used on the 12th June and at a brief ceremony was named QE2, celebrating The Queen's recent 90th birthday. It proved to be a success and is very adaptable for a variety of uses. It will next host the summer fete on 25th June.

The old marquee had been hired/loaned over the years but the Council agreed that this would not become a practice for the new one as careful maintenance and storage was essential in order to ensure its longevity.

E Charrington said that storage arrangements have been agreed with 'Passion Flowers' and J Miles confirmed that sale of the old marquee to Beechan Cliff school.

8. Finance.

(a) Audit Papers for 2015/2016.

The clerk presented these completed documents and they were approved and signed by the Vice Chairman.

9. School Governors

R Shackell reported that a new head teacher has been appointed and will join at the

start of the Autumn term. There had been some survey work carried out at the school and the floor in the main room was found to be 'unsafe'. It requires replacement at an estimated cost of £10k.

10. Correspondence

The clerk circulated the Bath Preservation Trust report and brochure.

11. Any Other Business

- (a) P Shutter informed the meeting that she would be resigning from the Council prior to her leaving the village in January 2017. The November meeting will consider options for filling the vacancy being created.
- (b) E Charrington commented on the recent approval given by B&NES for the 'barn', recently sold by GVP, to be used as a day gym. J Miles expressed some concern about traffic increase and stated that such concerns were unnecessarily brought about by B&NES mismanagement of the previous conversion applications.

12. Date of Next Meeting

**Monday 12th September 2016 at 7.30pm in Swainswick School
This meeting to include the Annual Parish Meeting**

Note: Following meetings are-

14th November 2016, 13th February 2017

10th April 2017, 12th June 2017

Meeting closed at 8.45pm