

SWAINSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Swainswick Parish Council held in Swainswick School Upper Swainswick on Monday 12th September 2016 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Mr J Miles (Chairman) from 8.25pm: Mr G Davies (Vice Chairman): Mrs P Shutter: Mr R Shackell: Mr I Roberts: R Naish (B&NES ALCA Group): Mr R Clist (Clerk)

In the absence of J Miles G Davies took the Chair.

1. **Apologies:** Mrs E Charrington

2. **Minutes of previous meeting held 13th June 2016.**

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

3. **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

4. **Planning**

New Applications

Ref: 16/03747/FUL: Beech House Tadwick Lane Swainswick. Erection of timber pool house and basement plant room. Swainswick PC - No objections/comments. B&NES Decision - Pending

Previous 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. This council had submitted two detailed comments and objections one in August and one in early September. A Construction Traffic Management Plan had recently been produced but no reference regarding the treatment of the front wall had been made. The latter correspondence highlighted the issue of poorly located skips and requested protection of the green.

5. **Gillan Cottage – Enlarged Access**

J Miles had reported that the original ‘unlawful’ access had been enlarged considerably since this council’s original request for action in October 2014. The clerk read out the negative response from B&NES but it was agreed that the clerk should again request enforcement action from B&NES.

6. **Church Tower**

In September 2014 and April 2015 E Charrington updated the council on the poor condition of the church tower and the potential costs of repair. It had been agreed to make a significant contribution to this project either in a one-off payment or possibly a number of contributions over time. It was clear that the costs were escalating significantly and in late August Susanna Watson, Church Warden, had written to the council requesting consideration for a donation towards the costs that were now in the

region of £66k! The church is a major focal point in the village and I Roberts proposed a donation of £3k. Following a brief discussion P Shutter seconded this and it was unanimously supported.

This Council contributes an annual sum to the PCC to help with the upkeep of the churchyard. It was noted that a part of the cemetery was now being closed and B&NES are required to maintain this. Discussions regarding the future donation will be required.

7. Swainswick Parking

No further action had been taken since the previous meeting but P Shutter thought there had been some improvement since I Roberts original discussions with residents. The problem was still of some concern particularly maintaining adequate access for emergency vehicles. Options for control were again discussed. G Davies suggested some sort of 'pinch point' chicane which would create an element of controlled parking behind sturdy plant containers. Road markings were to be avoided, if at all possible. I Roberts agreed to draft a notice/letter to residents regarding the concerns. Note: J Miles arrived at 8.25pm and offered apologies for his late arrival. G Davies relinquished the Chair to J Miles.

8. Highways

Verge Maintenance and footpaths

The clerk reported that footpath between Deadmill Lane and Tadwick Lane was now becoming impassable in places. This had been reported via Council Connect. Although B&NES had confirmed that the tasks were on contractor schedules nothing had yet been done and the situation was deteriorating. Additional requests had now been made.

9. Phone Box in Blacksmith Lane

British Telecom had contacted B&NES about the future of this telephone as it had evidence that it had not been used in over a year. After a little research the clerk had found out that at some point the power had been accidentally removed! It was agreed that it could be removed by BT and the clerk would report accordingly.

10. Web-Site

There was nothing significant to report on this except that the number of 'hits' is gradually increasing and is now in excess of 1k. The web address for the site is: www.swainswickparishcouncil.org

11. Finance.

Audit Papers for 2015/2016.

The clerk reported that the annual audit had been signed off by the external auditors and a financial status report was circulated.

12. School Governors

R Shackell reported that the new head teacher, Grant Swarbrooke has started at the school. The proposed new floor for the main room had been completed during the holiday period and new tables were in situ. A plan to replace two school rooms with one new one was the subject of a feasibility study. Access to the school requires a code for the electronic locking system. It seems changes had occurred without clear communication to those requiring access.

13. Correspondence

Relevant material had been circulated by email.

14. Any Other Business

- (a) P Shutter informed the meeting that the barn was being used for a wedding related event. There was discussion regarding whether such usage was 'unlawful' and J Miles said the situation regarding future activity should be monitored.
- (b) J Miles asked the meeting to consider a project that would improve the outlook from the seat located near The Manor House. Its location is fine but modifications to the wall would allow a perfect valley view whilst seated. Although considered to be an acceptable idea, with the current financial commitments, the item would require the topic be held in abeyance.
- (c) R Shackell reported that he had read that B&NES were considering altering the refuse collection schedules, making them on a fortnightly basis. This was not seen as an acceptable idea.

15. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 14th November 2016 at 7.30pm in Swainswick School

Note: Following meetings are-

13th February 2017, 10th April 2017, 12th June 2017

Meeting closed at 9.10pm