

# SWALLOWCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held in the Village Hall, Swallowcliffe.

on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025** at 7:00pm

**Present:** Cllr. Stephen Banas (Chairperson)  
Cllr. Nick Osborne  
Cllr. Amanda Brockway  
Cllr Sarah Taylor



**In Attendance:** Parish Clerk: Mr Simon Pritchard  
One member of the public.

### **a) Wiltshire Councillor's Report** – Cllr Najjar

- Wiltshire Council have set their budget and precept for 25/26. 4.5% increase with £320m for highways. Full details can be found on the Wiltshire Council website. It's a balanced budget with no draw on reserves.
- No budget increase to the LHFIF groups
- The public consultation for Ansty's 20mph speed limit is currently running, hope that the new limit will be in place soon.
- With the approach of the May elections, would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for the last 4 years and all the support the Parish Council has given.

### **b) The Village Hall Committee** – Cllr Osborne

- Nick Osborne (Village Hall Treasurer) reported that the Village Hall has £9,939 in the bank. Burns night fundraising event raised £337. Cost of painting the outside of the hall was £720
- Questions were raised about the First Aid kit and if it was still in date. It was suggested the Committee could have a look at buying a projector for hall users.

### **c) South-West Wiltshire Council Area Board** – Cllr Brockway

- The new National Landscape signs on the road at the point you enter the area are all paid for by DEFRA. They also highlight the Dark Sky Reserve.
- There are no laws against light pollution
- Tisbury swimming pool to be open again in May after the fire last year.
- An accessibility hub at Stourhead is now open to support access for people with disabilities who would like to go round the lakes.

### **d) Environmental Initiatives** – Ms Boothman

- There is a litter pick this Saturday (8<sup>th</sup> March)

### **e) Footpaths / Rights of Way** – Cllr Brockway

- Attended an online meeting hosted by Wiltshire Council looking at what resources they have and what Town/Parish councils can do for themselves.

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Swallowcliffe Parish Council: 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Website: [www.swallowcliffeparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.swallowcliffeparishcouncil.org.uk)

Email: [swallowcliffepc1@gmail.com](mailto:swallowcliffepc1@gmail.com)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- Important to report issues via the MyWilts app / website
- Since that meeting, Wiltshire council have sent a digital copy of the definitive rights-of-way map for the parish. Numbers 8 & 18 are gaps in the listing numbers further investigation will be required as to what happened to these footpaths.
- The Cranbourne Chase National Landscape website has suggested walks that can be downloaded. Aware that a 9-mile circular walk that will include Swallowcliffe will soon be available as part of the collection.
- Have continued to pursue local landowner about the installing of the gate referred to at the last meeting

**f) Highway Matters (inc LHFIG) – Cllr Banas & Taylor**

- Cllr Taylor is taking over this portfolio from Cllr Banas and submitted the last worksheet to the Parish Steward
- Bus stop needs some attention, as the road dips down mud has collected
- Grip at old churchyard still needs cleaning out
- Common Lane (outside the Royal Oak), no LHFIG funds have been allocated for traffic calming this area. It has been suggested that the Parish Council install a SID.
- No one has raised any objection to the Ansty 20mph speed limit application.

**g) Village Maintenance Report – Cllr Cooke**

- Cllr Taylor will paint the Fingerpost on the church green ASAP.

**h) Flood Warden – Mr Fitzpatrick**

- Ditch on the bottom road is still full of water, indicating that some maintenance is required.

**i) Parish Council Chairman's Report:**

- Village Newsletter will be out in April
- The Emergency Plan has been updated and sent out
- As reported at the last meeting, want to achieve a better balance and step back. Need to have less fingers in less pies but feel that it would help the transition to stay on the Parish Council for one more year.

**j) Input from Residents / Councillors on any matters not covered above:**

None

**~ Start of Formal Meeting 20:16 ~**

| Item no: |   |
|----------|---|
| 55       | <b><u>Apologies for Absence:</u></b><br>Cllr. Nigel Cooke – Holiday             |
| 56       | <b><u>Declarations of Pecuniary Interests &amp; Dispensations:</u></b><br>None. |

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| 57 | <p><b><u>Adoption of Minutes:</u></b></p> <p>The minutes had been circulated to members ahead of the meeting and were on the Parish Council's website.</p> <p><b>It was proposed by Cllr Banas to adopt the minutes of Thursday 16th January 2025, seconded by Cllr Brockway and resolved unanimously.</b></p>   |
| 58 | <p><b><u>Local Planning or Tree Applications made to Wiltshire Council:</u></b></p> <p>To receive and comment on any recent applications - none received by the time of the meeting.</p>   |
| 59 | <p><b><u>Deployment of New Speed Indicator Devices (SID):</u></b></p> <p>The installing of a new post and socket has taken quite some research. It was now felt that the way the current pole has been installed is sufficient and should be repeated for this new pole.</p> <p><b>It was proposed by Cllr Banas that the council spend £137 on a pole for the SID, seconded by Cllr Osborne and resolved unanimously.</b></p>   |
| 60 | <p><b><u>Annual Parsh Meeting:</u></b></p> <p>Agenda now drafted and ready to go. All other plans and people now in place. Cllr Banas will pull together a PowerPoint. Need to promote the Best Kept Village competition that the village is entering this year. Would very much like a jazzy poster to promote the meeting.</p>   |
| 61 | <p><b><u>Best Kept Village Competition:</u></b></p> <p>The Parish Council had already resolved to enter the Wiltshire Best Kept Village Competition. Cllr Brockway is leading on this, and she outlined the criteria that the judges will be looking at. Most of the application form has been completed already by Cllr Brockway and the details for this were gone over.</p> <p>Will need to produce a map showing the boundary of the Village and a second map for the centre of the village making out all the features of the Village.</p>  |
| 62 | <p><b><u>Parish Council Finance:</u></b></p> <p><b>A. <u>Payments made since the last meeting:</u></b><br/>This list had been sent to members and was received.</p> <p><b>B. <u>Bank Reconciliation, Payments and Spend Against Budget to Date:</u></b><br/>Cllr Osborne signed the bank rec.</p> <p><b>C. <u>Accounting Software:</u></b><br/>The Parish Clerk reported that since the last meeting, the accounting software company that the council is currently using had agreed to make a few small adjustments to the council's cost codes, making the software more functional.</p> |

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|    | <p><b>D. <u>Appointment of Internal Auditor:</u></b><br/> <b>It was agreed to appoint Mrs Nichola Phillips again for the 24/25 financial year.</b></p>   |
| 63 | <p><b><u>Future of Parish Council Staffing:</u></b><br/> <b>It was proposed by Cllr Banas that the council go into confidential session and exclude the press and public due the confidential nature for the agenda item, seconded by Cllr Brockway and resolved unanimously.</b><br/> The one member of the public left the meeting at this point.</p> <p>The current Parish Clerk's (&amp; RFO) temporary contract runs out at the end of April 2025. The council need to seek a replacement for at least the role of Parish Clerk.<br/> <b>It was agreed to advertise the post.</b><br/> <b>It was agreed that the current Parish Clerk's contract will become a one moth rolling contact from May 2025</b><br/> The Clerk undertook to provide members with a draft job description for both the Parish Clerk &amp; RFO roles.</p> |

Meeting Closed at 21:05