

# PERTENHALL AND SWINESHEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk - Mrs Garry Telling  
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Chairman - Mr Brian Stevens  
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## A Quality Parish Council Minutes of Annual General Meeting.

- held on 15th<sup>th</sup> May, 2008, in Swineshead Village Hall at 8.00.

Garry Telling [Clerk]

Present were Councillors Herdan [JH], Whitlock [MW], Pateman [NP], Kingham [TK], Bates [TB], speaker Stephen Sleight, and 3 members of the public. 12 other members of the public came at 9 to take part in the debate on the planning application.

Brian Stevens [BS] was in the chair.

**08.14 Election of chairman - 08.14.01 BS was unanimously elected chairman for the year 2008/9 TB/NP**

**08.15 Election of vice chairman – 08.15.02 NP was unanimously elected vice chairman JH/MW**

**08.16 Apologies for absence –** County Councillor Tom Wootton [TW], Borough Councillor Ian Clifton [IC], Councillor Pollard [SP]

**08.17 Registration of Interests.** Councillors all signed a confirmation that they were not changing their Registration of Interests.

**08.18 Code of Conduct - 08.18.08 It was decided to adopt the new Code of Conduct. BS/JH**

**08.19 Confirmation of Adoption of Standing Orders** [nb these were adopted in 2002 for a period of 4 years]. **08.19.01 Adopted.** TB/MW

**08.20 Confirmation of Financial Standing Orders.** July agenda

**08.21 Confirmation of Powers of the 2 Village sub committees 08.21.01 Adopted**

**08.22 Appointment of Highway Liaison Councillors 08.22 01 Unanimously TB for Pertenhall TK/NP MW for Swineshead JH/BS**

**08.23 Declarations of interest in any agenda item JH** declared her interest in the planning item 08.31, Close Cottage planning.

**08.24 Stephen Sleight, [SS] from Beds RCC,** Community Transport Brokerage, spoke of

- Dart Bus – which applies to Pertenhall but not Swineshead. It is now to run to a time table which should be a better, and more helpful, use of resources.
- Transport Tokens for Young People, which have to be part of a group arrangement
- the Home Hoppa bus which does not currently serve our community
- the bus which runs, and will continue to run, between Swineshead and St Neots
- Village Care Schemes
- The Villager Community Bus
- mobile services, shops and post offices
- BABAS which represents those with concerns about transport, a group he suggest we join
- Quiet Lanes

BS congratulated him on an excellent talk.

NP commented that the revision to the DART timetable was excellent

TK was not sure about Quiet Lanes

RT agreed to put up any notices about the Cedar Swineshead - St Neots bus

SS said that if timetable boards were dilapidated or non-existent we should contact him. He also said he would send up to date timetables where appropriate.

**08.25 Minutes of March meeting for the electors** were initialled as correct and of **Parish Council meeting, March 13<sup>th</sup>**, were signed as correct.

**08.26 Dates, days and venues of meetings in year 2008/9**

Meetings take place on Thursday.

- July – 3<sup>rd</sup> – Pertenhall – 8.00
- September – 25<sup>th</sup> – Swineshead – 8.00
- November – 20<sup>th</sup> – Pertenhall – 8.00
- January – 22<sup>nd</sup> – Swineshead – 8.00
- March – 12<sup>th</sup> – Swineshead – Meeting for the Electors – 7.30
- May – 14<sup>th</sup> – Pertenhall – AGM – 8.00

**08.27 Brief discussion of any matters arising from last meeting.**

Road sign suggested by BS at March meeting. – outside Brook Farm – a place name sign directing traffic to Rushden, Melchbourne etc, with distances.

MW would prefer not to have another post but would agree to a second sign on the existing post.

JH did not want too large a sign.

**08.27.01 Clerk to investigate**

MW talked about a sign at the other end of the village to aid motorist who approach from Melchbourne. This would be a BEND sign. MW suggested that the SWINESHEAD sign also be moved to a position 120 yds back from the VAS. TK agreed that the camber on the road there is bad.

**08.27.02 Clerk to investigate**

**08.28 Correspondence A [for consideration and discussion]**

- Letter from Planning Inspectorate re FP13. No action needed.
  - North Beds School Trust – made available to JH who acts as school liaison councillor.
  - Pride in Bedford Community Awards – change of personnel – Heidi Weight to Deborah McRegan. – no action.
  - Flies in Swineshead – telephone call received but clerk trying to get the contents of call in writing.
  - Allocations and Design Plans – July agenda
  - Mrs Mackillop's chickens. TK talked about this situation which he considered reprehensible. Mrs Mackillop, Wood End Lane, Pertenhall, keeps chickens, and complaints about noise nuisance have been registered by her neighbour. Mrs Mackillop had been to court that day and would have to go again.
- The Parish Council had been furnished with papers about this case by Mrs Mckillop, and these papers included support from almost all residents of the Lane.
- TK said that chickens had been kept on these premises for at least a hundred years. He also said that testing had shown that the noise was not at a level to cause pollution.
- JH said that the clerk should write to the Beds Borough Council [BBC] asking for a breakdown of the total costs in this case.
- NP pointed out that neutrality was needed on the part of the parish council.
- MW asked if there were other complications in the case or if it were merely a matter of the noise. He was assured that the problem was noise.
- Rodney Tate asked how long this dispute had gone on and was told it was several years.

BS said that the Parish Council cannot take sides in a dispute between neighbours.

**01.28.01. Clerk to write to BBC asking about the justification for this case and a breakdown of the costs.**

**Correspondence B** – not to be discussed unless requested by councillors

- Survey of rural services 2007. P/S completed the questionnaire and this is a summary of the results, county wide.

**08.29 Financial report by clerk.** See appendix A Report was agreed unanimously.

**08.30 Finance**

**08.03.01 Authorisation was granted to pay the following:-**

- Revised grants to Pertenhall Village Hall/Swineshead Village Hall £250 each. £225 has been paid. £25 to be paid at this meeting. JH/TK
- Insurance - £617.62 MW/TB
- Rental for SVH for meeting on morning of 11<sup>th</sup> March - £10.
- as above for 15.05.08 - £10
- Data Control Registration – approved in March – Payment to be minuted - £35.
- To MAS for work done on 2 laptops. This was agreed at March meeting and the payment is now to be minuted - £115.
- Wisershosting – the host for web site - £9.90 for the next two years – clerk to be re-imbursed. TB/JH
- **Partnership Money. Pertenhall £6000, Swineshead £5000. Decisions about this money is to be spent are essential.**

TB said that the work recently done between Swineshead and Chadwell end Pertenhall had been very poor. He was to speak with David Richardson soon about the poor standard of work. As just one example, a huge hole had been left by the entrance to Grange Farm.

**08.03.02 For the Partnership Money he recommended that the road edge from about Chadwell Lane should be kerbed and made good, in the direction of Swineshead, as far as the money would allow.** He would discuss this on site with Helen Dow.

MW commented that in the area outside the sewage works in Swineshead they appear to have solved the problem this time. Water no longer lies on the road. He mentioned the sign at the Melchbourne end of the village See 08.27 He said a camera had been put down the drain opp. Lower Farm and found that the drain had collapsed, so they now know where the blockage is and they can unblock.

**08.03.03. For the Partnership money it was decided to kerb by Green Lane, and outside Shepherd's Cottage. This would be finally discussed and decided on site with Helen Dow.**

It was to be assumed, and the assumption to be verified by Helen Dow, that the necessary work to the kerbing and walkway by the new church wall would be done, and not with Highways Partnership money.

**08.31 Planning**

- West Cottage, Swineshead - Replacement of single storey extension with two storey side and rear extension – plans and decisions available for inspection.
- Close Cottages – plans available and meeting held at 9.00 during this Parish council meeting.
  - There were 12 members of the public present for this planning meeting.
  - The new owner, Mr Tony Barnard- Smith [T B-S] was present to answer questions
  - BS Close Cottages have long been an eyesore in the village and the **new plans were welcomed**

- These plans closely **resembled the plans already approved by the parish councillors**
- BS listed the few differences
- The main points for discussion were the **driveway surface** and the **detached garage**, which seemed too large for the size of the cottage
- T B-S said this was to be a family home.
- He commented on the possible places to site a garage and the possible size of the garage.
- He mentioned the **problems of mature trees**, commenting that some of them are not very healthy.
- He explained the choice of material for the drive, to **avoid the use of tarmac or concrete**.
- BS said that the councillors **must discuss the plans as they are** in spite of agreement from the applicant about the problems posed.
- Bs also said there were **some inaccuracies in the plans** and the boundaries drawn. In fact the garage was drawn on JH's land. T B-S was now aware of this.
- A close neighbour commented on the **bathroom window** which would overlook his property, but he said he would write to the planners about this.
- JH said that the **trees would be assessed by a tree specialist** and listed on the conservation document.

Therefore the [parish council decision [made in the absence of JH] was

- ❖ The plans for the **house were strongly approved**
- ❖ **but**, packaged with this, there were problems with the garage location
- ❖ and with contractors' vehicles which must be parked on site and not on the road or the verges
- ❖ and with the accuracy of the plans
- ❖ and with the trees on the site which need specialist advice about possible root damage and damage from lopping

It was decided to **recommend refusal of the application as a whole**, suggesting that it might be possible to defer a decision pending further consultation with the applicant and the parish council about the concerns listed above.

08.32 **Highways Report** MW – Swineshead - See 08.30

TB – Pertenhall – See 08.30

**08.33 Borough Council report** – IC had provided a comprehensive report which BS read out to the meeting. [see appendix 2]

**08.34 County Council Report** – TW – none available.

**08.35 Parish Plan update.**

1. Health – next agenda
2. Planning – a meeting was held in Swineshead and the minutes for this are available on request.

**08.36 Open Forum - for matters to be raised by councillors or members of the public.**

***The next meeting will be in Pertenhall Village Hall, at 8.00 in July, 2008.  
This is an open meeting and everyone is welcome to attend.***