

Pertenhall and Swineshead Quality Parish Council

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www.pertenhallandswinesheadparishcouncil.org.uk

Minutes

of meeting held on Thursday, July 3rd, 2008, in
Swineshead Village Hall at 8.00.

Present were councillors Whitlock, [MW] Pateman, [NP] Kingham, [TK] Bates [TB] and Pollard [SP]. There were 3 members of the public.

Brian Stevens [BS] was in the chair.

08.37 Apologies – Councillor Jan Herdan [JH], County Councillor Wootton.

08.38 Minutes of May AGM – already circulated. **08.38 01 Signed as approved.**

08.39 Declarations of Interest in any agenda item. MW declared an interest in 08.43

PC Rob Smith from Riseley Police Post was welcomed. He

- *mentioned 2 crimes in the villages in the last three months*
- *stressed the need to report speeding if speed cameras were to attend.*

MW stated that at the NEBCLF the councillors were told that speed cameras go to those who complain most. Clerk to contact Tony Richardson. NP commented on speeding on the B660

▪ talked about the damage in Sandye Lane, saying they were going to try to target illegal drivers in two weeks time. There is a boundary issue with Sandye Lane which may be closed in Bedfordshire and open in Tilbrook. . MW to speak to Tilbrook chairman.

08.40 Brief discussions of matters arising from previous meeting

- Minutes of meeting to discuss section 11 of the Parish Plan – Health. Left till next meeting when JH would be there.
- Financial Standing Orders – available for consideration. **08.40.01 Confirmed MW/TB**
- Road signs in Swineshead – Directional sign near Brook Farm – application had been rejected. Application for new sign and moved village sign - outcome still not clear. Email sent to Mr Nick Chapman had elicited no response as yet.
- Liaison Meeting – MW reported
 - as above about speeding and cameras
 - grass cutting. The villages have had 2 cuts which were unexpected.

08.40.02 Clerk to check that P/S had opted out and contact Clive Parker to clarify the situation.

08.41 Correspondence – A. Requiring decisions or for information

- from Mr Hickling - blocked Right of Way FP4 where it meets the B660 – being attended to by Francine Rainbow
- Diversion of FP12 in Swineshead as suggested by Martin Newson. Parish Council had written to approve this application.
- Change of staff arrangements at Amey. Alistair Rundall to replace David Richardson.
- From Standards Board. Local assessment – “allegations of breach of conduct of councillors”. Filed.
- Hackney carriages vehicle licenses – filed.

- Definitive Maps for North Beds Borough – It was suggested that the Parish Council pay to have them framed and put in village halls – after certain points had been corrected. **Clerk to contact Chris Wilson.** A smaller scale of map would be needed to put the villages on one sheet each

Correspondence – B. Available for those interested

08.42 Planning

- Vine Cottage, Pertenhall – recommended for approval
- Hill Farm, Riseley. Information available to those interested. MW stated that there is someone there living in a mobile home, contrary to the decision of the planners. Clerk to contact planners and copy to Ian Clifton.
- Yew Tree Cottage, Pertenhall – recommended for approval [Concern by some parish councillors about parking near dangerous corner]
- Close Cottages, Swineshead. Formal planning meeting. Permission had been granted.
- West Cottage, Swineshead. Recommended for approval with provisos.
- The Green, Pertenhall. Recommended for approval, at formal planning meeting, with provisos.

Planning workshops July 14th and 16th – no one able to attend.

08.43 Finance –

A. The following payments were agreed TB/SP/NP

- Clerk's expenses – telephone and Broadband for 2 meetings – May and July- £40.00
- Stamps – 2 books 2nd class - 2x £2.70 = £5.40
- Clerk's salary [for first quarter year 2008/9] - £891.80
- Postage to Internal Auditor - £2.50
- Internal Auditor - £48 + £3.00 postage.
- Swineshead Village Hall rental - £10.00
- Tophams – grass cutting – Cut 1 – £393.62
Cut 2 - £393.62
- Costs of polling – £232.89
- To Mr Michael Whitlock, for sign in Swineshead - £470.00 This had been paid to the Parish Council by Direct Line.

B. Pertenhall Village Hall Accounts, May 2008 – available for inspection. To be filed by clerk.

C. Report on Audit. There had been no communication from the external auditor.

D. Received for BCC £2742.85 for grass cutting. [Last year money received was £2676.95]

08.44 Highways – to include update on Highways Partnership money.

- For Swineshead – MW - the Partnership money, 2008/9 was all to be spent on Swineshead footways –councillors were waiting to hear how many metres would be done. The growth on the footways would be cut back before work started.
- For Pertenhall – TB – on the Swineshead/Pertenhall Road, at the junction with Chadwell Lane, it was hoped that the edge could be built up and a proper job – not just an in-filling with tar – could be done to make the road edge strong. This should be normal maintenance. David Richardson had been replaced by Alistair Rundall and TB had tried to contact him.

08.45 Confident Communities. Money was allocated by BCC to combat fear in the community. It had been decided to apply for a PCSO, an option which had been withdrawn.

TB said that in Little Staughton they were using a SID which told drivers their speed. **Clerk to find out about this as a possible use of the money.**

08.46 – Meeting about Bletsoe and gypsy camp site. MW reported that he went to the meeting – very well attended – about 700 there – to support Bletsoe. The application was turned down but MW said there will be an appeal.

MW commented that before 2011, 15 such sites will be applied for, and this present application would have set a precedent had it been granted. David Bailey recommended approval, and Highways said that the entrance was safe, but weight of numbers, and several good speakers, among them Alistair Burt, MP, led to the rejection of the proposal.

08.47 Open Forum – at which points may be raised by councillors or members of the public.

- TB -2 large signs in Pertenhall were advertising Melchbourne Feast, and the Beer Festival in the Yelden pub. The latter caused some unease because it was large, unsightly and purely commercial. TB agreed to discuss this with the relevant landlady. NP commented that signs would be more acceptable if they were removed promptly after the event.

- MW asked about the chickens in Wood End and was told that the complainant had used an incorrect address and was unlikely to win his case.

- BS said that Gillian Aylott, clerk to Dean/Shelton WI had been awarded an MBE for this and her many other works in the community. **Clerk to write a letter of congratulations.**

- BS drew attention to an article in LCM about a White Paper due out soon on the subject of “Empowerment for Parish Councils”.

- BS asked if a photograph could be taken of the Parish Council at the next meeting. The councillors agreed.

- BS thanked Pat Tate for again setting out the village hall in preparation for the meeting.

The next meeting will be in Pertenhall Village Hall on September 25th at 8.00

This will be an open meeting and everyone will be welcome to attend.