

Pertenhall and Swineshead Quality Parish Council

Clerk: Garry Telling [Mrs]
Telephone: 01480 860 439

Chairman: Brian Stevens
Telephone: 01234 708 850

Minutes

of meeting held on Thursday, 12th March, 2009, in Swineshead Village Hall at **7.30**.

This was the Meeting for the Electors.

Present were councillors Herdan [JH], Whitlock [MW], Kingham [TK], Bates [TB], Borough Councillor Clifton [IC] and County Councillor Wootton [TW]. There were 5 members of the public, plus Anne Lovesy.

Councillor Stevens [BS] was in the chair.

09.14. Apologies – were received from Councillors Pollard [SP] and Pateman [NP].

Anne Lovesy, from the QPS Re-accreditation Board, addressed the meeting, complimented the councillors on their reaccreditation and presented the chairman with the Quality Parish Council certificate.

Meeting for the Electors

1 Reports.

- **Minutes of Meeting for Electors 2008 were taken as read** [Geoff Telling/Rodney Tate (RT)] and signed as correct
- **Chairman's report** by Brian Stevens – see appendix 1.
- **Highways reports** for 2008/9. Thomas Bates, Pertenhall mentioned the road works between the two villages. He also said that the nasty pot hole at Gunnersbury would be mended that day.
and Michael Whitlock, Swineshead, commented on
 - the footways in Swineshead which had been improved with Highways Partnership money
 - the disabled access which would be completed near the church after April
 - the Sandye Lane bollards which were now all in place
 - the Home Farm public FP now moved.
- **Charities Reports** by Michael Whitlock, Swineshead and Julie Botterill, Pertenhall Church Warden. – see appendices 2 and 3
- Report on **Parish Plan** by Jan Herdan – see appendix 4
- A brief report on **Finance** by the Clerk and Finance Office, stated that the Precept had remained this year at £5000, that a full financial statement would be presented at the May AGM and that the accounts are always available for inspection.

2. Questions/comments from the floor

- Iain Johnston [IJ] commented on the very loud noise made by this year's 'bird scarers' and said they were very frequent, and were even to be heard on Sundays. He wondered if they were malfunctioning, and thought the noise was excessive.
MW said that gas guns are necessary and that farmers tried to place them so as to minimise inconvenience. He said that after the oil seed rape had reached a certain height the guns would be switched off. However, when the peas need to be protected it is light at 4 in the morning and that the guns are needed then.
TB said that they do go off in bursts of three. Farmers could not do without them.
IJ said that in some places they are very near the houses.

TB replied that they are directional. He also offered, if a gas gun should be malfunctioning, to have a word with the relevant farmer.

- Comment was made about the proliferation of road signs which is to be found in the villages. There was now a move to have 'No Cold Calling' signs, and 'Neighbourhood Watch' signs and even 'SmartWater' signs. It was agreed that a review was needed. The Riseley PCSO had offered SmartWater posters to go in notice boards and this was deemed to be a part solution. MW commented that one of the NHW signs in Swineshead had been stolen.
- RT commented on the fact that Rob Smith had said that villages which complain about speeding are the villages in which speed checks take place. **Clerk to contact Rob Smith to ask for speed checks around 8.00 and 17.00.**
- It was felt that the VAS had helped but not enough. The VAS does not log speeds or registration numbers BS mentioned the possible use of a SID. TK felt this was a job for the police, not to be undertaken by members of the public.
- Pat Tate thanked the councillors on behalf of the VH Committee for their support.
- She said that the VH would be requesting a grant and IC commented that Rural Grants are still available
- MW remarked on the parking which takes place on verges in Sandye Lane. RT said there was a bylaw making this illegal but JH reported hearing the police say it was very difficult to enforce. MW talked of a material which could be laid on the verge outside the church which would making parking possible without ruining the verge. **May agenda.**
- RT reported that the Riseley PCSO does cover Swineshead but cannot be there often. **It was suggested that he be invited to a bar night to meet residents.**

The Meeting for the Electors finished at 8.12

Parish Council Meeting

09.15 Minutes of January meeting – already circulated. Signed as approved. TB/JH

09.16 Declarations of Interest in any agenda item - none

09.17 Brief discussions of matters arising from previous meeting

- SmartWater - IJ reported that 14 people had come to the meeting in Pertenhall, several people had delivered to neighbours and only 18 houses were left still to visit.
- JH reported a satisfactory meeting in Swineshead, with a turn out of about 30 and good refreshments served. The final few would soon be distributed.
- Sewage System in Swineshead JH – see appendix 5
- First Aid Course RT reported that 20 people had shown an interest in the course. 12 were attending. BS thanked RT for his hard work.
- The minutes of the final Liaison meeting chaired by TW were made available.

09.18 Correspondence – A. Requiring decisions or for information

- Bulky Waste Collections – information already on web site, Honeycomb, and will be in Newsletter. **Sunday 21st June, 12.00 till 15.00 and Sunday 1st November 2009.**
- Calor Village of the Year Competition – no interest
- Pride in Bedford Competition – Swineshead councillors will nominate Lottie Burgess.
- Letter re changes to Library Van routes - noted
- Temporary road closures - noted

- Letter had been received from Frank Branston who would like to come to talk to the Parish Council. **Councillors instructed clerk to arrange a date for him to come.**

Correspondence – B. Available for those interested – see table at back of hall

- Climate Change and Pollution.

09.19 Planning

- Manor Farm House, Swineshead – application resubmitted and approval probable
- Wood End House, Pertenhall – fell 14 dead trees – application 09/00325/TPO – approved by councillors. The trees are dead and dangerous.

Discussion about the planning web site: -

www.publicaccess.bedford.gov.uk/publicaccess/default.aspx

There was a suggestion that the Parish Council might prefer to use this web site and not receive paper copies of plans. So far the web site had delivered rather less information than the paper copy delivers, and the councillors opted to continue with the status quo.

09.20 Finance – 1 Authorisation granted for the following payments. MW/TB

- Clerk's expenses – telephone and Broadband - £20.00
- Poppy wreath - £24.00
- Pertenhall Village Hall rental for SmartWater meeting - £7
- Swineshead Village Hall rental for this meeting - £10.00
- NEAT ideas – paper – £63.14
- to Pat Tate for refreshments served at SmartWater meeting - £5.00
- Printer ink – £36.46
- to St John Ambulance for First Aid Course - £207.00 - agreed in January.

2. Grants for the year 2008/9 Grants to PVH, SVH, PPCC, SPCC - **£250 each to be paid now. In future these grants to be paid in May at the AGM.** TB/MW
Honeycomb - £100 MW/TK

3. The Data Control Registration is now due for renewal - £35.00. TB/TK

4. Grass cutting for the next 3 years. **Ian Harris to be asked to continue with this. Alan Summerfield to be thanked for his estimate.** TK/JH

09.21 Highways since Jan 2008

For Swineshead – MW

For Pertenhall – TB

As above in meeting for the electors.

09.22 Open Forum – at which points may be raised by councillors or members of the public. Note that matters on which decisions are to be made must be communicated to the clerk before the meeting. The clerk wishes to thank councillors who have raised matters in time for them to be included in the agenda.

- Parish Plan speaker to be invited to May meeting. Mr Phil Cordon, the General Assistant Manager of the East of England Ambulance Service, will come to discuss what the community can do to help ambulance response times in the villages.**
- TW commented on the fact that this was his last meeting as County Councillor. He was thanked for the help he had given over the years.

The meeting ended at 9.06.

The next meeting will be in Pertenhall Village Hall at 8.00p.m on Thursday, 14th May, 2009. This is the AGM.