

# PERTENHALL AND SWINESHEAD PARISH COUNCIL

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[www.pertenhallandswinesheadparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.pertenhallandswinesheadparishcouncil.org.uk)

## A Quality Parish Council Minutes of Annual General Meeting.

held on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2009, in Pertenhall Village Hall at 8.00.

Garry Telling [Clerk]

Present were Councillors Herdan, JH, Bates, TB, Kingham, TK, Pateman, NP, Pollard, SP, Whitlock, MW, and Borough Councillor Ian Clifton.

There were two speakers, Phil Cordon, Assistant general Manager of the East of England Ambulance Service, and Steven Catley, Organiser of the First Responder Teams, from the Ambulance Service.

Councillor Brian Stevens, BS, was in the chair.

**09.23 Election of chairman [Brian Stevens was unanimously elected as Chairman NP/JH](#)**

**09.24 Election of vice chairman [Tim Kingham was unanimously elected as vice chairman NP/TB](#)** The chairman thanked NP for his work over the last two years.

**09.25 Apologies for absence** None

**09.26 Registration of Interests. [Councillors confirmed that they are not changing their Registration of Interests.](#)**

**09.27 Confirmation of Code of Conduct [Confirmed](#)**

**09.28 Confirmation of Adoption of Standing Orders [Confirmed](#)**

**09.29 Confirmation of Financial Standing Orders and Risk Assessment document. [Confirmed.](#)**

**09.30 Confirmation of Powers of the 2 Village sub committees - [Confirmed.](#)**

**09.31 Appointment of Highway Liaison [Councillors TB and MW](#) were thanked for the work they have done and [appointed for another year.](#)**

**09.32 Declarations of interest in any agenda item [None](#)**

*The two speakers named above came to discuss how the community could help the Ambulance Service. They explained their respective jobs and made the following points*

- *There are First Responder Teams in Dean, Bolnhurst and Keysoe*
- *Ambulance response times to Swineshead in the past year had been within guideline times in most cases. However, the villages are not close to the Ambulance Stations and therefore the recommended time of six and a half minutes was not a possibility.*
- *Maps would be useful to ambulance crews.*
- *Satnav used by the ambulances rely on telephone numbers and streets rather than postal codes. They are being improved and maps may soon be irrelevant.*

- *House names should be clear. Residents were asked to stand back from their houses to asses just now readable the house name is. This should also be done by torchlight.*
- **Clerk to put this last piece of information in the Newsletter.**

BS thanked the gentlemen for their input.

**09.33 Minutes of March meeting for the electors [to be initialled now and signed next March] and of Parish Council meeting, March 12th, already circulated, were agreed and signed.**

**09.34 Dates, days and venues of meetings in year 2009/10**

- July – 9<sup>th</sup> - Pertenhall
- October 1st - Swineshead
- November – 26<sup>th</sup> - Pertenhall
- January – 14<sup>th</sup> - Pertenhall
- March – 11<sup>th</sup> - Meeting for the Electors – Swineshead – invite Frank Branson – publicise the event.
- May – AGM – 20<sup>th</sup> - Pertenhall

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

- Smart Water posters. These would be acceptable if put **in notice boards** but no councillor wishes to see more notices on posts in their villages.
- Pride in Bedford Competition. IC said that the entry had arrived too late to be considered this year but would, if the councillors so desired, be entered next year.
- Material to protect the verge near the church in Swineshead. TK had information about this. **JH will consult the SPCC.** July agenda.
- Grass Cutting IC said that the extra cutting by the BBC was done in error.
- MW reported on the interesting meeting he attended with Alistair Burt, re gypsies and travellers and the planning permission granted to them. He said that some villages, such as Bletsoe and Staploe have great worries and concerns. The travellers use the best legal representation available, plead discrimination against themselves, and produce a case which is hard to refute. They also work in teams to complete work at times when no enforcement officers are available and present the community with a fait accomplis. Councillors felt that the planners should be aware of this loophole, and that it should be possible to state concerns over weekends and outside normal office hours. TK felt that a hot line should be available. MW and JH both felt that there are parts of Swineshead which could be vulnerable and the council must keep alert to the dangers.

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

- Settlement Policy Areas – affect Swineshead and not Pertenhall – already circulated round Swineshead councillors. The outcome of the meeting between Gill Cowie, GC, planner, and the three Swineshead councillors, was made available.[Appendix A] Clerk asked to tell GC that they appreciated the pleasant and helpful meeting she had arranged.
- From police re SIDs, Speed Indicator Devices. The police want one for our 15 neighbouring councils. It will cost £2495, which is £233 per council, to include VAT which could be claimed back. Councillors made a list of questions to be put to Rob Smith before a decision could be made. They wondered:-
  - what the police would do with the information gathered. BS said that there would be warning letters sent out or visits made by police to speeding motorists.
  - how time with the SID would be allocated. Their share would be three weeks per year approx. How would this be divide up? Who would arrange rotas? Would be

possible to have only a part of a day? How often would it be possible to have the device at the times of day when most speeding occurs?

- who would manage the project
- what personal implications have been considered – such as insurance to cover those manning the SID
- whether this device is the best for the job.

BS proposed a resolution that the council in principle pay its share of the money. **This was carried by 5 votes in favour, with 2 abstentions**  
**Clerk to contact Rob Smith.**

Several councillors felt this was a job for the police.

- from Richard Gell re FP15, where it meets the B660. He claims the gate is locked and padlocked. **Clerk to contact R of W team.**
- Meeting with Alistair Burt on 15/16<sup>th</sup> May. To be attended by BS
- Public Sector Equality Duties Document. – **The document was noted and the PC's duties to pay due regard to equality issues was noted and minuted.**
- From Ray Milsted re Neighbourhood Watch Liaison - noted

**09.37 Financial report by clerk. – Accounts were approved, signed** and will be sent to the external auditor.

#### **09.38 Finance**

##### **Authorisation granted to pay the following:- NP/TB**

- Grants to Pertenhall Village Hall/Swineshead Village Hall for 2009/10 have already been paid in March, 2009. The grants for 2010/11 will be paid in May 2010.
- Grants to PPCC, SPCC for year 2009/10 were paid in March 2009. The grants for 2010/11 will be paid in May 2010.
- - and **Honeycomb** for the year 2009/10 was paid £100 in March 2009. A request for more money to cover increased costs had been received. **Councillors agreed that the total should be £150**, i.e. £50 to be made available now.
- The computer monitor used by the clerk and owned by the Parish Council was no longer functioning. Clerk had purchased a new one which now belonged to her. **The PC monitor to be scrapped.**
- The Internal Auditor - £84.00.
- Grass cutting - £47.00 +£7.05 VAT i.e. £54.05 for extra cutting in Pertenhall round milestone and at the Limes.  
Verge cutting and strimming - £523.25
- Clerk had finally managed to raise the Fidelity Guarantee, as recommended by the auditor, to £15,000. The insurers had raised the total amount due to £672.87. Last year it was £617.62. Insurance policy – discussion at next meeting.

#### **09.39 Planning**

- Wood End House – cutting dead trees – permission granted
- Manor Farmhouse – approved by Swineshead councillors – approval granted by planners
- **The clerk was asked to write to the planners** saying that the councillors would appreciate it if they could be consulted in the particular case when
  - the Parish Councillors had made a decision about an application
  - the planners had decided something different
  - the planners went ahead without further consultation.

The councillors would like to know why a decision has been made by the planners contrary to local interest and local knowledge. There may be good reasons for the different points of view but the councillors would appreciate an explanation.

**09.40 Highways Report** The work done on the road between the villages is unsatisfactory and is getting worse and worse. **MW and TB will pursue this matter.**  
NP asked about the road opposite the entrance to Hoo farm. there was a very dangerous hole there,

**09.41 Borough Council report** – IC stated that we must hope for good things after the election on June 4<sup>th</sup>. At present there is still confusion in some parts of BBC.

BS thanked IC for his ever present help, and the way he achieves results.

**09.42 Parish Plan update.** JH thanked Pat Tate and Sian Slater for their help with the Health Care Providers list which they compiled. This will be distributed to all residents.

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

- TK asked about the R of W map. MW will discuss this at the July meeting.
- TB suggested that the PC meetings be advertised more vigorously. He did not feel that people read notice boards. Clerk said that emails are sent out and the web site is up to date but conceded that other methods are needed
- BS suggested serving coffee and biscuits before meetings.
- Pat Tate asked, on behalf of another resident, if the buildings going up at Birds Egg Farm are the actual size they were on the plans. Clerk offered to give her the plans to show to the resident to allow him to check. BS felt that it was in agreement with the plans.
- Geoff Telling asked about the water leak at Green End, Pertenhall. IC offered to check on this.
- BS suggested that coffee/tea be served before meetings.

Meeting finished at 9.42.

***The next meeting will be in Pertenhall Village Hall, at 8.00 on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2009.  
This is an open meeting and everyone is welcome to attend.***