

# Pertenhall and Swineshead Quality Parish Council

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

**Minutes** of meeting held on Thursday, Nov 20th, 2008, in  
Swineshead Village Hall at 8.00.

Present were Councillors Bates,[TB], Kingham,[TK] Pateman,[NP], Pollard,[SP], Herdan [JH] and Whitlock,[MW], County Councillor Wootton[arrived late][TW], and Borough Councillor Clifton[ who also arrived after another meeting].[IC] There were 5 members of the public.

Councillor Stevens [BS] was in the chair.

**08.60 Apologies** – none

**08.61 Minutes of Sept meeting** – already circulated. Signed as approved.

**08.62 Declarations of Interest** in any agenda item. MW offered a declaration with regard to the 08.65 but it was deemed that he had no pecuniary interest in this matter.

**08.63 Brief discussions of matters arising from previous meeting**

- ‘Making and Enforcing of Bylaws – a Consultation’ - considered not to be relevant to P/Sw.
- Bridleway 24 at the end of Wood End Lane, Pertenhall. NP reported that bollards had been placed at the foot of Wood End Lane which would prevent access by 4 wheel drives. DEFRA has some concerns but are discussing them with R of W. There will be replacement trees and a culvert when money is available.
- Confident Communities money GT reported that Smart Water had been made available for every house in the village and, on the suggestion of JH and Mrs Tate, it was agreed to ask Homewatch to distribute it. **08.63.01. Clerk to contact Homewatch co-ordinators.**

**08.64 Correspondence – A. Requiring decisions or for information**

- Letter from Mr Rodney Tate [RT] re EB Security had been seen by all councillors. NP said he felt that the decision had been made after very full discussion.
- Clean up events – from Beds Borough Council [BBC] – Next litter pick – 14<sup>th</sup> March 2009

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

**08.65 Planning**

**A.**

- The Green, Pertenhall: Permission granted
- Sunny Farm, Swineshead – erection of poultry units following demolition of existing units – discussion of this application to took place at this meeting. Comments made were
  - Pollution would drop
  - the new buildings would fit in with new legislation
  - in the end there would be one building fewer
  - the new buildings would be lower than the high existing building
  - better fro bird welfare as there would not be battery cages.

The councillors recommended this for approval.

*RT asked about pollution from burning carcasses. He was told that there would be improvements to the incinerator but that this was an issue separate from the planning application.*

- Manor Farm, Swineshead – conversion of outbuildings into children’s playroom.

Comments made were

- there would be no difference in external appearance,
- this would help to preserve the building

The councillors recommended this for approval, [TB/JH], with abstentions from 2 Pertenhall councillors

Trees in Swineshead Permission had been granted for the felling of 1 poplar tree and the pruning of 4 others. The councillors agreed that the trees had been dangerous.

#### **08.66 Finance –**

##### **A.**

- Clerk’s expenses – telephone and Broadband - £20.00
- Clerk’s salary[for third quarter year 2008/9] - £891.80
- Swineshead Village Hall rental - £10.00
- Tophams – grass cutting – Cut 4 – £524.82

##### **08.66.01 agreed unanimously.**

##### **B.**

- Rural Grants - £3000 to Pertenhall for damp works being undertaken to the Village Hall.
- Bank statement 31<sup>st</sup> October 2008 shows balance of £12,077.88

##### **C. Items for precept discussions raised at this meeting were**

- £200 to be earmarked for training and courses in the year 2009/10
- Around £200 for a first aid course if this should be arranged.

##### **D. Annual review of Clerk’s salary. BS/NP to undertake this.**

#### **08.67 Highways – to include update on Highways Partnership money.**

- For Swineshead – MW
  - resurfacing of footway to start on Monday
  - **08.67.01 Flyers to be put through doors of all those affected.** BS offered to do this.
  - **08.67.02 MW to speak to residents whose plants might be affected**
  - JH reminded the meeting that a dropped kerb had been requested and MW agreed to arrange for this.
- For Pertenhall – TB
  - The road between Swineshead and Riseley is still very bad – “undriveable” – and TB had discussed this with Helen Dow who says there is no money. I
    - TW told the clerk to write to him and he would get the management to come out to have a look. **08.67.03 Clerk to write to TW.**
    - There had been a flood in the village, a problem with the pond and with drains which were covered with leaves. **08.67.04 MW will deal with this.**

**08.68** – Bletsoe/Bushmead and travellers/gypsies. IC Councillors in Bletsoe had been granted a dispensation of 12 months in which to discuss the matter, even though they all have an interest. IC said that there would be an appeal in the Spring in Bletsoe. In Bushmead more time had been granted to raise more money for legal representation.

Mentioned also to IC was the question of Hill Farm and the land where Trevor Mayes lived. There were still concerns about both those sites, which are in Melchbourne. **08.68 01 Clerk to contact Melchbourne Parish Council and request that they be aware of the possible problems.**

Mrs Gillian Laud, [GL] from Bedfordshire Wold, a group working within Hidden Britain, came to offer an Information board to be erected in Swineshead. This lectern would advertise a walk between Swineshead and dean, using some ancient paths.

- RT pointed out the leaflets are already available
- MW was in favour of the walk but against yet another board, which in time would become untidy.
- TK said that such information is always available on the web
- SP said that as a walker he is always grateful for information about a route.
- BS asked if more people walking in Swineshead was what was wanted.
- several councillors commented on the parking problems which already exist and would be exacerbated.
- NP talked about the environmental hazard of cars in this village.
- JH asked if the group had actually walked the proposed walk and seen the already existing signs. GL thought not
- TB said that no more signs should be erected in Bridleways. There were already too many in the countryside.
- it was commented that there would be advertisement of this walk and the extra walkers [and cars] would come anyway.
- MW reminded the meeting that there were already FP maps to be laminated and made available.
- JH said that the PCC would welcome people using the church but they did not want a board in the churchyard.

GL was thanked for coming to the meeting. **It was agreed to keep leaflets in the church, and to help in any way possible, but the councillors did not want to have another board erected in Swineshead.**

**08.69** – Parish Plan review with reference to chapters on Health. Copies of minutes of April Parish Plan meeting on 'Health' had been emailed to councillors. JH See Appendix A.

**08.70 – Quality Parish Council** – BS began to explain what was required for re-accreditation, but discussion started as to whether or not it was desirable to re-apply. This had been previously discussed but several new points were raised. SP said, as had been decided previously, that the council should re-apply. It seemed strange to give it up having gained it. There might be benefit in the future.

TB felt that it was costly and that there was little gain.

BS said he would ask at the meeting with BCC next week if notice is taken of the fact that a council is a Quality Council.

JH felt that "quality" should be awarded by the council's parishioners.

BS expressed the opinion that the small number of residents attending meetings was indicative of their confidence in the actions of the councillors. He asked what was wrong with being a QPC.

BS stated that if the decision was made not to re-apply he did not feel he could continue as chairman.

TB said he felt that the tone of the discussion had become regrettable.

MW did not agree with being a QPC but was prepared to support those who felt otherwise.

BS said that success as a parish council was easier if there was a framework within which to work.

TK felt that re-application should be attempted.

RT thought there might be future occasions on which it would be valuable to have QPS.

IC said that if it had been achieved it seemed a shame to throw it away.

**08.70.01 SP proposed that the council apply for re-accreditation and this proposal was carried.**

BS then explained some of the documents required for reaccreditation e.g. Training, a field not previous included. The Training Strategy was approved for submission, and authority was given to sign that the auditor had not found any problems in the last three years.

**08.71 – Newsletter** This would be published in November if possible.

**08.72 Open Forum** – at which points may be raised by councillors or members of the public. Note that matters to be discussed should be communicated to the clerk before the meeting.

- SP asked about the sign at Green End in Pertenhall which excludes Timbrells, although the address of Timbrells is Green End. More information to be collected for the meeting in January.
- GT asked about Broadband, a query having been passed to her. TK replied that the local Broadband was poor, 1.4 when it should be 8, but that only if all councils joined together to make a powerful voice was there any hope of any improvement. He said that for rural industries in the future it would be a serious disadvantage.
- MW asked about the poppy wreaths which used to be paid for by the Parish Council. It was unanimously agreed that these again be paid for by the council and that a cheque would be sent to the British Legion to pay retrospectively for the year 2008. £24 would be sent.
- JH asked how many properties [or people?]the sewage system can support in Swineshead. **08.72.01 Clerk to find out.**
- Geoff Telling commented that the Back Lane in Pertenhall needed to be cleaned after the recent floods. TB agreed to arrange this.
- RT asked that in future the grass cutting and litter pick be more carefully synchronised so that the grass cutting does not reveal undiscovered litter.
- MW pointed out that it was time to ask for three quotes for grass cutting for the next three years and **08.72.02 the clerk agreed to do this.**
- RT mentioned the possibility of running another first aid course [see 08.69]. The cost would need to be investigated [from St John's Ambulance] before putting it in Honeycomb or the Newsletter. RT would co-ordinate this for Swineshead.

The meeting closed at 10.09.

**The next meeting will be in Swineshead Village Hall on Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2009 at 8.00**

This is an open meeting and everyone is welcome to attend.

## Appendix A – Agenda item 08.69

### Parish Plan Section 11 Health and Social Care

A meeting had been held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2008 to discuss the above. The minutes of this meeting had been made available to all councillors.

JH said that there appeared to be a need for 7 actions

- The need to **write to the surgeries to offer support.** Action: - Clerk to write [these letters](#). JH emphasised that the surgeries are in need of support in certain areas and that councillors and residents in the community must be prepared to offer some of that support. [An item on Health to be put in Newsletter.](#)
- Cross County Boundaries. Problems arise when surgeries are in different counties, and the main concern seemed to be with ambulance response times. It was felt that **ambulances should certainly come from the nearest site.** TW said that ambulances always come from Bedford even if there is one much nearer but across a county border. He said that Alistair Burt MP is aware of this problem and taking action on the matter. Action: - Clerk to write to [Alistair Burt stating that the councillors share his concerns and asking what action can be taken to improve the situation.](#)  
Another factor in the **response time** is the use of Sat navs and their dependence on postal codes. In Swineshead the same code covers the whole High Street. No decisions were reached on how to help with this problem. [Contact emergency services](#) to find out if they actually use the Swineshead house map which was sent. If so, should Pertenhall do one?
- **Comprehensive Information.** Information is available about, e.g.
  - 24 hour pharmacies
  - surgery hours
  - out of hours centres with tel. numbers
  - emergency dentists
  - etc.
 Action ;- a list of these pieces of information to be compiled by PP team, this list to go in Newsletters, Welcome pack, laminated on notice boards.
- **Transport.** Transport to surgeries, hospital appointments etc is dependent on volunteers. [Leaflets could be distributed with the Newsletter.](#)
- **First Aid Courses.** These had run successfully in the past and there are first aiders in Dean. Mr Tate was asked if another course could be run. Action:- It was agreed that
  - [The cost of such a course would be investigated by Mr Tate.](#)
  - [The parish council would set aside around £200 to fund it.](#)
  - [This would be further considered at the meeting in January.](#)
- **Emergency number when using a mobile phone.** 211 is the emergency mobile phone number. Action: - [this number to be publicised in the Newsletter and wherever possible.](#)
- **Public emergency dental service.** One can always ring NHS direct. [Put in Newsletter.](#)

