

# Annual Parish Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017 19:30

## Swilland and Winesham grouped Parish Council Chairman's report for year 2016/17

### INTRODUCTION

- Chris Rush Chairman extend welcome to all and appreciate everyone turning out on such a pleasant evening
- Advise of changes since last year Paul Laughlin stood down after several years and his replacement Paul Madge resigned after a few months due to a change in his work circumstances. Anne Camp and Anthony Darrel Brown have both decided to stand down this year and grateful for their many years of service but we have two new members who have joined Sarah Bailey our previous Clerk and Matt Johnston who lives at the end of Church Lane and is keen to get involved in local issues.
- Parish Council now 12 Parish Councillors but we are carrying 3 vacancies have already had interest from a new resident in the village and is coming to the May PC meeting so I am hopeful we will be back up to 13 again so would welcome any interested residents to volunteer by contacting the clerk.

### 2016-17 HEADLINES

#### FINANCE

- Main Income comes from precept which is part of Council Tax paid by all householders. This was set at £12 750 last year and it is proposed to increase it to £12 987 for 2017-18. This will in effect be no different to householders as the slight increase is to make up for the lack of Council Tax Support grant which was previously paid direct to PC by the Council taken from the precept anyway.
- Accounting Headlines – **Total Income £26,123** (includes precept and support grant, Allotments and £9 670 from grant support for the play area repairs at the school and the Village Hall heating improvements) **Total Expenditure £25 672** (Includes £ 11 412 for the play area repairs, £5 254 for the Village Hall heating improvements, £1 228 grass cutting, £1500 on reactive maintenance, and the remainder on planned maintenance works the clerks salary and Insurance contributions) Actual underspend of approx. £451 due to the grant support for projects.
- Bank Details – **Building Society Account as at the end of March was £8 217.38** and **Barclays Current Account £13 204.08** but this will increase by approx. £4K when we claim the VAT back we are due on the various project Invoices.
- Included again this year bulb planting around the village which Jerry Hindle along with his role in keeping our footpaths cut and in good order has arranged which has helped make a splash of colour in the early spring days.

#### PLANNING

- A very busy year again Michael Wilks is the Chairman of the Planning Committee and its important to remember the committee does its best some applications will

always be controversial but its important its the District Planning Office at Suffolk Coastal who make final decisions all we can do is advise and comment on obvious issues and concerns.

- Good to see some that some proposals are actually now either complete or underway, The Talitha Khoum facility was officially opened in November 2106 and I am sure we will have an update on that later, 7 new houses at Chestnut Rise opposite the Barley Mow which seem to sold or in the process, a new house at the Swilland end of the village near the telephone box one under way at Wood Farm and I understand plans at the Golf Club are well advanced for some new housing and a brand new Golf Clubhouse so who knows we could have the masters on our doorstep one day.
- You will have also see the start in ours and other parishes particularly at Playford of the underground cable duct laying works which will be taking the Off Shore wind farm energy from Bawdsey to Bramford to join the National Grid. Major disruption is inevitable I am sure.
- The SHLAA consultation or sites which landowners can put forward for consideration to the District Council continues to bring forward applications for our consideration. We have to date tried to keep a degree of control on developments and the amount of new homes being built in our Village which I think is key and not to have ad hoc developments just for the sake of it, but the District Council continue to be under pressure from central government as we continually hear to provide more and more. There is currently a site for 5 new homes opposite Burwash which the Parish did not support but is going to appeal and I know that there is another proposal for Housing on land on Mow Hill that we are shortly going to review and of course the Ipswich Garden Suburb just down the road at Waterfield Is likely to be underway very soon.
- The Parish Planning committee also has to alert and pressurise the District Council on planning enforcement issues where landowners have allowed what are in effect illegal activities to be undertaken. We have had to remind the District of two locations recently which have taken up a huge amount of time chiefly by Michael Wilks or Chairman in particular these have been at Wades Lane where a scrap car area seemed to be underway and a long standing issue at Homelands along the B1078 at Asbocking which seems to have developed into a 24/7 vehicle repair, coach and Ambulance storage facility which is causing a major nuisance to the local neighbours.

## **HIGHWAYS**

- Terry Everitt is our Highways representative on the Parish Council and has been extremely active dealing with issues or reporting defects during the year.
- Speeding on the B1078 Asbocking to Otley College – Whilst we are pleased to see that 40mph limit has been introduced to cover the Asbocking Cross Roads its plan daft that this has not been extended to include Gibraltar Cross roads which is probably the most dangerous crossing along the whole stretch. Unfortunately this falls to a different Highways and District Council area who at the moment are not being particularly supportive. Meetings will be arranged to keep the pressure on to what is in effect a no brainer of a solution.

- Blocked drains across the Asbocking straight were repaired during the year and an extremely difficult and lengthy diversion was changed at the last minute after pressure from the Parish Council. However I see that another closure is planned for two days in early May and yet again a 14 mile diversion out to Woodbridge is being proposed and once again I have contacted the Highways officer responsible to suggest he looks in his store and finds the signage he used last time to detour around Henly rather than Woodbridge.
- Tony is also our representative on the Safer Village Driving (SAVID) group and continues to bring ideas for discussion.
- The Community speed watch team continue to be active and thanks to Linda Pace and Steve Barron for taking such active roles in this initiative. Speeding is very much a concern in the village we have a busy main artery road running through the village and I will be looking at my fellow councillors to come up with some positive ideas that we can roll out in the coming months to remind drivers of the speed limits which those of us who live along the main road probably witness more than most.

#### **SNT POLICE**

- Now based back at Woodbridge covering our Parish. I am pleased that we have the new Locality Inspector Andy Pursehouse here this evening to provide us with an update on local Policing and how it effects our particular area particularly given how much seems to be going on recently and how stretched the Force has had to become.

#### **PLAYINGFIELD AND RECREATION GROUNDS**

- These are two long standing recreation amenity areas which the Parish Council does its best to maintain. Grateful to Linda Pace and Nick Stanley who under take regular Inspections of the areas to make sure the play equipment remains in good order. As mentioned the original play area near the school which is now 16 years old has had some refurbishment to the safety matting, fencing and various items of equipment.

#### **ALLOTMENTS**

- All are now taken and grateful to Ann Camp who was managing these and collecting rents I am pleased to say all Allotments are now taken which includes some in Hall Lane and Coopers Close.

#### **VILLAGE HALL**

- The Village Hall Management Committee Chaired by Peter Elmy continues to keep our excellent Hall in good order and I am pleased Peter is here this evening to update us further.

## COMMUNICATION

- For general communication the In Touch magazine remains extremely useful we also put notices on all our notice boards and the Parish Council website remains available.
- Remember there is the Parish Council e-mail register which the Parish Clerk has to send out any local issues, road closure notices etc. by way of information.

## THANKS

- Thanks to Robert Whiting who has covered both his own responsibilities as District Councillor and Robin Vickery our County Council representative for their regular attendance at our meetings updates and support whether it be financial or otherwise. Both have enabled significant grant monies to come our way for which we are grateful and already putting to good use.
- Thanks to my fellow Parish Councillors for all their support and attendance at meetings during the year and on many occasions going the extra mile which has often made a difference.
- Steve Barron our clerk who really does go the extra mile now that he has moved out of the village. He is a tremendous asset not only to me but the Parish Council as a whole and is always s keen to help.
- Lastly thanks to you the village residents who have turned up this evening to either give reports or to listen to the huge amount that is going on which I am sure we will all learn more about this evening.

Chris Rush  
Chairman  
Swilland and Winesham grouped Parish Council