

# Annual Parish Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018 19:30

## Swilland and Winesham grouped Parish Council Chairman's report for year 2017/18

### INTRODUCTION

- Chris Rush Chairman, Michael Wilks Vice Chairman and Steve Barron is our Parish Clerk I extend welcome to all and appreciate everyone turning out on such a pleasant evening
- Parish Council now 12 Parish Councillors but we are carrying 3 vacancies so would welcome any interested residents to volunteer by contacting the clerk.

### 2017-18 HEADLINES

#### FINANCE

- Main Income comes from precept which is part of Council Tax paid by all householders. This was set at £12 987 last year and it is **not** proposed to increase it in 2018-19.
- Accounting Headlines – **Total Income £14 810.70** includes precept, Allotments, WASPS playing field rent and £2 697 from the Community Infrastructure Levy CIL grant which comes to us as part of the planning fees associated with new developments in the village. This will be held for use in future village projects. **Total Expenditure £10 704.95** (Includes play area repairs, Village Hall improvements, grass cutting, reactive and planned maintenance, salary and Insurance contributions) Actual underspend of approx. £4K due to money we had budgeted for speed reduction projects which we are currently out to quotation from the County Council.
- Bank Details – **Building Society Account as at the end of March was £8 279** and **Barclays Current Account £22 015** a healthy position largely due to significant Grant assistance we have received for various projects previously and skilful budgeting by our Finance Committee led Chairman Richard Nicol.
- Further bulb planting around the village which Jerry Hindle has arranged along with his role in keeping our footpaths in good order which has helped make a tremendous 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 it's important to understand it's the District Planning Office at Suffolk Coastal who make final decisions all we can do is advise and comment issues of concern or indeed offer our support.
- We have received 26 Planning Applications to date this year to consider some relatively starlight forward but others obviously contentious and as a result require a

significant amount of work to put together replies that are balanced whilst mindful of planning legislation and of course the District Councils housing allocation need .

- Good to see some that some proposals are actually now either complete or underway, the development at Warrens Barn seems to be well advanced and the scheme for new homes and Clubhouse at Fynn Valley Golf Club also seems to be taking shape nicely. We are awaiting the outcome on the Planning appeal for 11 new homes on Mow Hill and although we had a visit from a prospective developer for the Woodyard **NO** application has as yet been submitted which I know some residents had assumed they had missed. In addition the Ipswich Garden Suburb at Westerfield seems to be advancing through the various planning processes which we watch with Interest.
- You will have also seen the expanse of works in ours and other parishes 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. I am pleased that Scottish Power representatives are here this evening to provide us with an update and a presentation which we can review after the meeting.
- The Parish Council were saddened to hear that even though the Talitha Koum project seems to be ready for occupation the type of Safeguarding support that the unit was built for now seems to have changed but I know the team remain positive and are optimistic that the unit will still have a purpose and I look forward to hearing the update from Ken Donaldson later.
- 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 a long running 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 and is now subject to another planning application to seek formal approval of what in effect the council had previously been seeking enforcement to cease which the Parish Council and neighbours have on every opportunity raised objections to given the impact this total disregard has on the neighbours .

## **HIGHWAYS**

- Terry Everitt is our Highways representative on the Parish Council along with Steve Barron or Clerk and has been extremely active dealing with issues or reporting defects during the year. However it is obvious along with the rest of the County potholes, line marking and road signage seem to be well down the list of County Council expenditure and it is often some time before any action takes place.
- We have a small working group headed up by Matt Johnson who have put together some Speed reduction proposals to be considered through the village but we are waiting on the County Council to provide costings which we are offering to assist with funding none the less getting costs is proving difficult from the County Council but we will keep chasing. Likewise you will recall I mentioned the B1078 Gibraltar Cross roads last year and the need to extend the 40mph speed limit beyond these cross roads. Again this is held up with the County Council and I will be pressing our County and District Councillor to get some movement on this in the coming months.

- Road closures from time to time are unavoidable but as we all witness in our area causes chaos we do now seem at long last to be getting notification but the detour routes are not always the most practical sadly.

### **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. Richard Nicol has been attending the area SNT meetings to highlight any specific issues we have in the village

### **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. We are planning on some further equipment at the recreation ground in the coming months for older children and if funds allow some additions to the School play area also.

### **ALLOTMENTS**

- All are now taken and grateful to Sara Bailey 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 although saddened to hear that he and Jan are stepping down and hope that whoever takes over keeps up the good work Peter has been undertaking in recent years.

### **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 attendance at our meetings updates and support whether it be financial or otherwise.
- 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 often goes unnoticed but makes a tremendous difference and of course the minutes of our meetings do not always convey the extent and time these individuals freely put in. Only recently we have had issues with dog fouling which seems to have led to a fine for the dog owners, issues with overflowing bottle banks and unauthorised use of the hall Lane Car Park which has taken up a huge amount of various councillors time to deal with.
- I remain grateful to Steve Barron our clerk who really does go the extra mile quite literally as he has moved out of the village but continues to be a dedicated and knowledgeable Individual whom we are extremely lucky to have in the role. He is a tremendous asset not only to me but the Parish Council as a whole and is always keen to help with residents enquiries and posting notices.
- 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 in and around the village.

Chris Rush  
Chairman  
Swilland and Winesham grouped Parish Council