Swilland and Witnesham grouped Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs Sarah-Jayne Bailey, 38 Weyland Road, Witnesham, IP6 9ET

Minutes of Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 21st May at Witnesham Village Hall

Present: Mr. Rush (Chair), Mr Lightfoot, Mr Hindle, Dr Nicol, Mr Henley, Mrs Shaw, Mr Laughlin, Mr

Everett, Mrs Camp, Mr Tyrrell

- 1. Chairman's welcome: Mr Rush welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2. To receive Councillors Declarations of Interest: None
- 3. To receive apologies from Councillors not attending: Mr Wilks, Mr Darell-Brown and Councillor Bellfield.

Election of Officers

- 4. Chairman: Mr Rush
- 5. Vice-Chairman: Mr Laughlin.
- 6. Committee members:

Finance - Dr Nicol, Mr Henley, Mr Lightfoot, Mr Tyrell, Mr Rush Planning - Mr Lightfoot, Mr Laughlin, Mr Everett, Mrs Shaw, Mr Wilks, Mr Rush Community Group representative - Mrs Camp Footpaths - Jerry Hindle Tree Officer - Mr Henley SALC representative - Mr Rush VHMC - Mrs Shaw Playing Field Manager - Mr Wilks Allotments - Mrs Camp Highways - Mr Darell-Brown Village Recorder (non-elected position) - Mr Henley 12 SNT Parish Rep - Paul Laughlin

Clerk requested by Mr Hindle to clarify Insurance cover in respect of liability for individuals serving on Parish Council.

- 7. Chairman's Report for 2013/2014: Adopted
- 8. Minutes from the meeting held on 19th March 2014: Approved
- 9. To adopt
 - **a.** The Council's Standing Orders: Adopted Mr Lightfoot noted that national guidelines have changed (as per information in Local Councillor) and proposed a review later in the year in line with new national guidelines.
 - b. Councillors to review online their register of interest:

Clerk to email out web link to councillors

- c. Councillors agreed to receive meeting agendas via email without Clerk's signature:
- 11. **Police Report**: Police Report given by PC Brian Mortimer main message is to be vigilant and keep things secure particularly in outbuildings, garages and cars. He urged Parishioners to report any suspicious individual or activity. Telephone number dial 101 for local issues or 999 in emergencies. PC Mortimer was asked to provide more detail if it were possible on local

crimes so that people could be made aware of trends etc and to include comparisons with neighbouring Parishes. The Police Direct service which used to be provided was a good way of passing on information and the Clerk was asked to explore if this could be linked once again and information forwarded to Parishioners.

12. **County Councillor report**: Mr Bellfied sent his apologies

13. **District Councillor report** Mr Hudson not available for this meeting

14. Finance Update:

Clerk as RFO

- a. Current Account balance is £5.357.67
- b. Ipswich Building Society balance is £7980.62

15. The following payments approved:

- d. Tree cutting at School 9th and 12th May Mr Waspe £1160
- e. SCDC rates for Changing rooms £136.59 annually
- f. Clerk's Training SALC £57.60
- g. Clerk's Salary April £170.42
- h. Mr Stanley AGM refreshments £9
- i. Local Councillor subscription £350

Mr Nicol requested more information on budget headings to help clarify which budget approved expenditure had come from. Clerk to investigate detail and report at next meeting

16. Approval of Statement of Accounts and External Audit:

Internal audit had taken place and been signed off. External audit paperwork prepared and to be submitted by 10th June. Audit was approved by Councillors and signed off by Chair who congratulated Clerk on completing a very difficult and detailed return so well so soon into her new role.

17. Clerk 'working from home allowance':

Agreed that Clerk should look to claim this allowance.

18. Footpaths

Mr Hindle took up issue with Bridleway 12 with owner of Newton Hall and the condition has greatly improved and the path which was extremely muddy and rutted is now passable again.

Mr Hindle reported that sign FP17a off Church Lane is missing which he will report.

Verge Cutting has not yet taken place. This is done by Suffolk County Council usually May/June.

19. Planning

Mr Lightfoot confirmed that a revised application for the land North of Elm Cottage had recently been turned down. 5 applications had recently been received two of which were proposed dwellings outside of physical limits boundary which the Parish Council had not supported. There was some suggestion that the felling of trees at Paradise Now should have

required a felling licence due to the sheer volume of timber taken down. Mr Lightfoot confirmed that this had been raised by the Parish Council to the SCDC planning department.

Mr Rush advised that he had obtained the Ipswich Garden Suburb briefing documentation and was happy to make these plans which outlined the proposals for the development of Land between the Westerfield and Henley Roads available to any Parishioners who wished to view and perhaps want to comment. This is a pre-planning consultation document at this stage.

20. Highways

Mr Everett has noticed that some yellow markings have been put on the B1078 damaged verge at Asbocking which may indicate something happening in near future but asked Highways rep to press for action before winter flooding again.

Dr Nicol reported that there are a lot of pot holes in hall lane possibly caused due to flooding Clerk to report to Highways.

Speeding through village was again raised as a concern it was generally agreed that improvements to drainage, signage and the chevron signs had improved things on the approaches at Fynn Bridge. It was therefore suggested that Chevrons might be a good idea if placed on the grass bank opposite the Nursing Home to warn of the sharp bends when coming from the other direction. Clerk asked to contact Highways for comment and costing's.

21. Playing Field Management Committee:

Mr Rush advised that school have advised that Suffolk County Council are considering putting PV Panels on School roof which would require Poplar trees to be reduced in height by some 20 feet to avoid shadowing. It was agreed Mr Henley tree officer would on behalf of PC visit and advice.

School Fete on 7th June and WASPS presentation day on 8th June both utilising playing field Mr Henley confirmed Commonwealth Baton relay will be taking place on Sat 7th which will be part of the Fete activities and include Pupils from the school running short legs around the playing field and the children will be involved in providing a message based around 'what it is to be in a team' which will be put into baton and winner announced at the end of the Fete.

12. Recreation Ground:

Mr Hindle reported Daffodils had looked really good but though they were planted the wildflowers were a bit disappointing.

Mr Rush has filled forms in regarding play area equipment for the recreation ground but has been told that more information is required. Hopefully this will be resolved in a few weeks and it is hoped that equipment will be installed ready for the summer months.

23. **VHMC**

No report received. Mr Rush asked if Mrs Shaw would ask Peter Elmy Chairman of Village Hall Committee for an update on the improvements to village hall lighting and heating as money had been set aside by the Parish Council as a donation.

24. Allotments

Mrs Camp confirmed that there is one vacancy plot 11 which need to be advertised. Coopers Close Clerk to include In Touch Magazine. Mrs Camp also had concerns that some fly tipping had taken place but felt tenant was likely to clear up rubbish.

25. Tree Officer:

Mr Henley confirmed that tree which had a TPO on it at Wear House had after obtaining approval from SCDC Tree Officer been felled. Mr Henley on behalf of PC also went to see another tree next to the nursing home (horse chestnut) with tree surgeon that is around 200 years old but some light trimming was all that was needed and supported.

Mr Henley felt that we should be mindful about the times of year that trees are cut down and mentioned the recent trimming of the conifer trees next to the School play area as a case in point which were attended to a little late but only after several checks beforehand had taken place to make sure there were no nesting birds etc..

Mrs Camp reported that a chestnut tree in acre close had been cut down which the Parish Council had not been aware of.

Mr Henley urged that he be advised of all tree removal works that were part of any planning applications which was agreed.

26. Community Group:

Mrs Camp reported that the village show schedules will be out end of this month. 12th July is the village show and 13th July is the garage sale. This will go in 'in touch' magazine.

Glut fest will be in October

Music festival weekend 23rd November and 24th November

Mrs Camp advised that she would ask Community Group Chairman to clarify any funding set aside in support of Commonwealth Baton relay with the organising team of that event.

27. Meeting dates for the year:

These have been sent to councillors with APCM agenda

28. Correspondence:

Items received concerning Offshore Wind farm update, hanging baskets on telephone boxes and appeals for funding support which were all noted,

Meeting closed at 9.15pm