

SWINTON & LADYKIRK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd August 2023 at 7.00pm in the Wheatsheaf Hotel, Swinton

PRESENT:

Iain Woolley (IW) (Chair), Bill Purvis (BP), Kenneth Morton (KM), Tim Morris (TM) , Meg Reid (MR) Michael Lawrence (ML), John Cochrane (JC) and Fiona Wilson (FW). Councillor Donald Moffat. One member of the public.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Mark Rowley and John Greenwell.

Minutes taken by: Fiona Wilson

Next meeting: 6th September

Welcome: The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. During the July break, he has met with the Swinton Village Enhancement Group, villagers from the East end of the village and followed up with SBC planners with no response at this time. Villagers are always welcome at CC meetings, but business should be conducted through the Chair.

Minutes of previous meeting:

The minutes of the previous meeting on the 7th June 2023 were read and agreed.

Proposed: KM **Seconded:** TM

Matters Arising:

- Path maintenance. Up to £450 is available from SBC for path maintenance which includes strimming, surface work and purchase of equipment. FW reiterated concerns about the Core Path from Wellfield to the School which is in a very poor state and is a safe route for children. Improvement to the Core Path was integral to the development permission.
- Road markings. Redone at the School
- Salt Bin. It was agreed that CC tell SBC that the bin has to be returned but not on the Green itself.

Treasurer's Report:

- £60 received for hall hire reimbursement
- £630 Annual Support Grant received
- It was agreed that £50 could be spent on bulbs by Swinton Village Enhancement Group (SVEG). Receipts must be submitted.
- CC insurance is to be covered by SBC, but Secretary will check what will be insured to ensure SVEG work is covered.

Police Report:

- June last received
- Incident on the corner of Wellfield. Driver charged with dangerous driving.

- A van has been jacked up on the bottom of Carters Wynd. BHA to be contacted as this is its land.

Planning Applications:

- None
- Discussion on unsuitable changes to properties in the Conservation Area that have not had planning applied for.

Update from Regional Councillors:

- Councillor Moffat told the meeting that Whitsome and Allanton have been chosen for the Community Speed Scheme where residents are trained in the use of speed guns. It is hoped Swinton could be in the second tranche. There are no fines for drivers caught speeding with this scheme, but they will receive a letter, followed by a police visit if a repeat offender.
- Community Action Team has told Councillor Moffat there **will** be increased speed checks after Common Ridings are over.
- Further increase in planning applications involving site visits.

Update on Hudson Ladykirk Development (Everley Meadow):

A great deal of concern and some anger has been voiced by CC and residents of the development about the possibility that Everley Meadow may remain unfinished for the foreseeable future and the attendant Health and Safety issues.

- Still holes adjacent to the Core Path and unsafe metal fencing.
- Path from the School still has unfinished lighting columns and unsightly plastic tubing
- All workers are now off site.
- Jamie Hudson has not contacted or responded to residents.
- Councillor Moffat said that residents should contact John Currie, Head of Infrastructure at SBC
- Secretary will also contact SBC.

Swinton Hub/Church:

Member of the public is part of the Swinton Hub Group and addressed the meeting on progress.

- Presbytery has agreed Swinton Church will close.
- Architect has met with group to draft possibilities for a new use.
- Combination of village hub and non-dominational church
- Flexible building with small meeting space and larger space for dances, classes etc
- Moving pulpit to allow IT, audio visual
- Lairds Loft closed off with glass as small meeting space allowing storage beneath

- Organ removed to create bar beside the kitchen
- Church of Scotland approached to release £35K legacy for maintenance of building
- Group applied for charity status
- Coffee morning to be held 9th September where people can engage with proposals for the Church and give their views
- The Chair has been working with the Group and South of Scotland Community Housing on the concept for the development at Wellfield.

Swinton Village Enhancement Group:

Members of the group have been spending an hour a week weeding along pavements and verges. The last two weeks have been spent improving the pavement path from School to the entrance to development. SVEG is to bring proposals for a plan of work to the next meeting.

These will include:

- Bulb planting on the verges around the village and on the Jubilee Tree slope at the east end
- Bringing bluebells from Swinton Dene to plant in the woodland on Duns Road
- After consultation, planting native species trees and shrubs offered to the village by Finlay Mitchell
- It was agreed that SVEG would have access to web site
- Wild flower planting on Swinton Greenriggs' road

Fibre Broadband direct to premises:

This is a physical connection into your home available in Coldstream, Duns and other larger Berwickshire settlements, but not currently in smaller villages. You can express an interest in this on www.openreach.com/fibre-checker . Select *Keep me updated* after you receive your results. If you are eligible for a Fibre Community Partnership scheme, you will receive an email explaining how this can go forward. If not, you will still be updated on progress.

Telephone Exchange:

Fence is deteriorating and often looks unkempt. ML has contacted the BT manager responsible offering to pay 50% of replacement costs as the fence abuts his property and suggesting the area is gravelled, but has received no response to date.

New Initiatives and Public Engagement:

The Chair introduced this asking for suggestions for new initiatives. It was agreed that FW produce a Summer newsletter with contributions from members. This would include proposals from SVEG, the boules/petangue pitch, information on local deliveries and visiting services such as bank, milk and fish and chips.

Dog Fouling:

It seems there is a slight improvement. Poo bag dispensers have been refilled.

Correspondence. As circulated**A.O.C.B.**

- Parking on pavements. It was agreed to seek clarification on this new law and to ask for exemption for Main Street if required.
- CC completed SBC Financial Review. Noted the annual grant has not been increased in decades.
- Letter from a visitor complaining about the condition of the Swinton Kirkyard which has not yet been mown .Councillor Moffat referred them to Councillor Greenwell who is the relevant Portfolio holder but said there are financial considerations for maintenance programmes and these inform policy decisions by the administration.
- Swinton Flower Show need marquees for show on 17th September.

All business concluded, the meeting closed at 9pm.

Next meeting Wednesday 6th September 2023 at 7pm in the Wheatsheaf.