

SWINTON & LADYKIRK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 7th February 2024

at 7.00pm in the Wheatsheaf Hotel, Swinton

PRESENT:

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

APOLOGIES: Bill Purvis, Councillors Greenwell and Rowley

Minutes taken by: Fiona Wilson

Next meeting: 6th March 2024

Welcome: The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Thanks also to volunteers who helped take down up the lights.

Minutes of previous meeting:

The minutes of the previous meeting on the 6th December 2023 were read and agreed.

Proposed: ML **Seconded:** TM

Matters Arising:

- Carters Wynd steps. SBC have agreed ownership. £11.000 on repairs approved for expenditure 2024/25. Resident of Carters Wynd slipped and fell on the road as she was unable to use the steps. BHA to move grit bin to top of hill and refill.
- IW to attend SBC planning seminar on 29th February. It was agreed that the CC should build some knowledge and expertise in planning matters to help in future decision making. Other community councillors encouraged to attend.

Treasurer's Report:

- CC currently has £440 in the bank equivalent to four months electricity standing charge with the new grant expected summer of 2024.
- Funding for CCs is being reviewed for next financial year.
- It was agreed to approach SBC for additional support through a Locality Grant, ask Swinton 100 Club, and look at different ways of providing Christmas Lights.
- Treasurer is checking that the £100 donation from Horticultural Society for marquees is in account.
- Treasurer agreed that when CC is in funds we can provide a donation for Duns Men's Shed for Christmas Lights poles

Motion:

The Motion to co-op Meg Reid to Swinton and Ladykirk Community Council was carried unanimously. There was discussion on how to ensure representation from the Ladykirk area of the ward as currently there are few established residents.

Police Report:

- Community Action Team (CAT) active on parking and speeding.
- Farm building break-in at previous Avocet site at Sunwick
- Ewe worried at Swinton Bridgend by dangerous dog. Police informed. Councillor Moffat reminded the meeting that farmers have the right to shoot such dogs.

Planning Applications:

- Swinton Hill ongoing. SBC Traffic has concerns over access on a blind summit and has requested further information.
- There was discussion on offering support to Gordon CC with its opposition RES Groups Longcroft wind farm.

Update from Regional Councillors:

- Councillor Moffat gave an outline of the work of the Criminal Justice Team's Unpaid Work groups. Work can be done for community groups if materials are provided. This could include the Core path to School and bench repair for SEG.
- The funding for chippings for War Memorial has already been agreed and CC asks that the Memorial lettering is redone after enthusiastic power washing removed some text. .

Update on Everley Meadow:

- Work has begun on completing the large property on the SUDS road.
- No tenants in the two affordable rented homes
- There is real concern about the security of the site adjacent to the Core Path and a Safe Route to School
- It was agreed that we need to maintain pressure on the developer through the planning system to ensure promised enhancements to the village infrastructure are delivered. Councillor Moffat told the meeting that a planning Enforcement Officer is now in post.
- Question posed as to why Ladykirk Estates would be given to build new houses at Swinton Hill when its Everley Meadow development remains unfinished.

Swinton Hub Group: Newsletter from the Group delivered to all homes in the village

SEG:

- Group will start work again in February.
- Attended Tweedbank meeting for Borders Enhancement Groups
- Newsletter in Swap Stop

Marquees:

- It was agreed that at this time the CC must say No to the provision of marquees for Horticultural Show.
- CC members must be involved with erection of marquees to validate insurance
- It was agreed to continue campaign – Facebook, leaflets - to get additional members for marquee squad

Trees in Wood and Duns Road wall:

- Jamie Swinton awaiting response from Finlay Mitchell.
- Tree Survey has been undertaken and work needs to be done before trees are in leaf again

Parking – School:

- Real problems with parent parking on bend beside pencils which could cause an accident
- Secretary to follow up proposed meeting at School with Phillipa Gilhooley.
- FW asked that meeting also address Core Path Safe Route

Parking – Pavements:

- Councillor Moffat says Police will be taking a “common sense approach”
- Secretary to check with Community Police if flyer explaining new legislation is available
- CC acknowledges that it is good many residents who previously pavement parked are now parking properly on the road, though there are still outliers.

Speeding:

- Councillor Moffat to refer Swinton to CAT (Community Action Team) for attention
- Dragons Teeth and 20mph roundels will be installed soon
- It was agreed that there a CC email drafted ready to send to local commercial business who frequently speed through the village
- The Community Speeding Initiative in three Borders villages including Allanton is currently being evaluated. Swinton in next trance with four volunteers ready for training/

Noise: Bird Scarers and Grain Drier:

- NFU guidelines on frequency have been circulated. It's clear that these have been flouted.
- Secretary to contact Environmental Heath to check noise levels
- Secretary to write again to Kersfield

New Initiatives and Public Engagement:

No new initiatives

Correspondence as previously circulated:**A.O.C.B.:**

- Resilience. Salt bins to be replaced where previously located but must not affect the adjacent buildings
- Potholes. No budget for B and C roads in Berwickshire. Photos to be sent to Councillor John Greenwell. MR articulates the general feeling of the CC that just coming along with a bucket of tar and just running a vehicle over it is a waste of resources

.All business concluded, the meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Next meeting Wednesday 6th March 2024 at 7pm in the Wheatsheaf.