

MINUTES OF
THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, SWALLOWFIELD PARISH
HELD ON 10th MAY 2023
IN SWALLOWFIELD PARISH HALL AT 7.30 P.M.

Present:

Cllr. J. Anderson (Chair)
Cllr. I. Fullerton
Cllr. S. Taylor
Borough Cllr. S. Munro

Cllr. C. Drew
Cllr. M. McDonald
Mrs. E. Halson (Clerk)

Members of the public: 18

1 Welcome & Introduction

Cllr. J. Anderson welcomed residents and introduced Jamie Orpwood, Estate Manager, Farley Estate and Emma Cantrell, CEO First Days Children's Charity.

2 The Planning System – an overview

Cllr. I. Fullerton gave an overview of the planning system.

3 Developing a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish

Cllr. S. Taylor gave presentation of the purpose of a Neighbourhood Plan, he explained that whilst the Parish Council would be heavily involved the plan would need to be co-led and run by residents. He asked that anyone interest should make themselves known.

4 First Days Children's Charity

Emma Cantrell gave an interesting insight into the work the First Days Children's Charity carry out to alleviate child poverty.

5 Questions, answers or motions from parishioners

- 5.1 **Pavements along the B3349 in Swallowfield** - The pavements along the Basingstoke Road are becoming more and more dangerous. The width of the pavements is significantly reduced due to the overspill of soil from verges which then becomes overgrown. It has become dangerous for pedestrians especially those with pushchairs. Could the council arrange for working parties to clear the pavements.

Cllr. Anderson explained that the council and residents have reported this issue to WBC numerous times. WBC does not recognise it as an issue. The Parish Council is not able to carry out the work as it would require spoil to be removed rather than just pushed back.

The council will undertake to follow up with WBC once again.

- 5.2 **Littering** – the annual litter pick is a great success, but the parish continues to be blighted by litter. I would like to propose that the council consider employing someone to regularly clear litter along the roads in the Parish each week.

Cllr. Anderson noted that there are several residents who carry out regular litter picking during their daily walks, but the council would review the situation.

- 5.3 **Graffiti** – can the council do anything about the graffiti tags which have appeared on signposts outside Wyvols Court before further graffiti is added.

Cllr. Anderson suggested that this is reported directly to WBC but the council would monitor.

- 5.4 **Speeding** – speeding in Riseley continues to be a significant issue, volunteers are spending hours recording details of speeding motorists but there is no evidence that this is being acted on. Can the police be asked to carry out speed operations with more regularity.

Cllr. Fullerton explained that he had written to Matt Barber, Police & Crime Commissioner, following the meeting in January, he had not received a response.

Cllr. Munro agreed to following with Matt Barber. It was noted that the police only have one speed monitoring team.

- 5.5 **Traffic Calming** – what is the rationale for installing traffic calming as seen in Arborfield?

The chicanes installed in Arborfield were installed as part of the relief road project and it is understood may not be permanent since the effectiveness is currently being monitored.

6 Round Table Discussions with refreshments

7 Close of meeting - The meeting closed at 9:30pm

Copies of the Annual Report were distributed and can be collected from the Parish Office.