**Swerford Parish Council**

**Parish Council Committee Meeting**

**Thursday 13 February 2020 at 19:30 hrs**

**Swerford Village Hall**

**AGENDA**

1. Declarations of Interest (in respect of meeting subjects likely to arise).
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Reminder: Code of Conduct.
4. Approval of minutes from last meeting on 14th November 2019.
5. Matters arising:
	1. Swerford Charity. Annual update. (Bank mandates; Charity Objectives; and the first brief six monthly report as to income, costs and monies distributed). (CF)
	2. CPR training targeted for JUL20. An update. (CF)
	3. Salt Refills. Update on working party to relocate a bin in Chapel End. (JC).
	4. Confirmation Chapel End tree finalised. (CF)
	5. Update on the working party to consider how best to install and thereafter maintain ‘dog friendly’ access to all stiles. Progress on writing to all involved landowners. It was agreed that a letter be sent reminding as to responsibility re maintenance: details of landowners and relevant stile(s) to be provided by CF/JD with subsequent letters to be sent by Clerk/Chairman.
6. Playing Fields - an update (JA).
7. Financial Governance:
	1. statement of year-to-date Receipts and Payments, actual versus forecast, together with Summary of Balances held and any Loans or Investments made/held.
	2. Annual budget/forecast together with final Precept Demand (£3,162.94 - submitted in JAN20) to be formally approved and minuted.
8. Planning Applications received since last meeting:
	1. Application 19/03542/HHD re Lansdowne Cottage was objected to. The reason: ‘Given the proximity to the various listed buildings nearby, and to its clear visibility from the various footpaths, also nearby - all as detailed in previous proposals (this being one of many applications to do with Lansdowne Cottage), it should not be in weatherboard but in stone to match the surroundings; failing which, if WODC is not prepared to insist on stone then the boarding must not be painted but specifically left to the weather and blend in more sympathetically with the surroundings’.
	2. Application 20/00181/S73 being a variation of condition 2 of planning permission 18/00249/FUL related to the proposed storage building at Church End, Swerford (referred to by the Council as ‘Backside’) the subject of much comment, last referred to in the last Council Meeting when it this was discussed: ‘ The apparent flagrant breach of Planning Approval T18/00249/FUL related to the Backside Storage Building at Church End’ and minuted as: ‘ In its email of 15OCT19, the Council has brought to the attention of WODC Planning, including Councillors Colston and Beaney, that it believes what is progressing is the construction of a house and not a simple storage facility. The Council has requested the cessation of further construction and the demolition of those parts not in accord with the approved plan. It is known that neighbours have also objected.’. (See further below.)
9. General Governance:
	1. The Financial Timetable:
		1. the Precept, Financial Report and Swerford Charity are referred to above;
		2. a Review of the Registers of Title Deed and Assets is due. The Clerk confirms no change has occurred;
		3. Electoral Members: the number is due to be confirmed in March (this year’s S 137 sum per elector is £8.32);
		4. Year-End Accounts are to be prepared, together with the Chairman’s Report for approval at the forthcoming Annual Parish Council Meeting;
		5. Council Insurance expires 31MAY20 and is due for review.
10. Any Other Business
	1. Planning. The Minutes of the last Meeting note the following: ‘The matter remains of the utmost concern to the Council: what action might best be taken was discussed in great detail. The obfuscation of planning laws; the apparent inaction of WODC Planning Department and its seeming impotence in terms of handling what appear to be very straightforward cases; its inability to come to any sort of conclusion or keep residents or the Council apprised of any developments whatsoever; the Council’s own desire to not object to proposals without good reason; and the dawning that WODC appears simply unable to address this - makes the situation difficult.

The Parish Council is aware of the pressures on the team at WODC and does not seek to make this more burdensome than it already is. But much correspondence has occurred, and to the most senior levels in the Planning Department. The Chairman’s email of 3rd November to the Director (timed to coincide with a Senior Planning Meeting) and copied to various Councillors, taken up by them, was acknowledged on the 6th of November. Since that date there has been nothing. Unable to do more, it was agreed that the following steps be taken:

* Another letter be sent requesting clarification/rapid action;
* Failing a satisfactory response, to refer the competence of the WODC Planning system to the Local Government Ombudsman.

If WODC has no real power or capability in handling what are seemingly straightforward matters such as these, the process appears in need of review.’

* 1. Village Hall Insurance. Any update. (JC)
	2. Village Website. Any update. (JC)
	3. VE Day - 75th Anniversary celebrations: Village Hall party 9th May 2020. We have registered as participants and been given the organisers blessing. Working Party update (GS).
	4. Road sign on the A361, in disrepair. Any update (LT).
	5. Community Resilience - Message in a Bottle Scheme.
	6. R Courts MP - accessibility details.

**All members of the public are welcome to attend and/or forward any desired Agenda items to William Haddon** **(SwerfordParishClerk@gmail.com****) or telephone 730769 by close of business on Thursday 10th February 2020.**