



Minutes.

Southwick Residents Association (Wilts).

Meeting held on Friday 28TH April 2017 at Southwick Village Hall 7:30pm.

Apologies received: Guy Clayton, Jane Eaton, Chris and Sheila Wild, Anthea Holmes.

The Chair (John Eaton) welcomed 18 members to our second meeting.

Executive committee nominees were unchallenged and have therefore taken office: The Executive Committee is as follows:

Chair – John Eaton.

Secretary – Guy Clayton.

Treasurer – Bill Johnson.

All members had been provided with a copy of SRA draft Constitution electronically before the meeting and were asked to read and comment. The draft Constitution will be adopted as 'final' at the next meeting (June 17) if no amendments are requested in the interim.

The Chair reported that a SRA Bank Account had been opened with Santander and was now active.

The Chair also reported that a grant application had been submitted to Trowbridge Council and was hopeful of an award sometime in June 2017. Other methods of grant funding to be explored, including SPC. All ideas welcome.

In addition to grant funding SRA needs to actively hold fund raising events.

Suggestions made included:

- Open Gardens
- Coffee Mornings
- Social events at the Village Hall, including Barn Dances, and Shows,
- Village Trail.
- Garage Sales
- Plant Sales
- Stalls at existing scheduled events.

All volunteer posts were discussed, validated during the meeting with all volunteers confirming they were happy to move forward in the roles. As the Association grows, we are hopeful that more members will come forward and provide input and assistance, making it easier for all.

The new look Southwick Parish Council was discussed. Because there were only 11 candidates for 11 Parish Councilor posts a formal election was not required. All 11 candidates will take up their posts on 8th May 2017. Congratulations went out to all the new Parish Councilors, namely: Tracy Currie, Len Weeks, Ben Sansom, Guy Clayton and John Eaton.

The Neighbourhood Plan was discussed and it is hoped that progress on it will now be treated as a priority by SPC. Sonia asked what was involved in setting up the Neighbourhood Plan from the resident's and sub-committee members' perspective. Producing the Neighbourhood Plan is a fairly complex and time-consuming task. But there are grants available and SPC should apply for these in the first instance to get a professional on-board. Once we are in that position, SRA members will then be in a better position to understand how best they can input to and support the plan.

Communications Plan – it was discussed how best to keep members up to date and aware of what's going on. Initial suggestions were:

- Facebook
- SRA Web Site
- Emails
- Flyers
- Southwick Parish News letter

Action: John Eaton, Ben Sansom and Chris Wild to meet to discuss strategy and bring suggestions to the next meeting.

Increasing Membership numbers – potential to review the catchment area for membership and we need to explore if North Bradley has an Existing RA. Subject to be raised again at the next SRA meeting.

Josh made a really good suggestion in that we create a 'Welcome Pack' for all new residents coming into the village. This would include the latest edition of the Southwick Newsletter, information on SRA and an invitation to attend the next SRA meeting.

Refreshments – as little notice of the meeting was given on this occasion, there was no provision made for teas & coffees. However Linda Dowsett provided a large tin of homemade biscuits. These were delicious and raised £7 for SRA. A big thank-you to Linda. Better co-ordination of refreshments required for the next meeting.

Large Scale Housing Developments – The Chair provided an update on the overall position regarding the three proposals for large-scale developments in

the village (off Blind Lane, Wynsome Street and Furs Hill) and a general discussion ensued. The Chair re-iterated the importance that villages made objections to all three proposals as if one is successful in obtaining Planning Permission; the others are likely to do so. For the Gladman proposal off Wynsome Street, residents have until 19th May to submit objections into Wiltshire Council.

It was also confirmed that Save Our Southwick group will continue with its fight against unwarranted large-scale housing developments in the village.

The level of support from recognised individuals and organisations outside of Southwick remains encouraging.

- Andrew Murrison MP has formally objected to both the Redrow and Gladman proposals and has pledged his support to the 38 Degree campaign.
- Similarly, Campaign for Protection of Rural England (CPRE) has pledged their continued support in the fight against large-scale development in the village.
- David Wyatt, Wiltshire Council's Tree Officer, has submitted a very good objection to Gladmans development proposal with regard to the protection for our existing ancient oaks that already have Tree Preservation Order's on them. Also precautions must be taken to protect these ancient Oaks roots, during construction if the plans are approved.
- Wiltshire Times are keen to continue with their support and to run articles regarding opposition to the developments.

It was noted that the prospect of unwanted large-scale developments in the village had brought so many of our villagers together; when in the past the majority of residents barely knew each other. It seems that the village is becoming a community that is prepared to plan and fight for its own future and not have change imposed upon it.

Acoustics in the Village Hall are not great and it was requested that we obtain a microphone for the next meeting. Alternatively, we could consider a different venue (i.e. Baptist Church Hall).

The frequency of future SRA meetings was discussed. The general consensus of opinion was that the length of time between meetings would be decided by what needed to be done and the actions emanating out of the existing meeting. Availability of room/venue is also a consideration.

Taking all the above points into account, it was decided that our next meeting would be held early/mid June 2017. Exact date/time and venue to be confirmed.