

# Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19th April 2018

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The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at 7.00pm on 19th April 2018 at the Meeting Rooms, Baptist Church, Derby Road, Swanwick.

## **APM/1/2018 Appointment of a clerk to the meeting**

C Miles was appointed to take notes of the proceedings.

## **APM/2/2018 Apologies received**

M Hannant (Primary School), D England (Swanwick School & Sports College), A Flemming (2<sup>nd</sup> Swanwick St, Andrews Brownies), R Plant (Local PSCO), G Holmes (Methodist Church)

**APM/3/2018 Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 20th April 2017 were received.**

**APM/4/2018 Chair's Report was received (page 2)**

## **APM/5/2018 Matters for the attention of the Police**

There was no Police representation at the meeting, but R Plant sent a brief report that there had been no problems in the area in recent months and all incidents can be viewed on the Derbyshire Police website.

## **APM/6/2018 Reports on activities, achievements and aspirations from the community**

A copy of each of the reports is appended:

1. Swanwick Women's Institute (page 6)
2. Swanwick Baptist Church (page 7)
3. Swanwick Allotment Association (page 8)
4. Swanwick Residents Association - John Briggs (page 9)
5. St. Andrew's Church (page 12)
6. Councillor David Wilson (page 13)
7. Swanwick Methodist Church Page 14)

## **APM/7/2018 Open forum - question and answer session**

Due to the late hour, discussion was brief as most issues were covered during representations.

Meeting closed at 8pm

# Annual Parish Meeting

## Chair's Report – 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018

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Chair's Report is to the Annual Parish Meeting of the Swanwick Electorate held on 19th April 2018.

As in previous years and just to remind ourselves, the Annual Parish Meeting is not a council meeting and tends to be more informal but we do have an Agenda to guide us through the meeting. It is a meeting of parish electors and organisations and usually takes place between 1 March and 1 June but cannot be held before 6.00pm. Notice of the meeting was given on the Parish Notice Boards and on the Parish Council website. It also featured on the Parish Council's social media pages on Facebook.

Electors can contribute to the agenda. As we have not received any specific requests for items to be added to the agenda before publication, I am quite happy to receive any suggestions at this late stage.

It is an opportunity for you, the electorate, businesses and organisations to bring issues to the attention of the Parish Council at the beginning of the year so that we can consider these matters in preparing our future plans. There is no scope to vote on matters. If we are not able to answer questions at this meeting, the Parish Council will consider any response that is required and will either write or communicate directly with individuals as appropriate.

In practice these meetings often

- Celebrate past local activities and aspirations for the forthcoming year
- Debate current issues in the community.

My report is intended to review the past year, celebrate our achievements and thank those who actively contributed, whether by giving their time or in other ways.

In preparing this report to the Annual Parish Meeting, I have grown to realise the importance of keeping a running, contemporaneous record in preference to relying on memory. So if I miss anything or miss thanking anyone, I am sure you will bring it to my attention.

### **Well Dressing**

One of the first events in the Parish Calendar was the Well Dressing week which started on 13th May 2017. Thanks all those who made that day a successful village event. In particular, thanks to Cllr Brenda Payne and her trusted team for the work that went into making sure that everything was once again delivered with precision.

A general thanks to the various organisations, stall holders and entertainers that participated, not forgetting the Village Caretaker. Thanks to the Parish Councillors

who turned up on the day. It is one of the days when Councillors have an opportunity to be more visible to the community we serve.

This year's Well Dressing is planned for Saturday 12th May. We start with the blessing of the Wells at Broadway and as in previous years Wells will be in place throughout the village for visitors to enjoy for the week following. A lot of work has already taken place in co-ordinating all the activities necessary to make the event another success.

### **Village Hall Working Group**

The intention still is to build a village hall/ community building and ancillary units with car parking. The Village Hall Working Group continued its work to prepare the plans. The full planning application was submitted in March to AVBC, the Local Planning Authority. A decision is expected by 21st May 2018.

A display will be made available at the Well Dressing Fayre on 12th May with additional details of the design and layout. There will also be a number of artist impressions of the development.

The Village Hall Working group still welcomes residents with a range of skills, to join the Working Group, even if it is only for a particular task or phase of the development.

### **Defibrillator Working Group**

The Defibrillator Working Group continues to meet on a regular basis. Various people within the community have raised money for defibrillators for the village. We have reported the activities by which the community has raised the significant amount of £3737.50. This will be supplemented by a contribution from the Parish Council S137 funds to purchase 3 defibrillators and the purchase and installation of 3 cabinets. The only issue is where to locate the units.

### **Queen Elizabeth II (Crays Hill) Park Community Group Meeting**

During the last year I attended a number of meetings of the Queen Elizabeth II (Crays Hill) Park Community Group and found a welcome in representing the wider community's interest. Along with others from the Group, I attended the inspection of the grounds and it is with pride that QE II Park was again awarded Green Flag Status

The Park is widely used and valued by the community but still attracts unsocial behaviour by a small minority. The Police have intervened on a number of occasions and issued caution letters to those identified.

The Community Group are trying to improve the facilities at the Park such as providing adult outdoor exercise machines and planting a wide meadow border around the perimeter. There is still an ongoing issue with the length of the lease awarded to the Cricket Club.

### **Civic Service & Christmas lights**

My personal thanks to Councillor Brenda Payne, the Clerk and team for the work in preparing and organising the Civic Service held on 11th December 2017 at St Andrew's Church. Thanks also go to the Church Wardens and the Vicar for the support on the day. Crich Brass Band supported the service and this year the refreshments were provided by The Pantry. The surplus refreshments were gratefully accepted by the Padley Centre in Derby; so nothing was wasted.

The Christmas lights last December were once again dazzling. The Christmas tree unfortunately attracted unwanted attention and the lights were damaged; the repairs cost £582 pounds and were recovered by a Restorative Justice Contract.

Occasionally the Christmas tree is donated to the Parish; anyone with a tree to offer for December 2018, please contact the Clerk.

### **Village Caretaking**

I must mention Rob Castledine who most of you know is our Village Caretaker. Rob Has been performing an excellent job throughout the year, not only collecting the litter that gets dropped on our streets, but also in reporting fly tipping and dog fouling which seem to be still happening. The Parish Council continues to promote responsible dog ownership in conjunction with Amber Valley's Community Wardens.

Please make your friends, relatives, neighbours and anyone else that you see walking a dog aware of their responsibilities to clean after their dogs.

### **Planning Issues**

Planning matters continue to command our attention. I do not want to dwell on planning issues or the Lily Street Development at this meeting; however I must mention the active involvement of the Swanwick Residents' Association in planning not only within Swanwick but also within Amber Valley. The sharing of information between the Residents' Association and the Parish Council has meant that we, as a community, have been active in planning matters.

Although the Parish Council does not have any planning powers, we will continue to represent the community views when and if any planning applications are submitted for developments within Swanwick Parish.

### **Mine Cars at Butterley**

As part of the general improvements in our village, the refurbished mine cars continue to provide a feature on the road from Ripley. The floral baskets, removed from the railings on Derby Road, have been re-located to the front of the mine cars to provide a striking feature to the entrance to the village. Unfortunately, the floral baskets have also attracted vandalism. It will be nice to try to catch the culprits and stop the vandalism.

### **Swanwick's Allotments & Land**

The Swanwick Allotment Association has continued to thrive and is on the road to self-financing.

The boundary issues on the western side of the Nether Close Allotments have now been resolved. All the parcels of land in the Parish Council's ownership have now been registered with the Land Registry.

The ownership of the Social Club on High Street has been perplexing and involved a significant amount of detective work. In the meantime, the derelict building has been demolished. The land has now been secured by Swanwick Parish Council. Any future enquiries should be made to the Clerk

### **What about for the Future**

We have our usual calendar of events starting with

- Annual Parish Meeting in April,
- Well Dressing in May, through to
- Remembrance Sunday Parade in November and
- Christmas lights and the Civic Carol Service in December

Our focus will be to progress the development of the Village Hall site. In particular we will be looking for lottery and matched funding.

The Parish Council is keen on maintaining the village environment. We will be reviewing the notice boards, bus shelters and planting containers throughout the village. Some of the planters have come to the end of their natural days and replacements will be purchased over the coming season. The seats and benches also need attention, and will receive a lick of paint.

Communication with Swanwick residents has been mainly by means of the newsletter and the hope that more people will attend the monthly parish council meetings. We will try to make better use of social media to explain what we do and encourage greater social interaction and cohesion. The Swanwick Parish Council website is still due a revamp and we will try to make this more interactive.

### **Public Participation**

I have been encouraged by the level of public participation when big issues are being discussed. Occasionally we have visitors to the Parish Council Meetings, and I would like to convert these into repeat visits. We must still try to encourage a wider level of participation and hope that the use of social media will bring in more reaction and interest.

The Parish Council currently has 5 vacant seats. I am hoping that two seats will be filled by co-option at the Parish Council Meeting following this Annual Parish Meeting.

Finally, this Council's term will come to an end next year. Elections will be called in May 2019. I hope that we can attract a full complement of councillors for the start of the new council in 2019.

George Soudah, Cllr  
Chair Swanwick Parish Council

# Swanwick WI Report to Annual Parish Meeting 19th April 2018

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Submitted by Joan Poulter (President)

Swanwick WI has now been running for 9 years, we are a group of 60 plus women spanning all age groups and interests and with our federation being 100 years old this year, there are plenty of celebrations, tea and cake.

Last year we raised £1500 for the Turner Farm Project, £435 for Methodist Home Maple Leaf for music therapy and also filled shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child giving donations of toiletries to a men's hostel. We participate in the Well Dressing & Fayre, which is a highlight of our year with our talented designer Lynne Parr and many members helping. We also help out in the WI marquee at the Bakewell Show and two members received 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the open class marmalade cake section.

Our meetings include speakers, physical games and activities, crafts, cookery, dining out and visits.

Our aim is enjoyment, inspiration and education - with the emphasis on having fun and may we continue to inspire the women of Swanwick in the years to come.

# SWANWICK BAPTIST CHURCH

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We are a small church with a big heart.

Sunday Morning Worship 10.45

1st Sunday of the month – bring & share lunch

Tuesday - 10.00am – 10.30am Prayer time  
10.30am – 12noon Coffee & Fellowship

3rd Thursday in the month - Scrabble Club 2.30pm

1st Saturday in the month – Prayer Breakfast 8.30am

Everyone is always welcome to attend any of the above, we also do 4 cafe style services a year and during Lent we do an Alpha Course.

We support the Christians Together in Swanwick and attend joint meetings along with regular joint prayer breakfasts on the first Saturday of each month at 9am.

We continue to support Home Mission, Leprosy, Christian Aid, The Baptist Union of Great Britain and also East Midlands Baptist Association, do Christmas shoeboxes appeal and with Derby City Mission we support food at Harvest time and gifts for Children at Christmas.

Three of us have attended Safeguarding Training levels 2 and 3. This is important for us as a church to be aware of the dangers to both vulnerable children and adults.

Although we are a small church we support and encourage the community to follow God and strengthen their faith.

We also hold Thy Kingdom Come in May, which is a prayer event with a Village Prayer Walk, Messy Easter and Messy Summer Children's Clubs and we participate in the Village Well dressing in May.

# Swanwick Allotment Association

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We had our AGM last week. We currently have 68 members with 44-46 plots and a 5 on the waiting list.

## **Election of Officers.**

Simon Ford was re-elected as Chairperson

Jeanette Weston was elected as Secretary

Terry Parkin was elected as Treasurer

Committee members - Phil and Julie Walters

Graham Weston

Malcolm Jackson.

We have a wildlife garden and pool section on the land and it is a calm oasis for all that use it.

Each year we hold a Best Allotment Completion, this was judged by last year's winner Richard Payne.

The winners were –

1st Prize Terry Parkin plot 34

2nd Prize Malcolm Sharpe plot 37A

3rd Prize Jeanette Weston plot 24.

We have also had a suggestion made by Graham Weston that should members have any surplus fruit or vegetables that the 'Salt Pot' café would be very pleased to accept any donations, which we think is a good idea.

# SWANWICK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION.

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Report to the Swanwick Annual Parish Meeting, 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2018.

The Swanwick Resident's Association Constitution has four main Objectives:

1. To protect and enhance the environment and the quality of life for all residents of Swanwick.
2. To uphold and encourage high standards of planning and architecture in Swanwick.
3. To prevent the spread of industrial development within Swanwick.
4. To secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in Swanwick.

In pursuit of the above objectives and following the report presented last year, the Association has submitted substantial responses during the consultation process of the Amber Valley Local Plan -2016. Attendance was also made at the public consultation event held at Wilmot Street, Heanor to also discuss the comments made on the Local Plan. These include comment on policies concerning both within Swanwick and the surrounding area and are listed below:-

Spatial Vision for Amber Valley and Spatial Strategy Policies – 6.2 Housing need and Housing Land Provision & Distribution.

Policy SS9 – Green Belt and Amendment to the Green Belt - Policy SS10

Policy HGS3 – Amber Valley Rugby Club – Lower Somercotes.

Policy HGS10 – Asher Lane Business Park (North) – Ripley.

Policy EN8 – Protected Open Break between Alfreton, Somercotes and Swanwick.

Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

Other comments on the Local Plan, in particular Lily Street Farm, Derby Road, Swanwick – Employment Land – Policy EGS1, with particular reference to the historical background of how this was included in the previous Core Strategy that Amber Valley Borough Council withdrew from the Public Examination in December, 2015.

The Local Plan has now been submitted to the Secretary of State on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2018 for independent examination and a date is awaited for the hearings to commence. An Inspector has been appointed and the Association will be registering as a public participant, to enable the comments made by the Association during the consultation period to be

heard during the sessions, which will be arranged over a number of days during the coming months.

The Association continues to monitor all planning applications submitted within the Parish and makes appropriate comment as and when required. In August last year the developer of the Lily Street Farm site submitted a phase 1 application for 157 dwellings on the eastern side of the site opposite the crematorium. Originally, when Outline Planning permission had been granted, the developer, Peveril Homes, had included a Primary School, Convenience Store, Community/Medical Plot and Mini Soccer Pitch on this area, but on submission of the planning application, all this infrastructure was not included, but relocated elsewhere across the site and only 157 dwellings were to be built during this first phase.

The Association made representations on numerous grounds objecting to the application, including that the Local Planning Authority had not advertised the application in the press in accordance with Section 5A of the Listed Buildings and Conservation Area Act 1990, as it affects the setting of a listed building, namely Tagg Farm (a grade 11 listed building). The Council then withdrew the application from the agenda of the Planning Board Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> January for the application to be re-advertised in the press. The application then appeared on the agenda for determination on 19<sup>th</sup> February. Representatives from the Parish Council, Residents Association, Swanwick Primary School and a resident, Mr. Peter Lord all made contributions within the public speaking part of the meeting. The Planning Board made the decision to defer for three months to enable the developer to submit a timetable of when infrastructure was to come forward during the development. However, the developer submitted the timetable requested within days following the February meeting and it was brought forward for decision at the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> March, which the Planning Board agreed unanimously to pass the application.

The draft minutes of the Planning Board of the 19<sup>th</sup> February were not factually correct and the Association advised the Council that the recorded minutes did not reflect the resolution that was passed by Member, in that it only stated 'defer' and not 'defer for three months.' There was considerable confusion at the March meeting in that instead of addressing the accuracy of the minutes the Chairman wanted to change them to reflect what had actually happened post meeting.

Following this debacle, the Association submitted two formal complaints to the Council, the first being that they did not consider a further representation made by the Association at the Planning Board Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> March. Secondly, that the Council had not followed the Constitution and Rules of Procedure at the same meeting. Due to the Council not acknowledging or responding to both complaints in the timeframe allowed they were referred to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman. They in turn advised that they could not deal with the complaint until the Local Authority had made a formal

response to the original complaints. Where upon a further letter was sent advising that this was the case and asking for a response, together with a third complaint that the Council had not complied with their own Complaints Policy and Procedures.

The inability of Amber Valley Borough Council to have an up to date Local Plan leaves Swanwick and Amber Valley open to developers submitting planning applications that the Council cannot refuse, as they can only depend on an out of date Local Plan which carries very little weight and is overridden by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), introduced in 2012. Until the now submitted Plan is adopted, there will be more applications that continue to erode the green fields for housing development that surround our towns and villages.

In conclusion, the Association has worked together with the Parish Council on a number of matters and a joint approach on representing a united front from the village presents a stronger platform on which to present the views of the residents of Swanwick. For the amount of time, hard work, research and effort that has and continues to be devoted to ongoing issues, maybe positive results have not been commensurate, but this will not distract in continuing the fight to try and retain village life. Also, my thanks go to all residents of Swanwick who have supported and helped our Organisation, however small or large their contribution may have been. It is not the lack of effort from ourselves, but the lack of effort from other bodies which does not help and that makes our struggle and fight even more difficult.

John G. Briggs.

Vice-Chairman 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2018.

# St. Andrew's Church Report for Year 2017-18

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Brian Kirkland  
Churchwarden  
Easter 2018

Anne and I have just completed a year together as churchwardens at Saint Andrew's. Here is a brief update of how we are getting on.

There is an attendance of 60 - 100 people at our Sunday services, which includes up to 20 young people at our twice monthly 'Crossroads Service'. We have a mid week service and weekly Parent and Toddler group and one home group.

Our vicar Aron, his wife Bella and their children Evelyn and Isaac have settled into our community well and Aron is building a very successful ministry, especially among young people.

We hold an annual thank you supper for all the youth work leaders in the village. We work together with the other two churches in the village and we support a CMS missionary worker in Ecuador. Lots of exciting and encouraging things are taking place within our parish community.

We would like to thank you now for all the love and support you give to St. Andrew's and to our work in the parish and elsewhere. Support both with time and abilities as well as financial, we are very grateful.

Last year we had a turnover of £52,000, including some £30,000 in payments to support the parish ministry throughout the county. This includes clergy salaries as well as clergy pensions and the training of new ministers. It is a mandatory payment which all Parishes in Derby Diocese make. Thus all that we do, and all that we are costs us £1,000 per week, including the support of ministry and maintenance of the building.

Great thanks are due to Hazel and her team for all the sterling fund raising work they do, and to Wendy for the organ and band concerts.

We don't receive any funding from the Church of England, or any outside body.

Thanks to Swanwick PC for ongoing support with the floodlighting which is an asset and a feature for the parish.

# Swanwick Ward Member

## AVBC Cllr D Wilson

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At the Annual Parish Meeting of April 19th 2018 Cllr David Wilson (Swanwick Ward Member Amber Valley Borough Council) reported -

1. During this municipal year it has been my privilege to have been the Mayor of the Borough thus the Annual Amber Valley Borough Council's Civic Service was held at St Thomas Church and many thanks for those from the Village who attended. The Mayors Charity for this period has been the Turner Farm Project in the Village and on checking the total raised I find its £480.00 (there or there a bouts and if no further donations are received I will make up this total to £500.00)
2. Besides my role as your elected Borough Councillor, I have for many years been the Poppy Appeal organiser for the Alfreton & District Branch of the Royal British Legion and as always should the Parish Council wish to have some Lamp Post Poppies or the wreaths I will have some available and I should be able to provide the Parish Council with a total figure of money raised during the Appeal in Swanwick at the December Parish Meeting of 2018.
3. I have also been asked to help in the matter of obtaining a grit bin at the junction of Broadway and Beaulieu, which is currently being reviewed by Swanwick Parish Council.

# Swanwick Methodist Church

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## Swanwick Luncheon Club

Once again Swanwick Luncheon Club has had a very successful year.

The Luncheon Club was established in October 2008, so this autumn we will be celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> birthday. The aims and purposes of The Luncheon Club are to provide a meal and fellowship to senior citizens who have attained the age of seventy years.

We have been able to extend the club and take more members, so we are now able to provide friendship, fellowship and support to people from the village, and also bring in people from the surrounding villages. We have members from Swanwick, Somercotes, Riddings, Leabrooks, and Alfreton. Members who need transport are brought in by volunteer drivers,

The Club meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month, e, between 11am and 2pm. It provides morning coffee, a social time for members and a two-course hot mid day meal. It also has an annual outing. Presently the Club caters for thirty-eight members and is run by volunteers from The Methodist Church. All of our members are 70+ years, and we have eight members who are ninety years or more, and one who is over a hundred years! For many of our members The Luncheon Club is the highlight of their social calendar. We have an annual outing in the summer and a Christmas Dinner and festive celebrations in December.

We accept anyone who wishes to join the Luncheon Club. Currently we have a full membership but are happy to put names down on our waiting list

We are a flourishing, friendly group, which continues to provide a much-needed service within the community.