

# SWANWICK PARISH COUNCIL

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## **THE ELECTORS OF SWANWICK ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE**

### **Virtual Annual Parish Meeting**

**THURSDAY 6th MAY 2021**

**At 7.00pm**

**If you wish to attend the Virtual Meeting  
please contact the Clerk for joining instructions**

The Chair of the Parish Council invites you to attend the Virtual Annual Parish Meeting which is open to the public.

#### Order of Business

1. The appointment of a clerk to record the minutes of the proceedings (this does not have to be the Clerk to the Parish Council).
2. To receive the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> April 2019 (Meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> April 2020 was cancelled)
3. To receive the Chair's Report
4. To address any matters for the attention of the Police
5. To receive reports on activities, achievements and aspirations from the community
6. Open forum - question and answer session
7. Closure

# Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2019

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The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at 7.00pm on 18th April 2019 at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Swanwick Centenary Centre, Chapel Street, Swanwick.

## **APM/1/2019 Appointment of a Clerk to the meeting**

C Miles was appointed to take notes of the proceedings.

## **APM/2/2019 Apologies received**

C Greenhough (Swanwick School & Sports College), R Wood (Baptist Church), A Flemming (2<sup>nd</sup> Swanwick St, Andrews Brownies), G Holmes (Methodist Church), A Veale (St Andrews Church), K Butler (Derbyshire Constabulary), V Langley (Amber Friendship Club)

## **APM/3/2019 Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 19th April 2018 were received.**

## **APM/4/2019 No Chair's Report due to this being an election year.**

## **APM/5/2019 Matters for the attention of the Police**

There was no Police representation at the meeting, but there have been some improvement in the reduction of mopeds using footpaths around Swanwick, all incidents can be viewed on the Derbyshire Police website and there will be a police stall at the upcoming well dressing.

## **APM/6/2019 Reports on activities, achievements and aspirations from the community**

A copy of each of the reports is appended:

1. Sleetmoor United (page 2)
2. Councillor David Wilson (page 3)
3. Swanwick Women's Institute (page 4)
4. Swanwick Residents Association - John Briggs (page 6)
5. Swanwick Men's Shed (page 10)
6. Amber Valley Voices (page 11)
7. Amber Friendship Club (page 12)
8. Swanwick Methodist Church Luncheon Club (page 13)

## **APM/7/2019 Open forum - question and answer session**

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

Meeting closed at 7.30pm

# Sleetmoor United Report to Annual Parish Meeting 18th April 2019

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Submitted by Russell Hine

Sleetmoor United has been formed by the merging of 5 local teams and are based on Sleetmoor Lane and is run by volunteers.

The aim of the new group is to promote and encourage healthier lifestyles in all ages. There are currently over 350 children registered with also Senior Male and Female teams. They currently have 28 teams but want to increase this to 45 including a walking football team. They are also looking at using other pitches in the area to help with their expanding ideas.

Local sponsorship of £40,000 has enabled the purchase of new kits and equipment and the Committee is currently looking into obtaining grants to purchase a new tractor and the upgrading of the changing rooms and an all weather pitch.

# Swanwick Ward Member

## AVBC Cllr D Wilson 18<sup>th</sup> April 2019

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At the Annual Parish Meeting of April 18th 2019 Cllr David Wilson (Swanwick Ward Member Amber Valley Borough Council) reported -

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, the total figure of money raised during the 2018 Appeal in Swanwick was £3,477.43, which makes the Alfreton Branch total £52,000 for the year.

Cllr Wilson also said that if any members of the public had any issues to please contact him.

# Swanwick WI Report

## to Annual Parish Meeting 19th April 2018

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Submitted by Pam Sparrow (Secretary)

Our WI year started in May 2018 with 2 new committee members and during the year a new Secretary, Pam Sparrow replacing Jan Hay. We have a very hard working committee.

June 2018 we had an evening of line dancing and July saw us having a demonstration of making hessian dolls.

August, we have no meeting so we had a visit to Trentham Gardens at Stoke on Trent. Some useful information and ideas were gathered to help with our new project, which is discussed later.

September saw our speaker talking about working with the homeless and we decided to adopt this as our Christmas Charity.

October was a talk of the Life of Bees and November was a demonstration of Christmas Floral Decorations. Something for the more accomplished and also for the beginners.

Our Christmas meeting involved a seasonal quiz, a limerick competition and a few tasty nibbles.

January we had an interesting talk on hypnotherapy and mindfulness, in February a fascinating talk on fingerprints.

March was our 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party, which was celebrated with a buffet and entertainment by The Codnor Warblers.

We are taking part in the Swanwick Well Dressing again this year, which involves many of our members.

Our project for the year has been Rowthorne Garden. An area at the rear of the Rowthorne Home for Older People has been cleared and planted. The Men's Shed have made planters and the whole area has been transformed. This has not only involved the WI but also others from the local area. It has inspired some of the home's residents to get involved.

We have had a soup lunch raising funds for Framework and a Pie and Pea Supper with proceeds to Treetops Hospice.

The programme of meetings and events is driven by our members and as you can see we have a diverse programme. As with the project at Rowthorne and the Well Dressing it is our aim to be involved in the wider community.

2018 has been the Centenary of the Derbyshire WI so there have been lots of events throughout the County. A showcase of work and talents, services of thanksgiving and of course, much tea and cake!

We have a membership of 56 at the moment and we hope to continue to Inspire Women and be an active organisation in the Community.

# Swanwick Residents' Association Report to Annual Parish Meeting 19th April 2018

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Submitted by John Briggs (Vice Chair)

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 maintained an extremely close interest in the progress, or indeed the lack of progress of the Amber Valley Local Plan – 2016. In December 2015, the Council withdrew from the Public Examination its first attempt of the Core Strategy, this after an imposed suspension of 18 months because it could not demonstrate a 5 year housing land supply position, which any Local Plan must have on adoption for it to be legally sound. The Council then embarked on a second attempt with the current Local Plan – 2016, indicating a 5.83 years housing land supply, as at 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016. For a plan to be regarded as legally SOUND, it MUST fulfil this criteria on adoption. On only the second day of the Public Examination hearings held during June last year the Government Planning Inspector, after a rigorous interrogation of all proposed sites put forward with both the Council and Landowners/Developers, found this was NOT the case yet again. The Council was asked to reconsider its position in terms of housing land supply and has identified that any reassessment of the sites included within the housing trajectory was likely to require the Council to identify and propose additional Housing Growth Sites to be allocated in the Local Plan, in order that it can demonstrate a 5 year housing land supply on adoption and, potentially, to meet the minimum requirement for 9,770 additional dwellings between 2011-2028.

The Council that the process of identifying and proposing additional sites was likely to require the release of land currently within the Green Belt. As such, the Council proposed to undertake a Borough-wide Green Belt boundary review in order to inform the process. The Council appointed Independent Consultants to carry out this review, which was suggested could be completed within 3 months. The normal time frame for such a review is a minimum of 6 months but usually takes up to 9 months. Following this review the Council would consider whether any potential sites within

the Green Belt could be identified and proposed as additional Housing Growth Sites, including the assessment of Reasonable Alternatives.

The Council's stance on the Green Belt in the Local Plan – 2016 document was unequivocal;

6.9 Green Belt – the Borough Council remains committed to protecting the Green Belt within Amber Valley, which largely surrounds the urban areas of Belper, Heanor and Ripley and extends to the southern boundary of the Alfreton urban area. (Part Extract 6.9.2)

Recent reports indicate that England's Green Belt has suffered its biggest reduction in eight years with more than 5,000 hectares (12,300 acres) lost as Councils removed protections on land to meet 'unrealistic' Government housing targets. New statistics show the nation's Green Belt has shrunk by more than 10,000 hectares in 10 years, as campaigners warn that land which is supposed to be off limits is increasingly being targeted for developers. The decision by Councils to remove protections on large swathes of land has been blamed on a 'perfect storm' of hard-to-hit housing targets and developers wanting to build on lucrative 'shovel ready' Green Belt. The most significant reduction in the area occurred last year with the loss of 5,070 hectares between March 2017 and March 2018, the largest increase since the Green Belt started shrinking in 2010. The aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent so-called 'urban sprawl' by keeping green fields open to stop cities, towns and villages from merging together and to safeguard the countryside. Exceptional circumstances have to be demonstrated to delete existing Green Belt boundaries.

Developers in Amber Valley reneged on previously agreed housing numbers with the Council during the Public Examination Hearing sessions, forcing the Council down this course of action to rescue their plan, something the Developers had been pressing for in the early stages of the Hearing. The most damning indictment in this whole Local Plan process has to be the Councils Membership of the Derby Housing Market Area, which has resulted in an unmet housing need of 2,375 in Derby City being inflicted upon Amber Valley, which increases their own housing need of 7,395 dwellings to make a minimum target of 9,770 for their plan. In reality this means the Green Belt in Amber Valley is being sacrificed to build 2,375 dwellings that should NOT even be in Amber Valley, but located in the City of Derby.

Currently, the local Plan process has been paused from July last year for this Green Belt Review to take place, which was concluded in November. Green Belt covers 33% of the Borough of Amber Valley and for the purpose of this review, has been divided into 78 'parcels' for assessment against the National Guidelines for Protecting and Preserving the Green Belt. The Green Belt in Swanwick, referred to earlier as extending to the southern boundary of the Alfreton urban area is located to the south east and south west of the village and was referenced in the review as No 54 and No 69.

No 54 – The Hayes Conference Centre, Butterley Grange across to Riddings in the east and south to the Midland Railway Centre, west to Hickton Road.

No 69 – Butterley to Swanwick, west of Derby Road South to the A38 trunk road, including Butterley Reservoir, Sewerage and Water Treatment Plant and worked pasture land.

The Green Belt criteria which above 'parcels' were assessed on were as follows:

1. Check unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas.
2. Prevent neighbouring towns from merging into one another.
3. Assist in safeguarding countryside from encroachment and capacity for the change.
4. Preserve setting of historic town.

Parcel No 54 scored – 1 Major - 2 Critical - 3 Major - 4 N/A

Parcel No 69 scored – 1 Critical - 2 Critical - 3 Major - 4 N/A

The above high scores for the Green Belt to be preserved in Swanwick has therefore resulted in the Council NOT selecting any of the above land to be deleted from the Green Belt.

However, the Council has selected 15 sites from the 78 'parcels' reviewed, which will deliver a potential for 2,010 dwellings on these Green Belt sites. They are Duffield, Belper, Ripley, Marehay, Crosshill and Heanor. There is currently a 6 week consultation period for comments to be made on these sites and further amendments to the Local Plan, which ends on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019, but has recently been extended to 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019. These will then be considered by the Government Planning Inspector prior to the Public Examination Hearings resuming in possibly June/July.

In conclusion, for the record, I have to further report that as the representative of the Resident's Association, I consider that I have been both treated undemocratically and unfairly in my requests to both attend and speak at the Council Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019, which took the decision to vote for the acceptance of the Green Belt Review. As a regular attendee at Full Council Meetings of Amber Valley Borough Council, I attended the previous meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at which the Green Belt proposal should have been an agenda item, but the Council failed to meet the deadline and it was postponed until the following meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019. On 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019 I wrote to the Council requesting a seat in the public gallery, but was told it was too early and I could not make this request until the agenda for the meeting was published for the 4<sup>th</sup> March, which I did, 1 week prior following publication of the agenda. Only to be further told the Council had changed the rules on public speaking for this meeting, in that there would only be 1 speaker against the proposal and 1 speaker against for each proposed site, a potential for 30 speakers. I was asked which site I wished to speak on and I said none, I wanted to address the Council Members in the Green Belt, to which I was told I could not, but my name would be put on a reserve list of speakers, to which I strongly objected.

At 6.09pm on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019, 51 minutes before the commencement of the Full Council Meeting I was advised by email the Mayor had refused my request to speak, but I was still invited to attend the meeting, which I did. On my arrival at the Town Hall, there were some 150 members of the public outside being denied entry to a meeting which should have been open to the general public and council tax payers. I approached a steward and advised him I had received an invitation to attend the meeting just 30 minutes previous, but was told I could not gain entry without a pass. I then asked for a person in authority within

Amber Valley to come and confirm that I, as a member of the public, having just been invited by the Democratic Officer for the Council, was being denied entry to an open meeting of the Council for the public to attend. Mr Julian Townsend, Director Operations appeared and confirmed that as a member of the public I was being denied entry to a meeting, or in other words, excluded, to address my elected representatives prior to them making an extremely important decision.

The action taken by the Council in this matter was against the published guidelines for public speaking at Full Council Meetings, who 'invented' their own rules for this one particular meeting to serve their own purpose. In addition, it was in clear contravention of the Council's Statement of Community Involvement 2006, an important policy document in development planning and the Local Plan, to which I shall be drawing the Government Planning Inspectors attention to in my consultation response.

Finally, the Association has been consistently represented and made written and spoken contributions when necessary during the past year at Parish Council, Amber Valley Borough Council Full Council and Planning Board meetings. Local Plan Public Examination Hearings and Local Plan Consultation Events. This will continue to be the case for as long as it is considered that the Association objectives are coming under threat.

John G Briggs

Vice Chairman

# Swanwick Men's Shed Report to Annual Parish Meeting 18th April 2019

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Submitted by Charlie Parkes

The Men's Shed was launched in June 2017 and is open to persons 18 and over, male or female. Aimed mainly at older men, who tend to become isolated in the community through retirement, unemployment, illness, dementia or bereavement. We have around 30 members including 5 female members.

It is an "old codgers youth club" where people get together to make things in wood and make friends whilst eating cake, sausage butties and drinking tea.

We have experienced staff and members who share their skills with members. Some attend with their own projects, e.g. furniture restoration, garden projects. Others help with shed projects. We make lamps, mirror and picture frames from old weathered oak fence posts from the farm and recycle materials wherever possible. With our recently donated lathe we will be making rustic milking stools, side tables, bowls and candlesticks etc.

We share a farm site with an educational unit operated by the local charity – Valleykids. The chickens' share our shed and cakes! Apart from the building animal shelters, we refurbish or restyle furniture from the Lighthouse Charity shops for resale. We also make fittings and work tables for the charity shops.

Valleykids also operates a day nursery in Chesterfield and we have refurbished all their furniture by dismantling, stripping and varnishing, saving thousands of pounds.

We provided all the new planters for the village and have repaired 2 benches.

We received a grant from Rotary to buy new machinery. The rest of our tools have been donated by residents, often from a shed or garage clear out. We use whatever we can, recycle others, repair and sell what we don't need.

We are open Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3.30pm to 6pm and Saturdays 10am to 3pm.

# Amber Valley Voices Report to Annual Parish Meeting 18th April 2019

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Submitted by Amanda Trenear

From its modest beginnings nearly 5 years ago, the Amber Valley Voices Community Choir is now around 100 members strong. Consequently, we are now in our third venue in the village as we have required increasingly larger spaces to accommodate our growing membership and popularity.

We meet at Swanwick Sports College at 7.30 on Monday evenings. We are an 'open' and inclusive choir- no audition required- and members are welcome from 13 years upwards.

As well as our formal themed concerts held at local venues such as The Hayes Conference Centre and All Saints Church in the summer and winter each year, we are seen regularly in the local community supporting other clubs, charities and events such as Swanwick Well Dressing, the Civic Carol Service and Riddings Flower Festival.

The choir also works with other musical groups and performers and so we have forged many positive and productive relationships within the locality. We have taken small singing groups into secondary school and sung at care homes.

From our raffles and external fund raising we support both local and national charities, chosen each year by our members.

In addition to the many benefits and enjoyment of singing together, the choir offers important social contact and support for its members. Alongside informal contact at coffee time and occasional theatre trips and outings, the steering group organises a Christmas Party, a summer Cream Tea, accessible group walks and this year, we are hoping to hold a summer BBQ.

Our notice board is always full of lots of opportunities and invitations to involve and interest the members and their families. Practices normally attract an attendance of 70+. We sing a varied and eclectic mix of music so there is something for everyone to enjoy.

# Amber Friendship Club Report to Annual Parish Meeting 18th April 2019

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Submitted by Val Langley (Secretary)

Amber Friendship Club meets between 2.30pm and 4.15pm on the second Tuesday of each month in the Schoolroom at Swanwick Methodist Church.

We have approximately 30 members who enjoy entertainment and an afternoon tea for £3.50. The entertainment is varied and some of this year's topics included a talk on the Falkland Islands, chair aerobics and Derbyshire Health Watch. We also have an annual club trip for the August meeting.

New members are welcome and for any enquiries please contact the Secretary Val Langley on 01773 604204.

# Swanwick Methodist Church

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## Swanwick Luncheon Club 2019

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 11<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 home cooked midday meal. 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 some members who are ninety years or more. 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.