

**Draft MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ANSTY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN ST JAMES'S CHURCH
ON MONDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 2015 at 6.30PM**

1. Apologies for absence

The Chairman explained that the husband of the parish clerk had sadly died on the 14th November and the funeral had just taken place so James Thompson agreed to step in to take minutes.

2. Those present

In addition to the Councillors there were in the audience Caroline Plumtre, Jose Green, Rob Wilkinson, Aileen Fisher-Rowe, Tim and Anne Martin and Charlie Morgan.

3. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is proposed to be 22nd February 2016.

4. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes were approved and signed.

5. Josei Green feedback

Jose Green mentioned Wilton Parkway. This was a plan years ahead but might eventually result in there being an extra British Rail stop in Wilton. Pamphlets were distributed. Jose said that Wiltshire Council was having a tough year: there would be an increase in Council Tax; there had been an increase in the budgets allocated to the police; the contractor Balfour Beatty had had their contract terminated, and there will be a new contract offered in April. In the meanwhile people are using a 'My Wiltshire' app to report problems with potholes and so on. Tisbury is reducing lighting in order to cut costs. There are developments at the Nadder Centre in Tisbury. There has been an emergency planning conference at Wilton establishing the line of command for emergencies, for example way of contacting farmers who have vehicles who then pull trees out of the road after storms. The Chairman noted that Ansty had a person in charge of responses to floods. Other items of interest were litter picking, also the equipment grant for works on the rights of way. Wiltshire was apparently taking Syrian refugees, some 20 in number, who would be arriving before Christmas and a mosque was going to be provided.

6. Police

There were no police present nor report sent. The Chairman spoke of someone who had been going round all the houses in the village saying he was pruning holly and then taking it away for you!, but the fear was that he was in fact having a look around and people were reminded to try and get his number so that the police could track him. Any info please ring 101 and ask for Ellie 7595. She is the responsible officer. There were more burglaries in Tisbury and their location suggested this is someone with local knowledge and possibly a local person. There was

a need for vigilance and taking the numbers of strange cars. It was useful if seeing someone unfamiliar park anywhere in the village to ask them who they were going to see, and this was a way of at least showing that one was paying attention to people coming through the village.

7. Precept

After debate, Option C was chosen, all five Councillors voting in favour of it. Next year precept will be £1700 and every house hold will pay an extra 94 pence in the year.

8. Best Kept Village

The Chairman reported that £100 had been won for gaining Second Place in the Small Village category for the whole of Wiltshire.

9. Transparency code

The Chairman reported that the Ansty Parish Council had received a grant of £423 with which they were going to get a template for a village website and host it for two years. They would also get a printer/scanner so that more things can be put on the website.

There was a discussion between Councillors as to what should be on the website in terms of phone numbers or emails for contact which apparently is required. Councillors decided to go with emails except for Julia Davies who preferred things to go through the clerk.

There was a further discussion about the responsibilities of each Councillor, because that is required under the new transparency code, and it was agreed that Cllr Brewer would deal with the Squalls estate, Cllr Foy would deal with the Clouds and Arundel estates, that Cllr Ridley would deal with hedges and ditches. Already Brian Hampshire was dealing with floods and Rob Wilkinson was dealing with footpaths. Regarding the BT pipe and landslip, BT had admitted that the landslip was their fault. They were going to be moving the wires which had been in that pipe into the large pipe under the road which has spare capacity, but that would require some digging up of the road, with temporary traffic lights, in order to make this very sensible change. BT would then decide how they would repair the bank.

10. The milestone on the A30

This was a Grade II listed monument which showed the miles to Sarum. A very ancient sort of road sign. The Chairman had been working on this for some time and discussed the fact that Wiltshire Council were not able to do anything helpful. Rob Wilkinson our footpath expert volunteered to deal with cutting back and clearing himself and go there twice a year and just cut the grass round the monument and look after it. The Chairman agreed to speak to him later about this kind offer. There is the separate matter of repair. However, since it is now quite badly damaged it is thought this would probably be extremely expensive. While on footpaths Tim Martin reported that Swallowcliffe will be improving various aspects of the footpath which links Swallowcliffe to Ansty, and this kind volunteer work was accepted.

11. Traffic

The Chairman went through the history of current problems on the High St, the Coombe Road and the other narrow lanes in the village. These included lorries stuck on the Combe Road,

since they were too large and the road is unsigned as to this problem, cars going into the stream by the pond, and two pairs of cars dumped by the A30 due to inappropriate speed, as well as damage to verges and banks throughout the village and high speeds on the narrow connecting lanes.

She went through the various options which she had discussed with Highways,

Anything which was either assessed by highways or purchased and installed was expensive and villages were expected to pay 25% of the costs. However it was thought there was some discretion. This is so expensive that without contribution from villagers we could hardly afford any improvements under these circumstances. It seems quite unreasonable for a 55 house village to have to pay for such changes given that the use by villagers of all these roads was low and they were mainly hosting the High St for passing cars, lorries and agricultural vehicles which have learned this route by Wiltshire Highways' previous alterations to local signage and the period in which it was a designated lorry route to Tisbury South. This has since been cancelled as it is accepted there is no such destination now.

It was suggested by Tim Martin that we should have a priority for out coming vehicles at Ansty Water. The Chairman believes that the Highways had already suggested this again required street lighting. Options such as refuges on roads and things to protect property next to the road, pinch points, and give way instructions were not allowed unless there was street lighting. It is already established that no one wants street lighting.

Picket entry gates, a 20mph speed limit, which apparently would cost £2,000 to assess and might cost £3,000 to implement, some additional signing to Tisbury through other villages and signage at the entry to Ansty Coombe as well as white lines to direct traffic away from the house whose roof is often damaged are possible.

Ways of enforcing the speed limit, had already been tried by speed watch and SID, and the previous studies of speed through the village is something which we need to look at again – (Cllr Foy may have a copy of it)

Caroline Plumtre had contacted two Satnav mapping companies and corrected their mistaken belief that the road down the Coombe actually was metalled and leads directly to Wardour.

It was also recalled that in 1990 a local Cllr, had decided that Ansty should take most of the traffic and that was implemented for many years. Ansty has borne more of the traffic than it should, and it either needs to be shared with Swallowcliffe and other villages or we need some protection from this rash of traffic whilst of course also remaining a rural village.

Charlie Morgan pointed out that there is a rush hour between 7.30 and 8.30am and others noted that there was then another rush hour later in the evening. It was reported by Cllr Ben Ridley that he had heard that the school bus only comes through Swallowcliffe when they are collecting children, but on the equally frequent journeys when the bus is empty they seem to be going through Ansty. This is something which should be enquired about further. It was proposed that perhaps discussing calling the main road 'the High Street' was a problem and perhaps we should call it something else like 'Muddy Hollow' which was not so conducive to travelling at speed.

Tim Martin said that in his view we should put in an application with the main things outlined – the 20mph speed limit, a sign at the Combe entry that it is unsuitable for large /wide vehicles, white lines at the Ansty Water Farm to protect the house, a picket gate on Manor land at the village entry. The owner Charlie Morgan agreed this could be done, and re-signing the roads so traffic has more choices. There was a general agreement that if costs were involved, people would be willing to contribute.

The meeting ended at 7.50pm

James Thompson for Parish Clerk