

# SWANWICK PARISH COUNCIL

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

### **Annual Parish Meeting**

**THURSDAY 20th APRIL 2017**

**At 7.00pm**

**Meeting Room at rear of Baptist Church,  
Derby Road**

The Chair of the Parish Council invites you to attend the 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 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016
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 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016

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The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at 7.00pm on 21st April 2016 @ the Meeting Rooms, Baptist Church, Derby Road.

## **APM/1/2016 Appointment of a clerk to the meeting**

G Soudah was appointed to take notes of the proceedings.

## **APM/2/2017 Apologies**

Apologies Cllr B Payne, Cllr R Briggs, Wendy Butt, Derek Banton, Gill Holmes

## **APM/2/2016 To receive the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting**

Brief verbal summary received

## **APM/3/2016 To receive the Chair's Report**

Chair's report received.

The Chair also read out the following (appended):

1. Invitation to a presentation from INEOS Shale 31.03.2016
2. Government Email Response to Petition to allow PCs to appeal planning applications
3. Progress on Swanwick Neighbourhood Plan response from AVBC.

## **APM/4/2016 To address any matters for the attention of the Police**

Parking, speeding and antisocial behaviour continue to be the main cause for concern.

## **APM/5/2016 To receive reports on activities, achievements and aspirations from the community**

A copy of each of the reports is appended:

4. Amber Friendship Club [Mary Murray]
5. Parochial Church of St Andrew's Report [Wendy Butt]
6. Swanwick Luncheon Club [Colin Banton/ Gill Holmes]
7. Swanwick Allotments Association [Brian Dykes]

A verbal report on their activities was given by:  
Queen Elizabeth II Park Community Group [Jane Fisher]  
Baptist Church [Rosemarie Woods]  
Swanwick Residents Association [John Briggs]

**APM/6/2016 Open forum - question and answer session**

Due to the late hour, discussion was brief and centred on the proposed developments at Lily Street Farm and Sleetmoor Lane.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

# Invitation to a presentation from INEOS Shale

Date: Monday 9 May 2016 Time: 10.00 – 12.30

Venue: The Speedwell Rooms, Inkersall Road, Chesterfield, S43 3JL

INEOS Upstream is the business responsible for developing oil and gas supplies in the UK and INEOS Shale is our onshore shale gas operating business. In my letter on the 22 December 2015, I explained that my business has acquired exploration licenses in three main geographic areas, Yorkshire, the East Midlands and Cheshire.

As part of INEOS' commitment to open, transparent and ongoing communication with the communities in its licence areas, I would like to invite you and/or another member of your Council to a presentation from INEOS Shale. We are inviting representatives from Parish and Town Council's across the region in which we hold licences.

Alongside other board members I would like to explain the role that an indigenous source of onshore gas from shale has to play as a raw material and source of secure energy for manufacturing. In doing so we will highlight how this has the potential to benefit the economy and the everyday lives of people in the UK.

INEOS shale has announced an industry leading community benefits package to ensure communities directly benefit from its activities. INEOS Shale will redistribute six per cent of its shale gas revenues, with four per cent to homeowners and two per cent to the wider community close to its operations.

The potential extraction of gas from shale has received significant press coverage in recent months. It is a very emotive subject which is of significant interest to communities across England. We will describe the shale gas exploration and production process and why we are confident that INEOS has the technical capability and expertise to carry out this activity responsibly and safely, with full consideration of the built and natural environment. There will also be time for you to ask key members of my team any questions that you may have. Please confirm your attendance by email to [shale.information@ineos.com](mailto:shale.information@ineos.com).

Yours sincerely,

Gary Haywood Chief Executive Officer INEOS Shale

# Government Email Response to Petition

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Dear George Soudah,

The Government has responded to the petition you signed – “[Give parish councils the right to appeal planning decisions.](#)”.

Government responded:

The Government places great importance on community involvement in the planning system. Parish councils have statutory rights to contribute their views in the planning process.

The planning system is centred on community involvement. Communities, including parish councils and individual members of the public, have statutory rights to become involved in the preparation of the Local Plan for their area, through which they can influence development in their area. The local community can also come together to produce a neighbourhood plan, which sets out how the community want to see their own neighbourhood develop. Neighbourhood plans are often initiated by parish councils. Local and neighbourhood plans form the basis for decisions on planning applications.

In addition to input on local plans and neighbourhood plans, which set out the local development strategy, communities are also able to make representations on individual planning applications. Interested parties can raise all the issues that concern them during the planning process, in the knowledge that the decision maker will take their views into account, along with other material considerations, in reaching a decision.

The right of appeal following the refusal of an application is an important part of a planning system which controls the ability of an individual to carry out their development proposals. The existing right of appeal recognises that, in practice, the planning system acts as a control on how an individual may use their land. As a result, the Government believes it is right that an applicant has the option of an impartial appeal against the refusal of planning permission. This existing right of appeal compensates for the removal of the individual’s right to develop.

However, the Government does not believe that a right of appeal against the grant of planning permission for communities, including parish councils, is necessary. The Government considers that communities already have opportunity to guide and inform local planning issues via Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans, and it would be wrong for them to be able to delay a development at the last minute, through a community right of appeal, when any issues they would raise at that point could have been raised and should have been considered during the earlier planning application process. The Government does not think that the planning system would benefit from the grant of a community right of appeal which would lead to added delay, uncertainty and cost for all those involved.

Department for Communities and Local Government

Click this link to view the response online:

[https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/110489?reveal\\_response=yes](https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/110489?reveal_response=yes)

The Petitions Committee will take a look at this petition and its response. They can press the government for action and gather evidence. If this petition reaches 100,000 signatures, the Committee will consider it for a debate.

The Committee is made up of 11 MPs, from political parties in government and in opposition. It is entirely independent of the Government. Find out more about the Committee:

<https://petition.parliament.uk/help#petitions-committee>

Thanks,

The Petitions team

UK Government and Parliament

You're receiving this email because you signed this petition. [Unsubscribe](#)

Progress on Swanwick Neighbourhood Plan Annual Parish Meeting 21 April  
2016 – email from AVBC

[Stafford, Derek <Derek.Stafford@ambervalley.gov.uk>](mailto:Derek.Stafford@ambervalley.gov.uk)

Tuesday at 14:36

George

Thank you for your email.

I have established the latest position in discussion with Rachael and can advise as follows.

Following your signing of the contract on 18 March 2016, this was forwarded to Mr McGurk on 23 March 2016.

On 1 April 2016, Mr McGurk confirmed that the submitted Neighbourhood Plan did not need to be the subject of an oral hearing and that he could continue to examine the Plan in writing, advising that a draft report for fact checking should be submitted to the Borough Council by 8 April 2016.

The draft report was received on 8 April 2016 and the process of checking for any factual errors commenced on 11 April 2016. I am advised that this process will be completed and a list of factual corrections sent to Mr McGurk, by the end of tomorrow. I would then expect the final report, incorporating the factual amendments, to be sent to the Parish Council and the Borough Council, by sometime next week.

The Borough Council will then need to consider any recommended modifications in the final report that would be required to enable the Neighbourhood Plan to proceed to referendum. Officers will then need to prepare a report for the next available meeting of the Council's Cabinet, at which a date for a referendum could be agreed. This Cabinet meeting is currently scheduled for 29 June 2016, but this will need to be confirmed at the Annual Council meeting on 25 May 2016.

Regards

Derek

## **Annual Report for Amber Friendship Club 2015 – 2016**

Meeting at The Methodist Church on Derby Road on the second Tuesday of each month at 2:30

Amber Friendship Club started in January 2014 and is open to anyone within the Amber Valley area. We have about 40 members from Swanwick, Riddings, Codnor, Ripley and Alfreton. We arrange and provide transport for those who are housebound. We serve an afternoon tea and a speaker/entertainment. These have ranged from a talk about Bess of Hardwick to singing from a local choir.

We also enjoyed an extremely well run outing to Melbourne Hall and Tea Rooms in the summer.

Every member receives a Birthday Card and a rendition of Happy Birthday is sung at each meeting. We try to send 'Get Well' cards and deliver cakes to poorly members.

We have held regular committee meetings, keeping an eye on Finances. We have held 'work' meetings when we have wrapped Christmas gifts. We have attended Safeguarding and Food Hygiene training.

We will continue with our meetings and if we continue to see an increase in attendance, we shall make use of the worship area for extra seating.

Our summer outing is planned in August when we shall be visiting The National Arboretum.

Mary Murray, Chair



## **REPORT to SWANWICK PARISH COUNCIL ON THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW, SWANWICK**

On Sunday 10th April it was announced that on 26th July in St. Andrew's Church the Revd Aron Simpson will be instituted by the Bishop of Derby and inducted by the Archdeacon of Chesterfield as Vicar of Swanwick and Pentrich churches. Thankfully we are able to hand over to Aron the church in a good state of repair.

REPAIRS TO FABRIC APRIL 2015-2016: Improvements to the screen display system allow congregations and baptism parties to witness live screening of the service – not previously possible in a crowded church. This system successfully displays the church organist in action, a popular feature at concerts and recitals.

The costly high level pointing and flashing repairs were completed thanks to grant-assistance and intense fund-raising. This was in the nick of time: some areas of stonework pointing had deteriorated to the extent that the exceptionally wet winter would have surely led to seriously damp walls.

THE CHURCHYARD appearance has been improved with the help of a Community Service team who cleared a quantity of debris from the east boundary and removed extraneous growth from the west side. The static blue noticeboards have been brought up-to-date, leaving the corner board for forthcoming events.

THE CHURCH DOORS will be restored and renovated as soon as weather permits.

“CHRISTIANS TOGETHER in SWANWICK”, the village's Anglican, Baptist and Methodist churches, continue to co-operate in events organised under the “CTS” banner and in events under the auspices of the Parish Council. The

next CTS event is the open “Dementia Awareness” session on 27th July in the Old School House. As part of CTS we are increasingly grateful to the Parish Council for including the village churches in parish-wide events.

AT ST. ANDREW'S we can report that numbers attending our afternoon family “Crossroads” service are increasing, although we follow the national trend of diminishing and ageing congregations, not easily replaced.

Similarly we too suffer the national shortage of volunteers due to the increasingly extended retirement age impacting on the willingness of retired volunteers.

Our church's income is solely derived from donations and fund-raising. This must be sufficient to pay our way, ensure that the fabric is in good order and contribute to the Church of England running costs - “the common fund”.

We would like to thank the Parish Council for sharing our own commitment to maintaining the Millennium Floodlighting, a feature which can be appreciated by all – residents and visitors alike.

We also wish to express our thanks for the Parish Council's assistance by way of subsidising our annual "Last Night of the Proms" concert thereby providing high-standard entertainment at affordable cost for the community we all care for deeply. We sincerely hope that our co-operation and mutual respect will continue for many years to come. Wendy Butt, St. Andrew's Church Warden. 15.4.1 6

## SWANWICK LUNCHEON CLUB

Swanwick Luncheon Club was formed in 2009 to cater for persons who had reached the age of 70 years.

- Whilst it is held in the schoolroom to The Methodist Church, it is independent from the church and in fact makes a donation of £250 p.a. for use of the premises. It is not run exclusively for members and friends of the church as only about 12 fall into that category.
- The club meets every month, except August, and the membership is limited to 34 persons, mainly because of the ages of members, (two will attain 102 years in the next three months, five have attained 90 years and the majority of the remainder are in their 80s.)
- Members attend from 11am when they have a hot drink and biscuit, sit to a hot meal and dessert at about 12 noon, followed by a hot drink.
- There is a time of fellowship, sharing news etc. and a raffle before the club closes at around 2pm.
- An outing is organised for early September when the members are taken out for a lunch and a ride round the countryside with an opportunity for an afternoon tea.
- The Club is run by volunteers, who also provide transport as required. Members are drawn from Swanwick, Alfreton, Shirland, Leabrooks and Riddings.
  
- >There is a waiting list.

Derrick Banton

## Swanwick Allotments Association

- Swanwick Allotment Association is a self managed association, that cultivates the allotments that are sandwiched between Broadway, Shirley Road, The Delves and the new houses on Ashton Close.
- It is also known as Shirley Road allotments, as Shirley Road is where the main access way to the site is located.
- The land is owned by Swanwick Parish Council, which charges the Association an annual rent.
- Historically, the association has managed other sites in the village. But currently no other allotment sites in the village fall under the Association's remit.
- The site covers about 17,000 sq m (or 3.7 acre)
- Excluding the Car Park and tracks, the site is split into 49 formal plots with an average size of about 326 sq m. This include a Wildlife Garden which in turn includes a small pond.
- Some of the 49 formal plots are split into half plots. The half plots system allows tenants with otherwise busy lives to look after a more manageable plot size. it also allows for our older tenants to gently downsize.
- The Association has a constitution. In accordance with The Constitution, the association holds an Annual General Meeting at which The Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary and other Management Committee positions are elected.
- All members of the community are welcome to apply for a plot. This usually requires the prospective tenant being placed on a Waiting List. Plots are then offered to the person at the 'top of' the waiting list.

### 2015 Achievements:

- During 2015 we cultivated, on average, 23 full plots and 51 half plots.
- There was no significant periods of a plot standing un-tenanted. This is despite 10 plots changing hands.
- This occupancy gave good recreation, a healthy lifestyle and a plentiful supply of fresh fruit and vegetables to 59 tenants and their families.
- Also during 2015, the wildlife garden had further development, which included addition of a liner to the pond - which had dried out over the summer period.
- Waste asbestos, broken glass and other general waste was removed from site.

- Overall the site is clean safe and well cultivated.
- On the administration side, the 2016 AGM agreed a Constitution for the Association.
- On the negative side, the wettest winter on record resulted significant damage to the grass Service Track and a slow start to the 2015 season.

### **2016 Aspirations:**

- Currently all of the plots are tenanted.
- We hope to maintain the 2015 healthy levels of plot occupancy, and further development to the wildlife garden.
- We have already made repairs to the grass cover of the Service Track but some of the rutted areas will require a better engineered solution during 2016.
- We plan to open the site for the Swanwick Open Garden day on June 25th.
- On the administrative side, we are looking forward to working with the Parish Council to develop a firmer, better defined relationship, where our respective responsibilities are defined and understood.
- We are also looking to the Parish Council to help define the boundaries of the site which are currently ill-defined in places.

Brian - Secretary Swanwick Allotments Association

# Annual Parish Meeting

## Chair's Report – 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017

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Chair's Report is to the Annual Parish Meeting of the Swanwick Electorate held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

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 and Twitter.

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 the 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 21st May 2016. 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.

I will not name everyone lest I offend by inadvertently missing anyone off the list. A general thanks to the various organisations, stall holders and entertainers that participated, not forgetting the Clerk and 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 13<sup>th</sup> May 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.

### **Swanwick Neighbourhood Plan Working Group**

The working group completed its task and the Parish Council submitted the Swanwick Parish Neighbourhood Plan to Amber Valley Borough Council in the previous year, on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2015. AVBC administered the further public consultation in early 2016 and eventually contracted with an Independent Examiner to undertake the independent examination of the plan. The report of the Independent Examiner was delivered to the Parish Council on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

Although AVBC were not legally obliged to consult with the Parish Council on any suggested modifications that the Independent examiner recommended, it was disappointing that this did not happen before AV Cabinet considered a report on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2016. Despite representations at the meeting, AVBC decided to accept the modifications en bloc without offering to consider any alternative courses of action.

The Parish Council and Swanwick Neighbourhood Working Group were of the opinion that the modifications were so drastic that the plan no longer reflected the aspirations of Swanwick and that the plan was not likely to receive support at referendum. The campaign mounted by the Swanwick Neighbourhood Plan Working Group to 'Vote NO' was appropriate and well received by the community.

The referendum was held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2016. The turnout was 26%. The NO Vote was overwhelming at 85.5% of the votes cast. The description that 'the neighbourhood plan failed at referendum' does not do justice to the exercise of democracy. The Swanwick Community was the first in the country to reject their modified neighbourhood plan. Congratulations!

It is highly unlikely that the Parish Council will try again; the time and effort is not worth the return. The Parish Council will concentrate its efforts on scrutinising the Local Plan during the consultation phase and submitting relevant comments that reflect the interests of the community.

### **Village Hall Working Group**

The intention is to build a village hall/ community building and ancillary units with car parking. A Village Hall Working Group was set up and is working to prepare outline plans. We still welcoming residents with a range of skills, to join the Working Group, even if it is for particular phases of the development.

The outline planning application was submitted in March/ April to AVBC, the Local Planning Authority. The Parish Council will be inviting residents, businesses and organisations to take part in a survey to identify the range of facilities that are needed and that will enhance community activities available within the village.

A survey questionnaire will be included in the May Newsletter and delivered to every house within Swanwick. In addition there will be a series of exhibitions starting with an exhibition at the Well Dressing on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2017 and then at different times and a number of other venues for residents to visit.

### **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. QE II Park was 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.

### **Civic Service**

My personal thanks to Councillor Brenda Payne and her team for the work in preparing and organising the Civic Service held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016 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 Amber Valley Voices added to the choral offering. As usual the service was well attended and the refreshments, supplied by The Salt Pot at the Old School House, were soon consumed.

The Parish Council had a new supplier for the Christmas lights last December and this added a new fresh look to the lights. The Christmas tree was donated to the Parish and was probably one of the best trees for years. Anyone else with a tree to offer, 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 has topped supplying free poo bags and will be concentration on promoting responsible dog ownership in conjunction with Amber Valleys 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**

I do not want to dwell on planning issues 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.



I have previously reported that INEOS Shale has acquired the licences for shale exploration within a number of areas including the East Midlands. Swanwick Parish Council, in common with other Town and Parish Councils, was invited to attend a presentation by INEOS. A Parish Councillor and a resident of Swanwick attended the presentation on 9th May 2016 to understand the processes that INEOS intended to use during the exploratory stages leading to shale gas extraction.

The Parish Council has not at anytime been in any talks with INEOS or FGP (Fisher German Priestner). As a Parish Council we do not have any powers to enter into talks about or negotiate any aspect of mineral or gas extraction. Such responsibility lies with Derbyshire County Council, the minerals planning authority, and will be subject to planning regulations. The Parish Council will 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 improvements, the mine cars have been refurbished and re-set on new sleepers. 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.

### **Swanwick's Allotments**

The Swanwick Allotment Association has entered into a new tenancy agreement with the Parish Council for a period of five years until 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022, to manage the allotments at Shirley Road. The Association will be issuing individual tenancy agreements to plot holders on similar terms.

The Nether Close Garden Allotments have been let on new tenancy agreements for a period of three years until 5<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

### **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 on developing the Village Hall site, the ancillary units and the car park. We are sending out a survey questionnaire to all residents with the newsletter at the end of April and will be having an exhibition at the Well Dressing to encourage feedback.

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 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 due for 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.

George Soudah, Cllr  
Chair Swanwick Parish Council