

Swainsthorpe Parish Council
Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting
held on Monday 15 July 2024 at 7.30pm

In Attendance: Cllr Ann Chandler, Cllr Nicki Craft, Cllr Geoff Curran, Cllr Margaret Robins, Cllr Andy Haggith

Also present: Parish Clerk Nicola Ledain, 4 members of the public

1. To consider apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Claire Tuttle and Cllr Joe Casey.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8 May 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

4. Public Open Forum including reports from District and County Councillors

There was nothing to report.

5. Planning

5.1 *Update on Local Green Energy Applications*

No new information has been received from any of the new green infrastructure projects. There had been no news from the representatives from Bloys Grove but it was reported that the archaeological dig was still underway.

5.2 There were no new planning applications to consider.

It was noted that the deadline for people to respond to the application on Church Road was the end of the week.

6. Finance

6a. The financial report was agreed.

It was agreed to leave £10k in the current account and move the rest to the savings account.

6b. The following payments were agreed:

Nicola Ledain – clerk salary

7. Policies

The Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were both agreed.

8. Street lighting contract

The street lighting contract from TT Jones was agreed for 3 years. The clerk would sign on behalf of the parish council and return.

9. Update on Village Plan

Elaine Parkinson reported that she had received a proposal to undertake the work needed from the consultant and she shared this with the parish council. She had applied to 5 consultants but had only received this one. SNC had confirmed that it was ok to approve the one received. Four more residents from the village had come forward to be part of the steering group. The plan

could potentially take 18 months to 2 years to complete. EP would arrange for the steering group to meet with Rachel Leggett before agreeing to her to undertake the work. She would canvass some availability dates and offer a couple of dates for everyone to respond to. £1k had been ringfenced in the parish council accounts for the village plan.

10. TPO for the Millenium Oak Tree

The Millenium Oak had been planted in 2005, to mark 200 years since nelson's death. It was suggested that it would be beneficial for the village to mark a TPO on the tree. This would protect the tree aswell as the roots underground. It was also suggested that a plaque could be placed on or near the tree with information of when and why it was planted.

11. Jubilee Garden

The bench in the garden had not been installed yet due some personal delays with the gardener. It was hoped that the seat can be installed before it was opened to the public. The suggestion of burying a time capsule would be deferred to the next meeting. It was agreed that the grass cuttings from the garden would be left. It was also noted that hedges around the village should not be cut during certain time of the year and this could be added into the contract of the groundsman next year.

12. Telephone box and defibrillator

It was reported that work had started on the telephone box. It appeared to be in good condition. The next steps would include painting it "phone box red" and installing brackets for the defibrillator. A short discussion ensued regarding the defibrillator and training was suggested which would be researched. The clerk would consider some grants to see what was available.

13. Dog waste bin

An extra dog waste bin would be requested as part of the village plan.

14. Play Area

Having shared the plans of the proposed new play area, the council AGREED that Action Play and Leisure would be awarded the work. A grant for £20k had been applied for from South Norfolk Council, and further grants would be applied for.

15. Speedwatch

Since the last meeting, there had been three Speedwatch sessions. More were hoped to have been undertaken but due to holidays and the weather this had not been possible. Over the three sessions, 8 people had been caught speeding. It was becoming apparent that having Speedwatch in the village was having an effect.

16. Items for next agenda

Grass cuttings left, village gates, sam2, play area update, defibs (grants and training).

17. Dates of next meeting

The next meeting was currently arranged for Wednesday 11 September 2024.

Meeting finished at 9.09pm