

Swainsthorpe Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
Wednesday 20 November 2024 at 7.30pm

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

Also present: 7 members of the public, District Councillor John Cook

1. To consider apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Joe Casey and Cllr Claire Tuttle

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

3. Minutes

- 3a. The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11 September 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chair.
- 3b. The village gates and associated speed limit were being discussed with the Highway Engineer.
- 3c. SAM2 had been ordered and would be delivered hopefully by Christmas. It had a data collection unit associated with it which would capture and hold data regarding the speed of traffic.

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

- 4a. District Councillor John Cook reported that he had spoken to the tree preservation officer regarding the Tree Preservation Order on the Trafalgar Oak on the Millennium Green which had now been granted.
- 4b. He also reported that there was some member funding available up to £800 for any small project up to April 2025.
- 4c. An enforcement officer at SNC had left and been replaced whom John Cook had met with. It was hoped that the enforcement area of the Council would be strengthened.
- 4d. He offered to speak to the Highway Engineer regarding the relevant speed limits that needed reducing.
- 4e. The public asked if the speed limit on the A140 through Swainsthorpe could be reduced as it was in Newton Flotman.

5. Planning

5.1 *Update on Local Green Energy Applications*

Charles Carron-Brown reported on the green energy projects that affected Swainsthorpe and the update is appended to the minutes.

The Chair added that, with reference to the Bloys Grove Solar Farm Moudra Choudury had emailed to state that the containers would be as far away on the development from the village as possible. There was a visit planned in January and then they would be in touch regarding a start date.

- 5b. There were no current planning applications to consider.
- 5c. The council had received £314 in CIL money, but it was unclear where this referred to. The clerk would contact South Norfolk Council. After further investigation the CIL money related to planning application 2019/0727.

6. Correspondence

- 6a. The clerk had received correspondence from residents in the Vale regarding the speed of traffic travelling out of the village towards Mulbarton. The Highway Engineer would be contacted to ask if the speed limit could be reduced.
- 6b. It was reported that cars were frequently getting stuck on Hickling Lane. The council suggested speaking to the Highway Engineer Adam Mayo to change it back to a bridleway from a BOAT. (byway open to all traffic)

7. Finance

- 7.1 The accounts were agreed.

8. Neighbourhood plan

- 8.1 Elaine Parkinson reported that on Monday 25th November 3pm – 8pm there was a neighbourhood plan consultation being held at St Peter's Church. It was a valuable opportunity for the village to have their say on their vision for the future of the village and everyone was encouraged to attend.
- 8.2 The council agreed that Geoff Curran would be added as a signatory onto the bank accounts to enable him as joint treasurer of the Neighbourhood Plan steering group to pay any invoices relating to the Neighbourhood Plan. It would still require dual authorisation and abide by the council's financial regulations.
- 8.3 The agreement between the parish council and Rachel Leggett Associated was agreed and signed by the Clerk, Chairman and a Councillor.

9. Jubilee Garden

The search for someone to look after the garden had been unsuccessful. The climbing roses would have to be removed but replaced by an alternative rose. It was hoped that David Ashley-Cowan would keep tidy as and when it was needed.

10. Telephone box and defibrillator

The telephone box was completed and the defibrillator had been purchased and received. Training and registration of the defibrillator would be actioned as soon as possible to enable it to be used.

11. Play Area

The outcome of the Awards for All lottery grant was still awaited.

12. Insurance Premium

This was due on 1st January 2025, but the renewal had not been received. It would be circulated via email.

13. Bus shelters

The windows in the bus shelter on the A140 had been smashed. After a short discussion it was agreed that the remaining glass would be taken out to make it safe and then leave it clear to prevent it being damaged again. AH would action.

14. Speedwatch

Geoff Curran reported that since the last parish council meeting there had been 4 Speedwatch sessions which had caught 16 vehicles exceeding the speed limit, including 2 traveling at 42 mph in a 30pmh limit. It seemed that the Speedwatch team were having a positive effect on the driving through the village.

15. Items for next agenda

Budget / precept

16. Dates of next meeting

The next meeting was currently arranged for Wednesday 8 January 2024.

Meeting finished at 8.40pm.