

**Swainsthorpe Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on**  
**Monday 11 September 2024 at 7.30pm**

**In Attendance:** Cllr Ann Chandler, Cllr Nicki Craft, Cllr Geoff Curran, Cllr Andy Haggith, Cllr Claire Tuttle, Cllr Joe Casey

**Also present:** 4 members of the public, District Councillor John Cook

**1. To consider apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Margaret Robins and parish clerk Nicola Ledain.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no interests declared.

**3. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

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

- 4a. Jon Cook reported that he had met with MP Ben Goldsbrough who had concerns regarding the Norwich to Tilbury pylon project. Although he had opposed the project, it was likely that it would be approved. The council suggested that it would be beneficial if Ben Goldsbrough could attend one of the parish council meetings and this would be investigated.
- 4b. Robin Parkinson reported that the SCCT were hoping to put an artificial Christmas tree on the green.

**5. Planning**

**5.1 *Update on Local Green Energy Applications***

Please see appendix A for detailed notes regarding the local green application

In addition, the Chair reported that she had written to Mousa Choudry with reference to Bloys Grove asking pertinent questions but has since had no response.

- 5.2 There were no new planning applications to consider.

**6. Correspondence**

Bonfires in the village which had been lit by the staff on Simon Cruickshank's land on the plot on Briar lane. It was intended that this land would be used to grow vines, and it had been stated that there wouldn't be any more bonfire, new hedging and drainage would be installed.

**7. Finance**

- 7a. In the absence of the clerk there was no financial report however it was reported that £20k had been transferred into the savings account as agreed at the last meeting.
- 7b. The following payments were agreed:  
Nicola Ledain – clerk salary

**8. Donation to partnership**

It was agreed that the PC should donate to the Partnership Village magazine. The clerk would ask what the shortfall was, but £300 was provisionally agreed. District Cllr Jon Cook suggested that a grant maybe available and he would investigate.

**9. Website**

It was noted that the website needed to be brought up to date in some areas and made more relevant. This would be actioned.

**10. Neighbourhood plan**

Elaine Parkinson had successfully applied for £6k (although this will be in two tranches) from SNC and a £10k locality grant. There was a Zoom meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 7-8pm with the consultant and a workshop on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October run by Rachel Leggett for the steering group. £2k had been agreed as contingency from the parish funds.

**11. Requested a TPO for Millennium Oak**

The Chair had requested a TPO online for the Millennium Oak. A representative from Norfolk County Council had been to visit the site and seemed positive that the TPO would be granted. It was hoped that news would be received soon.

**12. Jubilee Garden**

The bench still needed to be installed and this would take place at a convenient time by the gardener.

12a. Time capsule – It was agreed that this should take place at the fete next year. It was hoped to involve the local children and they should express their ideas what they would like to see in the capsule.

12b. It was agreed that the PC should hire someone to maintain the gardens. There could be a couple of potential people and these would be contacted to see if they were interested.

**13. Telephone box and defibrillator**

The refurbishment of the telephone box was finished. A defibrillator with locked box was being ordered and once received training would take place. The electricity was going to be connected on the 24<sup>th</sup> September.

**14. Play Area**

The PC had been successful in obtaining £20k from South Norfolk Council, thanks to District Cllr John Cook 's help. The outcome of the Lottery grant was still pending. A meeting of the charitable trust will be taking on the 25<sup>th</sup> September to discuss the trees.

**15. Speedwatch**

Since the last meeting there had been five sessions. 20 vehicles had been caught, 2 of which were not taxed. It seemed that drivers were becoming more aware of the Speedwatch group as many seemed to be slowing down.

**16. Items for next agenda**

Gates, sam2, potholes in Station Close (Saffron housing)

**17. Dates of next meeting**

The next meeting was currently arranged for Wednesday 13 November 2024.

Meeting finished at 8.45pm.

## Power Project Notes for Swainsthorpe Parish Council Meeting 11th September 2024

### National Grid

#### Norwich to Tilbury

The official consultation has finished and they have taken no notice of the comments from anyone suggesting that the offshore option should be considered. If the Secretary of State continues to implement the government's policy of accelerating the roll out of renewables then he is unlikely to hold back approval of the Development Consent Order for Norwich to Tilbury. This will trigger the Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk Pylons Group into initiating a judicial review for which they will need financial support. I believe it is in the interests of Swainsthorpe to support this.

Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk Pylons Group has produced a presentation (14 pages) entitled Make it a GREAT Grid Upgrade. I can send copies of this to anyone who is interested

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/15QdnF2ldDCpf8YM2o0nsuLJPYLrcUfgH/view?fbclid=IwY2xjaWFD9d9leHRuA2FlbQlxMAABHbr7I8cjxJPyrbFS35-](https://drive.google.com/file/d/15QdnF2ldDCpf8YM2o0nsuLJPYLrcUfgH/view?fbclid=IwY2xjaWFD9d9leHRuA2FlbQlxMAABHbr7I8cjxJPyrbFS35-tmA_nPvPNSR11Y7ASj74U_km6duDn7jSEID1zKw_aem_KlmpXe6_XficsJu002ArWA&pli=1)

[tmA\\_nPvPNSR11Y7ASj74U\\_km6duDn7jSEID1zKw\\_aem\\_KlmpXe6\\_XficsJu002ArWA&pli=1](https://drive.google.com/file/d/15QdnF2ldDCpf8YM2o0nsuLJPYLrcUfgH/view?fbclid=IwY2xjaWFD9d9leHRuA2FlbQlxMAABHbr7I8cjxJPyrbFS35-tmA_nPvPNSR11Y7ASj74U_km6duDn7jSEID1zKw_aem_KlmpXe6_XficsJu002ArWA&pli=1)

#### Norwich Main Substation Extension

This project was approved by South Norfolk District Council and work has commenced on construction (it commenced before they approved it actually on land that they already own and can work on without approval). It is worth noting that NG upgraded the existing 400kV line prior to submitting the planning application for the extension but have stated they must have the extension to manage the upgrade and the new connections including Orsted, Equinor, EDF Solar, EDF BESS and FPC BESS.

#### Orsted – Hornsea 3

Construction of the Converter Station continues apace. The flooding on the B1113 is reportedly not their fault but that of Norfolk Highways who have not managed the drainage. Hall Farm have left part of the fields to the south of the substation unplanted; this will likely be for the incoming cable from the Converter Station. Orsted have informed SNDC that the BESS to be installed will be 300MW with a 2 hour duration so 600MWh. This will make it one of the largest BESSs in Europe.

#### Equinor – SEP and DEP

This project has now been approved by the outgoing Secretary of State. We can expect an application to SNDC for a BESS. Based on the relative project sizes I would expect this to be at least 180MW/360MWh. No work has yet started.

#### EDF -Bloys Grove Solar Farm and Cable Connection

Ann Chandler to provide update on Solar Farm

Cable Connection has been approved with 12 conditions covering archaeology, badgers, noise and dust amongst other matters. No mention was made of a traffic management plan.

#### EDF – BESS On land north of Hickling Lane

No work has started on this, it is understood that the connection date has been pushed back by National Grid but the timing is not known. The field concerned has been left fallow this year.

#### FPC – BESS on land north of Stoke Lane

FPC submitted an amendment to allow a second means of access to the site and this has been approved by SNDC. No water will be available on site for fire fighting. FPC do not yet have an approved route for connection to Norwich Main Substation. It is not certain that they even have an agreement for a connection from National Grid.

**Innova - BESS on Land north of Hickling Lane to the west of Equinor's site**

No progress to report

