

**Minutes of the meeting of the Swaffham Prior Parish Council held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 7.30pm in Swaffham Prior Village Hall.**

Present: Cllr John Covill (JC) (Chair), Cllr David Greenfield (DG), Cllr Sandra Gynn (SG), Cllr Peter Hart (PH), Cllr Kent-Phillips (SKP), Cllr Ruth Lambert (RL) and Cllr Kate Muscroft (KM).

In attendance: Jude Griffiths (Clerk)

There were 3 members of the public in attendance.

**51/24-25** To receive apologies for absence and to approve reasons for absence where appropriate.

Apologies received from Cllrs Alan Durrant and Paul Latchford

**52/24-25** Members' declaration of interest for items on the agenda and requests for dispensations

None.

**53/24-25** Public participation for items on the agenda  
One member of the public spoke briefly regarding the condition of public rights of way. A second member of the public noted an interest in Agenda Item 61/24-25.

**54/24-25** Reports

- a) Cambridgeshire County Council. No report received; no representative attended.
- b) East Cambridgeshire District Council. A report was circulated by email; both representatives sent apologies. No comments or questions were raised.

**55/24-25** Approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024  
*SKP proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting; seconded PH, passed with 3 abstentions.*

**56/24-25** Matters arising from previous minutes (for information only)  
Minute reference 46/24-25. DG noted that the twice yearly weed spray of the cemetery had been added to the Nurture Landscapes schedule and was waiting for a correction to the figures before it could be signed off.

**57/24-25** Correspondence for consideration/circulation.

- a) Emails from J Cook regarding potholes in Heath Road, Swaffham Prior. Noted

**58/24-25** Consideration of planning applications received.

None received.

**59/24-25** Accounts for payment including:

- a) Clerk's salary and taxes

Total

£561.20

£561.20

Transfer from Business to Current account to cover outgoings - £1000.00

2<sup>nd</sup> transfer from Business to Current account - £ 500.00

nPower electricity (dd) - £294.10

Income:

Interest on Building Society account £812.46

CCC – contribution to grass-cutting £504.36

An additional bill for Nurture Landscapes (June grass cutting) was noted - £874.80

*SKP proposed that the accounts be settled in full; seconded KM, passed unanimously.*

*SKP proposed a transfer of £1500.00 from the Business to the Community Account; seconded PH, passed unanimously.*

**60/24-25** To agree the purchase of ground cover for the unrented allotment  
It was resolved not to buy ground cover for the unrented lower allotment.

**61/24-25** To review the rewilding project  
*7.40pm the meeting was suspended to allow discussion of the rewilding project with Mike Barker.*  
*7.52 meeting restarted.*  
It was resolved to postpone this item to the August meeting to allow Cllr Latchford's input.  
Action: DG and Mike Barker to continue working with Nurture Landscaping Ltd to getting the cutting regime correct.

**62/24-25** To discuss options for the maintenance/clearing of footpaths  
PH noted that the public right of way from Pulpit Corner to Devil's Dyke had been obscured by crops for part of its length.  
Action: RL to complain to Cambridge County Farms regarding the obscured footpath.  
Action: RL to contact the suggested tenant farmer.  
*7.57 meeting suspended to allow input from a member of the public. 8pm meeting restarted.*  
Action: Clerk to write to landowner regarding clearing the Station Road end of the footpath that runs behind the school.  
Action: KM to contact Community Payback Team to see if they would be interested in clearing the Station Road to back of the Village Hall path, Pound to Coopers Green path and Cage Hill to the Beeches path.

**63/24-25** Report on Heating Scheme  
Nothing to report.

**64/24-25** Clerk's Report

- a) Cemetery – roughly a third of the grave markers have been photographed and the inscriptions recorded.
- b) Allotments – the huge pile of shreds that appeared in the lay by is gradually being moved onto the allotments. The gate from the cemetery to the allotments needs adjusting again.  
Action: Clerk to fix gate.
- c) Clerk to purchase a portable hard drive to back up all the PC files and to enable SKP to keep a copy of records in case of sudden incapacitation of the Clerk.
- d) Playground – new seats to be fitted, bushes for the swings are on order. The too-long swing chains will be shortened at the same time.

**65/24-25** Parish Councillors' Reports  
KM – The Village Hall Committee would like clarification regarding what areas of the village hall the PC has responsibility for and what areas are the committee's responsibility. It was noted that the VHC organise window cleaning, the PC maintain the grass and trees. KM also noted that the VHC have given permission for the installation of a Little Library in the area of garden behind the village noticeboard and would like the PC to undertake maintenance of a gate giving access to it.  
To be decided at the August meeting.

*The meeting ended at 815pm.*

Open Question Time  
Further discussion of the maintenance of footpaths.  
*Business concluded at 820pm*