

Minutes of the meeting of the Swaffham Prior Parish Council held on Thursday 14th November 2024 at 7.30pm in Swaffham Prior Village Hall.

Present: Cllr John Covill (JC) (Chair), Cllr Alan Durrant (AD), Cllr David Greenfield (DG), Cllr Sandra Gynn (SG), Cllr Peter Hart (PH), Cllr Steve Kent-Phillips (SKP), Cllr Ruth Lambert (RL) and Cllr Paul Latchford (PL).

In attendance: Jude Griffiths (Clerk)

There were 2 members of the public in attendance.

123/24-25 To receive apologies for absence and to approve reasons for absence where appropriate.

Apologies were received from Cllr Kate Muscroft.

124/24-25 Members' declaration of interest for items on the agenda and requests for dispensations

None.

125/24-25 Public participation for items on the agenda

A member of the public asked if it was known how many people had responded to the bus survey. It is not.

126/24-25 Reports

- a) Cambridge County Council – no report received, no representative attended
- b) East Cambs District Council- report circulated prior to the meeting, Cllr John Trapp attended. Cllr Trapp noted that parishes should be consulted regarding the new Local Plan. DG suggested that changes could be imposed on parishes. Cllr Trapp stated he would represent parish opinions.

127/24-25 Approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 10th October 2024

SKP proposed that with one typo corrected, the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting; seconded PH, passed unanimously.

128/24-25 Matters arising from previous minutes (for information only).

112/24-25 DG had responded to the survey on behalf of the PC.

129/24-25 Correspondence for consideration/circulation.

- a) Email with survey report and presentation for A-B1102 bus route meeting – for information.

130/24-25 Consideration of planning applications received.

- a) 24/01140/FUL Single storey side extension. Sheldricks Cottage, 42 Lower End, Swaffham Prior, CB25 0HT
DG proposed that the PC endorse the application; seconded SKP, passed unanimously.

Approved:

- b) 24/00364/BNGD To discharge Biodiversity Net Gain Condition in relation to decision 24/00364/FUL dated 23rd August 2024 to deliver peatland restoration at Wicken Fen NNR. Tubney Fen South, Little Fen Drove, Reach, Cambridgeshire. Noted.
- c) 24/00364/DISB To discharge condition 3 (protected species licence) of decision 24/00364/DISB to deliver peatland restoration at Wicken Fen NNR. Tubney Fen South, Little Fen Drove, Reach, Cambridgeshire. Noted.
- d) 24/01023/TRE T1 Golden Thuja Plicata tree and T2 Juniper Chinensis (spartan) - Fell/cut down the trees as concerns regarding boundary wall damage and potential damage to water meters / supply for three properties, also removal necessary for works to be carried out to

connect property and two neighbouring properties to the Swaffham Prior heat network. 1 High Street Swaffham Prior Cambridge CB25 0LD. Noted.

131/24-25 Accounts for payment including:

a) Clerk's salary and taxes	£604.46
b) Meads Construction – moving of gravestones	£432.00
c) Village Hall rent (October)	£20.00
d) Nurture Landscapes – grass cutting (September)	£842.40
e) Nurture Landscapes – grass cutting (October)	£421.20
	£2320.06

PKF Littlejohn (External Audit) bill (paid) £252.00

Transfer to cash card £200.00

Direct debits:

Vodafone £36.86

Two reimbursements for the Clerk were noted of £24.70 (toner cartridges) and £29.90 (fence posts and screws).

SKP proposed that the accounts be paid in full, seconded PH, passed unanimously.

SKP proposed a £3000.00 transfer from the business to the current account; seconded DG, passed unanimously.

132/24-25 To agree a proposed permanent sign on Betty's Bank for Betty Prime

The Chair closed the meeting at 7.43pm to allow a member of the public to address the PC regarding the sign design. The meeting reopened at 7.48pm.

SKP proposed that the PC approve a permanent sign for Betty's Bank; seconded SG, passed unanimously.

133/24-25 To agree a quote for the making safe of the tall Benstead gravestone.

SKP proposed that the PC accept the quote from Ivett and Reed for taking down and making safe the tall Benstead gravestone; seconded AD, passed unanimously.

134/24-25 To note the results of the October operational inspection of the playground and agree a new contract for the next 12 months.

The results of the October quarterly inspection were noted.

SKP proposed that the PC only undertake the annual playground inspection; seconded PH, passed unanimously.

The Clerk noted that quarterly inspections were recommended, but not statutory.

135/24-25 To discuss a response to the Kingsway solar farm consultation

After discussion the PC concluded that:

- The PC opposed the creation of the connection corridor between the proposed solar farm and the Burwell substation.
- If the connection corridor is to go ahead the PC preferred the lines to be underground due to the curtain effect of wires from what must be very large pylons.

DG proposed that he respond to the consultation as outlined above on behalf of the PC; seconded passed unanimously.

Action: DG to respond.

136/24-25 To agree a response to the government consultation on remote meetings and proxy voting

DG proposed that the PC respond in favour of hybrid meetings in exceptional circumstances; seconded PL, passed with 7 votes for, 1 vote against.

DG proposed that the PC respond opposing proxy voting; seconded SKP, passed unanimously.

Action: DG to respond as above.

137/24-25 To hear feedback from the A-B1102 meeting of 6th November regarding bus routes. The A-B1102 presentation and result of the travel survey had been circulated.

DG reported.

The travel survey carried out by A-B1102 had received 900 responses which had been statistically analysed. A 2 service system (the T4 and T5) buses was developed from this, consisting of a fast and a slow service connecting at key points or hubs, covering more villages and reaching more destinations within Cambridge. Quy has been identified as an interchange between the services and there are several potential hubs in the villages, including one at Swaffham Prior, which may require a second bus shelter being built, either on the top road or opposite the current bus shelter, near the playground, but this is still in early stages and looking at options, so nothing definite yet. CPCA are developing packages to provide, put up and maintain (for a few years) bus shelters and Real Time Information equipment, and also looking into what funding would be available for these if required.

Action: DG to act as key contact point for the PC with A-B1102.

138/24-25 To discuss the need for protection for the Parochial Charities sheds

SKP reported that the 'Paper Sheds' by the playground are probably the last two original buildings belonging to the Parochial Church Charities and may be 16th/17th century. They may have been built to store coal bought for the school and the poor of the village - a stipend from the original charity bequest or coal/wash house for the charities' houses that stood on Town Close. As such they are of historical significance to the village.

SKP proposed that the Clerk contact East Cambs to add the Paper Sheds to the Historical Buildings List; seconded PH, passed unanimously.

Action: Clerk to contact the Historical Buildings List.

139/24-25 To discuss and agree the maintaining of unrented allotments and the paths next to them.

Action: PL to inspect at the weekend and email options for consideration at the December meeting.

140/24-25 Report on Heating Scheme

DG noted nothing to report.

SG commented that the Scheme seemed to be working well.

141/24-25 Clerk's Report

- a) A number of grants were now open for application from ECDC
- b) The Law Commission are running a consultation regarding burial law updates, responses needed by 9th January.

Action: Clerk to respond on behalf of the PC.

- c) The defibrillator padlock has been replaced with one that should be easier to read and the Clerk is looking into replacing the light bulbs in the telephone box so that it will be lit up at night.
- d) The playground inspection to do list is complete apart from treating of the moss and filling in cracks between the play surface and the edging.

142/24-25 Parish Councillors' Reports

- a) SKP – Voneus broadband has been down for a fortnight and they are aware of this.
 - The phone box will be hosting an advent calendar window
 - The Pound gate needs revarnishing and the white post of the village sign needs repainting.Action: Clerk to contact Viv Elston to do the work needed.
- b) DG - Fibre. Of the two potential suppliers, County Broadband will almost certainly not come to Swaffham Prior. GigaClear has completed their surveys and may start work early next year; they are still considering if they will cover the High Street.
 - Grass-cutting. Nurture Landscaping had wanted to invoice the PC monthly, dividing the total cost across 12 months. DG had refused as the seasonal nature of the contract would not suit this system.

The meeting ended at 8.50pm

Open Question Time

None.

Business concluded at 8.50pm.