

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF SWANTON ABBOTT HELD  
ON 14th. NOVEMBER 2023 at 7.00p.m. in the VILLAGE HALL,  
SWANTON ABBOTT.

PRESENT –Cllrs. M. Vaughan (Chair), S. Day, G. McAnsh and P. Hodson, the Clerk  
G Kimmerling, & 8 members of the public.

**Open session for members of the public to speak.**

The outside of the Village Hall may be decorated with lights for Christmas. This was encouraged.

	<b>AGENDA</b>	<i>Action</i>
23.51	<p>a. <u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> None. Cllr. Penfold will arrive later.</p> <p>b. <u>DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.</u> Cllr. Day – Item 23.55 Planning for Corofin, Cross Rd &amp; Rosedale, Cross Rd.</p> <p>c. <u>TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 29<sup>TH</sup>. 2023</u> <b>Resolution.</b> Proposed by Cllr. Day, seconded by Cllr. McAnsh and agreed by the Parish Council to accept the Minutes of the meeting held on August 29<sup>th</sup>. as a true record. These were then signed by the Chair.</p>	
23.52	<p><u>CLERK'S REPORT AND UPDATE ON ITEMS FROM THE MINUTES</u></p> <p>a. The Defibrillator has been repaired and is now back in place.</p> <p>b. Footpaths are not meant for any motorised vehicles so it is not appropriate to widen the path from the church to The Hill.</p> <p>c. Highways have said there is no funding for bus shelters. The Chair had been informed otherwise so he will check on this.</p> <p>d. Highways will install a 'No Through Road' sign on The Hill by the Loke.</p>	<b>Chair</b>
23.53	<p><u>NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL AND NORTH NORFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORTS.</u> Given after item 23.58. by NNDC &amp; NCC Cllr. Penfold. NNDC has 25 Liberal Democrat councillors, 12 Conservatives &amp; 3 Independents. They have put together a Corporate Priorities Plan covering environmental issues, climate change to reach net 0 by 2030 and quality of life issues. The Sustainable Committees Fund has donated to the Village Hall Toilets, the Woodland area and the Chapel. The Local Plan to 2036, which includes Planning, has been sent to His Magister's Inspectorate for approval. This includes the 1800 properties West of North Walsham. A problem here could be the bottleneck at Coltishall. The County Council has a Warm &amp; Well Winter campaign which can be viewed online. A new magazine – Your Norfolk – will be issued soon. On December 12<sup>th</sup>. NCC will vote on the County Deal for Norfolk which is the Governments devolution plan. £20m extra could be available over the next 30 years and the County Council would have extra powers &amp; responsibilities. A leader has to be elected – not necessarily from Councillors. One downside is another layer of government which would cost money. Cllr. Penfold is meeting with Highways on December 6<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> to visit parishes which will include Swanton Abbott. The Chair will attend this. There could be funds towards the Village Hall ramp. There will be major changes to the roundabouts in North Walsham.</p>	<b>Chair</b>  <b>Page 331</b>

23.54	<p><b>FINANCES</b></p> <p>a) <b>TO CONSIDER THE PRESENT FINANCIAL POSITION</b>  The Clerk had produced up-to date accounts.  £3500 had been received for the second half of the Precept, £453.81 from Re-cycling and £60 for adverts in the Abbott.</p> <p>b) <b>TO CONSIDER AND RESOLVE WHETHER TO APPROVE OUTSTANDING INVOICES FOR PAYMENT.</b></p> <p><b>Resolution.</b> Proposed by Cllr. Vaughan, seconded by Cllr. McAnsh and approved by the Parish Council to pay the following invoices.  The following payments were made on-line before the meeting.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>NNDC</td> <td>Emptying Doggie Bins</td> <td>£776.88 (VAT £129.48)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S A Village Hall</td> <td>Extra meeting</td> <td>£ 10.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J Vaughan</td> <td>Refreshments for extra meeting</td> <td>£ 3.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>G Kimmerling</td> <td>McAfee subs</td> <td>£109.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>G Kimmerling</td> <td>2 Poppy Wreaths</td> <td>£ 40.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Macmillan Nurses</td> <td>s137 donation from Re-cycling</td> <td>£201.01 paid by chq.no. 100989 dated 27.10.23 &amp; signed by Cllrs. Vaughan &amp; McAnsh</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Granville's Gardening Services</td> <td>Grasscutting/ Maintenance</td> <td>£320.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NNDC</td> <td>Election costs</td> <td>£ 39.62</td> </tr> </table> <p>The following payments were authorised to be paid on-line:-</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>S A Village Hall</td> <td>Hire of hall</td> <td>£ 10.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community Chapel</td> <td>Electricity for Defibrillator</td> <td>£ 20.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>G Kimmerling</td> <td>Clerk's expenses</td> <td>£8.98</td> </tr> <tr> <td>M Vaughan</td> <td>Chair's half year allowance</td> <td>£50.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nick Hindle Stonemason</td> <td>Village Sign</td> <td>£2775.00 (VAT £462.50)</td> </tr> </table> <p>The Clerk explained that £3750 had been set aside for the Village Sign. The total cost had been £4740 but £790 can be claimed back in VAT. The sign came in at £200 over budget.</p> <p>c) <b>TO CONSIDER AND SET THE CLERK'S HOURS AND SALARY FOR 2024/25</b></p> <p><i>The Clerk left the room whilst this was under discussion.</i></p> <p><b>Resolution.</b> Proposed by Cllr. Vaughan, seconded by Cllr. Day and agreed by the Parish Council to increase the Clerk's salary by 4% from April 2025. The hours will remain the same.</p> <p>d) <b>TO CONSIDER AND SET THE CHAIR'S ALLOWANCE FOR 24/25</b></p> <p><b>Resolution.</b> Proposed by Cllr. Day, seconded by Cllr. McAnsh and agreed by the Parish Council to keep the Chair's Allowance at £100 per annum.</p> <p>Cllr. Hodson was concerned that the Parish Council had to pay to have the Bottle Bank emptied as it is situated on his land. The Clerk will look into alternatives.</p>	NNDC	Emptying Doggie Bins	£776.88 (VAT £129.48)	S A Village Hall	Extra meeting	£ 10.00	J Vaughan	Refreshments for extra meeting	£ 3.00	G Kimmerling	McAfee subs	£109.99	G Kimmerling	2 Poppy Wreaths	£ 40.00	Macmillan Nurses	s137 donation from Re-cycling	£201.01 paid by chq.no. 100989 dated 27.10.23 & signed by Cllrs. Vaughan & McAnsh	Granville's Gardening Services	Grasscutting/ Maintenance	£320.00	NNDC	Election costs	£ 39.62	S A Village Hall	Hire of hall	£ 10.00	Community Chapel	Electricity for Defibrillator	£ 20.00	G Kimmerling	Clerk's expenses	£8.98	M Vaughan	Chair's half year allowance	£50.00	Nick Hindle Stonemason	Village Sign	£2775.00 (VAT £462.50)	Clerk
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23.55	<p><b>PLANNING</b></p> <p>a) <b>TO CONSIDER ANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS.</b></p> <p><b>EF/23/1955 Corofin, Cross Road</b>  Lawful Development Certificate for proposed siting of mobile home in rear garden to be used as ancillary to the main dwelling.  <i>The owner of Corofin explained that this was no longer required as PF/23/1954 had been approved.</i></p> <p><b>PF/23/2230 Rosedale House, Cross Road</b>  Alterations, including partial demolition and extension, to detached outbuilding to form home gym/garden room (retrospective)  Approved by the Parish Council 06/11/2023.</p>	Page 332																																							

	<p>b) <u>TO NOTIFY OF ANY PLANNING DECISIONS BY NNDC</u>  <b>PF/23/0535 Church Farm, Church Lane</b>  Change of use of outbuilding to create annexe accommodation and domestic storage. Approved 25/08/2023.  <b>PF/23/0499 Janipy House, The Street. (Change of description.)</b>  Proposed two storey and single storey rear extensions and alterations. Detached single storey annexe to rear of dwelling. Approved 6/09/2023  <b>PF/23/1954 Corofin, Cross Road</b>  Erection of detached single storey outbuilding to provide annexe accommodation ancillary to the main dwelling  Approved 02/11/2023</p> <p>c) <u>TO CONSIDER ANY OTHER PLANNING ISSUES.</u>  None.</p>	
23.56	<p><u>HIGHWAYS AND DRAINAGE ISSUES UPDATE</u>  a. <u>UPDATE</u>  Cllr. Vaughan said that some issues have been resolved. Cllr. Hodson asked if anything could be done to alleviate the flooding in his yard. Cllr. Vaughan has taken photos of this.</p> <p>b. <u>FOOTPATHS UPDATE</u>  Cllr. Day inspected the footpaths in June and September and walked all the footpaths on 26<sup>th</sup> September after a report that some were in a dangerous condition. He found them to be in good condition. The path from the Village Hall to the school has been improved by Highways.  Residents have complained about the state of the footpaths on more than one occasion. It was proposed that a resident should be invited to take on the role of Footpath Warden as he regularly walks in the village and has more knowledge of the problems that can arise. The Clerk will write to him.</p>	Clerk
23.57	<p><u>BROADBAND AND MOBILE PHONE UPDATE</u>  The Village Hall now has a satellite signal.  Cllr. McAnsh has sent an e-mail to Duncan Baker regarding the new mast which B.T. had promised for last July.  County Broadband have provided an advert for the Abbott newsletter.</p>	
23.58	<p><u>WEBSITE UPDATE.</u>  Cllr. Day had 4 suggestions for the website:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Keep it as it is at £8.40 per month</li> <li>2. Use a Word-press or Wicks site with multiple administrators – the downside it could fall into disuse. Mr. Vincent would help with this.</li> <li>3. Migrate to the NALC site for £70 per annum. NALC would keep the information up-to-date but it would only be for Parish Council use.</li> <li>4. Use the NALC site and set up a Word-press site for the rest of the village.</li> </ol>	
	<p>Cllr. Day suggested asking the community what it would like.  <i>The meeting was closed to allow members of the public to speak.</i>  One person said they had stopped looking at the Parish Council web-site as it was not up-to-date.  It was suggested it might be cheaper if other organisations joined in and shared the cost.  <i>The meeting was closed to the public.</i>  It was agreed that Cllr. Day should write to other village organisations for their views.  <i>NCC &amp; NNDC Cllr. Penfold arrived at the meeting at 7.40p.m. and gave his reports (see Item 23.53.) He left at 8.05p.m.</i></p>	Page 333

23.59	<u>ENGAGEMENT EVENING REPORT</u> There were local displays on view and it was quite well attended but only 3 people new to the village came. It was agreed to postpone advertising the vacancies until the New Year.	
23.60	<u>PUBLIC MEETING ON SPEEDING ON 29<sup>TH</sup>. SEPTEMBER 2023</u> Cllr. Vaughan attended this. The P.A. system didn't work which made it difficult for people to hear. There are no funds available at present but there will be follow up meetings. At a recent SNAP meeting a crackdown on speeding and drink driving was announced.	
23.61	<u>REPORT ON VATTENFALL PRESENTATION ON 4<sup>TH</sup>. SEPTEMBER 2023</u> Cllr. Day & the Clerk attended this. Cllr. Day explained that there are to be three big wind farms situated 47 kilometres out in the North Sea. A forth wind farm has been shelved due to lack of funding. This is due to be completed in 2029. At the moment, cables are being laid underground from Nacton to Happisburgh. Next year it will be from Ling to north of Felmingham. A Depot is being built north of Aylsham. From the Summer of 2024, Vattenfall are putting money into the communities so it may be possible for Swanton Abbott to apply for grants.	
23.62	<u>UPDATE ON VILLAGE SIGN</u> The new Village Sign was in place just in time for Remembrance Day. It was agreed to have an official opening of the sign in the New Year and Cllr. Penfold will be asked to officiate.	<b>Clerk</b>
23.63	<u>ON-GOING ISSUES TO REPORT AND RESOLVE, WHERE POSSIBLE, ON-GOING COMMUNITY ISSUES.</u> None.	
23.64	<u>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED.</u> E-mail covering four points:- 1. Confusing report on the Broadband in the Village Hall. Cllr. McAnsh had responded to this. 2. The bad state of the footpaths. See item 23.56 3. Prejudicial Interest recording. The Parish Council believes that this is recorded correctly. 4. Face Book Hub. This is completely separate from the Parish Council and any comments need to be sent to the administrators of the Hub. E-mail expressing disappointment that the Village Sign was unveiled without being publicized – see item 23.62 E-mail suggesting the 'No Parking' sign on the Community Hall needs replacing. This was agreed. Cllr. Vaughan said someone had offered to paint the seat by the Village Sign and suggested the Parish Council should pay for the paint. This was approved. Cllr. Vaughan will paint the post box.	<b>Clerk</b>
	The next meeting is January 16 <sup>th</sup> . 2024. The meeting closed at 8.25p.m.	