

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF SWANTON ABBOTT HELD
ON 12th. MARCH 2024 at 7.00p.m. in the VILLAGE HALL,
SWANTON ABBOTT.

PRESENT –Cllrs. M. Vaughan (Chair), S. Day, G. McAnsh & P.Hodson, the Clerk G Kimmerling, NCC & NNDC Cllr. S. Penfold, Steffan Aquarone & 7 members of the public.

Steffan Aquarone, the Liberal Democratic candidate for North Norfolk, gave a presentation on the Digital Switchover.

This will mean a change to landline phones as the analogue exchanges are due to be replaced by December 2025. This could be simply plugging the phone into the broadband rather than a wall socket but some households will need new equipment to allow their phones to work digitally. Some items, such as personal alarms, will not work without the new equipment. The phone providers have a duty to help people with the changeover. Some users, such as disabled people or those over 70, need to register as vulnerable and will get a back-up battery if the power should go off. There is no charge for any of these changes so people need to be aware of scams asking for information or money.

This information will be on the PC web-site and the Clerk can provide a paper copy.

Mr. Aquarone was thanked for his presentation and then left the meeting.

Open session for members of the public to speak.

No comments.

	AGENDA	<i>Action</i>
24.14	<p>a. <u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> None</p> <p>b. <u>DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.</u> Item 24.17c Request for funding for the Revels. Cllr. Day – on the Revels Committee.</p> <p>c. <u>TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 16TH. 2024</u> Resolution. Proposed by Cllr. McAnsh, seconded by Cllr. Day and agreed by the Parish Council to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on January 16th and these were then signed.</p>	
24.15	<p><u>CLERK'S REPORT AND UPDATE ON ITEMS FROM THE MINUTES</u></p> <p>a. The Clerk has not found a better contract for emptying the bottle bank so it will remain the same.</p> <p>b. The 'No Parking' sign for the wall by the defibrillator is on order and should be delivered in a week.</p> <p>c. The information on people who were previously interested in planting trees has been passed on to Cllr. Day.</p> <p>d. The vacancies on the Parish Council have been advertised.</p> <p>e. The defibrillator has new pads.</p>	
24.16	<p><u>NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL AND NORTH NORFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORTS.</u> Cllr. Penfold gave both reports. Both councils have been setting their budgets. All councils are facing difficult financial times and need fairer, longer term funding from Central Government. The County Council have raised their budget by 4.99%. They get 75p in the £1; District Council get 8p; Police get 14p and Parish Councils get 3p. The County Council needs to make savings of £41m this year and people can view this consultation on-line and make comments.</p>	

	<p>North Norfolk District Council has a £1.5m deficit and the Sustainable Communities Fund is on hold. The Community Chapel benefitted from a grant for a new heating system. There will be some changes to waste collections from April. NNDC wants to introduce food waste collections but needs more Government support.</p> <p>Cllr. Penfold had met with Cllr. Vaughan and Justin Le May from Highways and identified several Highway issues. These are still outstanding. Cllr. Vaughan said the bridge by Scottow Row has been damaged again and Cllr. Penfold will report this.</p> <p>Cllr. Hodson was concerned that the Jolly Farmers Pub is still rarely open. Application for Change of Use has not been requested so it is unlikely that anything can be done.</p>																						
24.17	<p><u>FINANCES</u></p> <p>a) <u>TO CONSIDER THE PRESENT FINANCIAL POSITION</u> The Clerk had produced up-to date accounts. Some costs were higher than expected but, overall, this was not a problem. The amount for emptying the Bottle Bank was high as it covered 2 months including Christmas and the New Year. The Clerk had sent in a claim for £1013.18 for reclaimed VAT.</p> <p>b) <u>TO CONSIDER AND RESOLVE WHETHER TO APPROVE OUTSTANDING INVOICES FOR PAYMENT.</u> Resolution. Proposed by Cllr. McAnsh, seconded by Cllr. Vaughan 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>Heart 2 Heart</td> <td>Defibrillator Pads</td> <td>£ 54.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Norfolk ALC</td> <td>New Website</td> <td>£ 17.50</td> </tr> </table> <p>The following payments were authorised to be paid on-line:-</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>S R Print & Design</td> <td>Newsletter</td> <td>£204.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>G Kimmerling</td> <td>No Parking Sign</td> <td>£35.15 (VAT £5.86)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S A Village Hall</td> <td>Hire of hall</td> <td>£ 10.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>G Kimmerling</td> <td>Clerk's expenses</td> <td>£ 10.48</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mrs. J Vaughan</td> <td>Chair's Allowance</td> <td>£ 50.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>c) <u>TO CONSIDER A DONATION TO THE REVELS FOR INSURANCE COVER AT £146.37</u> The Clerk read out a letter from the Revels Committee. The Parish Council hold £697.00 for the Revels. Cllr. Vaughan suggested using these funds for the insurance. Cllr. McAnsh felt the Revels were a good community asset which the Parish Council should support and Cllr. Hodson agreed. It was therefore agreed by the Parish Council to pay £146.37 for the Revels insurance.</p>	Heart 2 Heart	Defibrillator Pads	£ 54.00	Norfolk ALC	New Website	£ 17.50	S R Print & Design	Newsletter	£204.00	G Kimmerling	No Parking Sign	£35.15 (VAT £5.86)	S A Village Hall	Hire of hall	£ 10.00	G Kimmerling	Clerk's expenses	£ 10.48	Mrs. J Vaughan	Chair's Allowance	£ 50.00	
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24.18	<p><u>PLANNING</u></p> <p>a) <u>TO CONSIDER ANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS.</u> PF/24/0233 S A Community Chapel, The Street. Re-siting of two independent air source heat units on the external walls of chapel to ground level. Approved before the meeting. PF/23/2495 Laburnham Cottage, 52, Long Common Road. Withdrawn.</p>																						
	<p>b) <u>TO NOTIFY OF ANY PLANNING DECISIONS BY NNDC</u> None.</p> <p>c) <u>TO CONSIDER ANY OTHER PLANNING ISSUES.</u> None.</p>																						

24.19	<p><u>HIGHWAYS AND DRAINAGE ISSUES UPDATE</u></p> <p>a. <u>UPDATE</u> Covered under NCC, NNDC report. The flooding in Cllr. Hodson's garden had been reported.</p> <p>b. <u>FOOTPATHS REPORT</u> Cllr. Day had walked most of the footpaths. They were muddy and slippery but no problems.</p>	
24.20	<p><u>BROADBAND AND MOBILE PHONE UPDATE</u> Cllr. McAnsh had been asked for feedback from the satellite providers – NCC Broadband- for the Village Hall and would welcome any comments from villagers.</p>	Cr.McAnsh
24.21	<p><u>WEBSITE UPDATE.</u> Cllr. Day said the NALC Web-site is up and running. He has uploaded some items onto it and the Councillors and Clerk have passwords to allow them access. NALC offer a free training course and it was agreed that Cllr. Day should attend this and then run a session in the Village Hall for the other Councillors and the Clerk. Mr. Vincent will help transfer the existing information from the old web-site. It can be used for other organisations but is mainly for the Parish Council. It will be fully in use by May.</p>	Cllr Day
24.22	<p><u>CO-OPTION ONTO THE PARISH COUNCIL.</u> Dr. Keith Poland had expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council and it had been agreed that he should be co-opted onto the council. He will sign the Declaration of Acceptance at the end of the meeting and the Clerk will send all relevant information to him.</p>	Clerk
24.23	<p><u>ON-GOING ISSUES TO REPORT AND RESOLVE, WHERE POSSIBLE, ON-GOING COMMUNITY ISSUES.</u> A portrait of King Charles III has been ordered for the Village Hall. There is no charge. Cllr. Vaughan asked if the Parish Council would buy a D Day flag for the pole by the Village sign, Cllr Day wondered if it would offend anyone as it included other flags. This is the official sign so it was agreed to get this. Cllr. Hodson offered to pay for this. The Clerk will find out the cost and order it.</p>	Clerk
24.24	<p><u>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED.</u> E-mail expressing disappointment at the Parish Council's response to previous correspondence on the Village Hall Wi-fi and Footpath issues. This person has lost total confidence in the current Parish Council. Clerk's and Councils Direct 152.</p>	
24.25	<p>The next meeting is May 21st. 2024. Annual Parish Meeting at 6.30 and Annual Parish Council Meeting at 7.30. The meeting closed at 8.05p.m.</p>	