

**SWANWICK PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY 21ST DECEMBER 2023 at 7.00PM**

Present: Cllrs Bates, Beavan, Goodier, Grant, Trenear, Trewick and Clerk C Miles.

Members of the Public:

Members of the public listed waived their right to anonymity under the Data Protection Act:

J Briggs and D Learn.

1306 APOLOGIES

Cllr Powis

1307 VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS

None

1308 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Members were requested to declare any personal or prejudicial interest they may have in any item of the evening's business, and to explain the nature of that interest.

None

1309 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1309.1 Public Speaking

JB spoke about the failing AVBC Local Plan with AVBC being the centre of national attention as this still hasn't been put into place and the Government has given them 3 months to do the plan or they could be stripped of powers. On AVBC website they had an extraordinary meeting on 13th December and a pre sub local plan was agreed plus new consultation. **JB** said that so far AVBC has considered 3 local plans costing £3.5 million and still not got one in place.

1309.2 Members' Observations

Cllr Grant asked in future years if more lamp post poppies and Christmas lights could be put up so they are not just in the centre of the village. The Clerk said that if budget allowed the poppies would not be a problem but the lights can only be put on pre tested metal posts so a survey would be needed to decide which were suitable, then there would also be a cost for the fixings etc. The Clerk will look into this early next year.

1309.3 POLICE MATTERS

1309.3.1 Council Tax Discount for Volunteer Special Constables

The Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner has asked all Derbyshire Town/Parish Councils their thoughts on Council Tax being waived for Special Constables. DALC have said that it would be a District/Borough decision if it was feasible to do and they will keep Councils informed of any updates.

1309.4 REPRESENTATIONS OR EVIDENCE FROM MEMBERS DECLARING A PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

None

1310 MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL

RESOLVED:

Minutes and Confidential Minutes of the Full Council Minutes of meeting held 16th November 2023 were received as correct account of the meeting. The minutes were approved by all Councillors and signed by the Chair.

1311 PLANNING MATTERS

1311.1 Planning Applications

None

1312 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report was presented by the Clerk.

1312.1 Civic Service 13th December 2023

The Service was well attended and enjoyed by all. The collection including a donation the following day totalled £528.80 which was split with £264.40 going to Padley House and £264.40 between the Ripley and Somercotes branched of the Salvation Army. Thanks have been sent out to St. Andrews, Swanwick Primary School, Amber Valley Voices, Crich Brass Band and The Steampacket.

1312.2 Derby Road Bench

AVBC Planning Dept. has said that we do not need planning as the replacement bench cones under permitted development. The Clerk has purchased the bench and the Contractor will install it as soon as they can.

1312.3 Annual Audit

PROPOSED: To authorise the Clerk to appoint East Midlands Audit Service to do the internal Audit for the financial year ending March 2024 at a cost of £122.50.

RESOLVED: To authorise the Clerk to appoint East Midlands Audit Service to do the internal Audit for the financial year ending March 2024 at a cost of £122.50.

1312.4 Environmental Act 2021

The Council has been advised by DALC to decide what it could do and resolve the next action as soon as possible.

PROPOSED: To consider further doing the following as part of the Environmental Act 2021

1. Parish Map - get the community involved to map areas of ecological value, and areas of nature which matter to them within the Parish. These can be target areas to protect and enhance, and used to map opportunities to connect habitats on a landscape scale.
2. Carry out an audit/survey of key species and habitats - this is to gain an understanding of baseline habitats and species distributions, and to therefore compare improvements or declines. Annual bio blitz can be effective ways to record changes and get the community involved. Results can be submitted to ecological records centre, to thereby inform planning applications and other schemes where biodiversity in the parish could be impacted in the future.
3. Improve parish land for biodiversity- seek to create net gains in biodiversity on parish owned land. This can be through creation of habitats and/or changes in land management.
4. Work with other community groups and community engagement. A vital element is to engage the community of how essential biodiversity is, and to encourage individuals to improve their land and actions for net gain. Encourage community groups to engage in activities to help biodiversity. Provide resources, information and funding to the community and groups.
5. Legal and planning framework - to actively be involved in consultations with planning applications which will not benefit local ecosystems and biodiversity.
6. Pollution prevention - continue and improve clean up's within the village (e.g. litter) and implement measures to prevent pollution at the source.
7. Invasive species control - make the public aware of invasive species, such as Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam, and provide information on how to report these and for landowners on how to eradicate such species.

RESOLVED: To consider further doing the following as part of the Environmental Act 2021

1. Parish Map - get the community involved to map areas of ecological value, and areas of nature which matter to them within the Parish. These can be target areas to protect and enhance, and used to map opportunities to connect habitats on a landscape scale.
2. Carry out an audit/survey of key species and habitats - this is to gain an understanding of baseline habitats and species distributions, and to therefore compare improvements or declines. Annual bio blitz can be effective ways to record changes and get the community involved. Results can be submitted to ecological records centre, to thereby inform planning applications and other schemes where biodiversity in the parish could be impacted in the future.
3. Improve parish land for biodiversity- seek to create net gains in biodiversity on parish owned land. This can be through creation of habitats and/or changes in land management.
4. Work with other community groups and community engagement. A vital element is to engage the community of how essential biodiversity is, and to encourage individuals to improve their land and actions for net gain. Encourage community groups to engage in activities to help biodiversity. Provide resources, information and funding to the community and groups.
5. Legal and planning framework - to actively be involved in consultations with planning applications which will not benefit local ecosystems and biodiversity.
6. Pollution prevention - continue and improve clean up's within the village (e.g. litter) and implement measures to prevent pollution at the source.
7. Invasive species control - make the public aware of invasive species, such as Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam, and provide information on how to report these and for landowners on how to eradicate such species.

1312.5 Caretaker Bonus

The Chair and Clerk reported that they have implemented a Christmas 2023 bonus of £50 for the caretaker this year. The Council was in agreement of this.

1312.6 Nether Close Allotments

The Clerk reported that the Tenancy agreements had expired and needed renewing for the next 3 years from April 2023 to March 2026.

RESOLVED: To renew the Tenancy Agreements at a cost of £20 per Annum.

1313 CHAIR'S REPORT

1313.1 Budget 2024 to 2025

The Chair presented the monitoring report for the 2023-24 Budget, followed by the proposed budget for 2024-25 and the proposed precept for 2024-25.

RESOLVED:**1313.1.1** To approve the 2023-24 Budget as identified in the report.**1313.1.2** To approve the Swanwick Parish Council Budget for 2024-25.**1313.1.3** To approve the level of Precept for 2024-25 at £182,957.**1313.2 Highway Drains**

The Chair reported that Derbyshire County Cllr David Wilson had informed her that to assist in the back log of drain clearing in Derbyshire, funding of just over a million pounds has been granted from Central Government in the next financial year and he will be bidding to the Cabinet Member for Highways for a slice of this pool to help the village. The drain clearing service will be looking to use this funding for those drains that are fully filled with street detritus and it must be realised that this "extra funding" will not cover the entire back log. So he has asked members of the parish for a list of drains that have become redundant of usability. Cllrs suggested the end of Sleetmoor Lane, Old Swanwick Colliery Road roundabout, Pentrich Road and Hickton Road. The Chair asked that any other suggestion be reported to her.

1314 Jubilee Community Hall

No meeting of the Working Group.

1314.1 Jubilee Hall Village Survey

The survey closure date is 31st December and Cllr Trenear will collate the votes and suggestions for the 18th January 2024 meeting.

1315 Swanwick Recreation Ground (Charity No. 520525)**1315.1 Deeds Update**

The solicitors have not received a decision from Land Registry yet and the Clerk will keep chasing them.

1315.2 Recreation Ground update

The Clerk has requested that the changing rooms water meter be disconnected and is waiting for a response from Waterplus.

1315.3 Community Garden

The Chair reported that the flailing has been delayed but will be done as soon as weather improves.

1316 Correspondence & Circulars**1316.1 DALC November 2023**

Noted

1316.2 Training Courses

Noted

1317 Accounts**1317.1 RESOLVED: To approve urgent payments**

Date	Payable To	Reason	Amount
17.11.23	British Gas	Changing Rms SRG Inv 988628431 01.10.23 to 31.10.23	£418.08
27.11.23	CCTV & Security	Final CCTV sim card charge	£20.00
27.11.23	Derbyshire CC	Derby Road bench legal fees	£105.00
27.11.23	PC Website	Community Package 2023-24	£500.00
27.11.23	PC Website	Additional info on website	£35.00
27.11.23	Virgin Money	Bank charges Oct 2023	£13.10
01.12.23	British Gas	Changing Rms SRG Inv 814485247 01.11.23 to 15.11.23 – final bill	£196.83
01.12.23	Amazon	3 jotta books	£8.39
01.12.23	Toolstation	Cable ties	£7.63
01.12.23	Waterplus	Changing rooms 01.10.23 to 01.11.23	£16.84
01.12.23	O2	Clerks phone 27.10.23 to 26.11.23	<u>£15.48</u>
Total			£1336.35

1317.2 RESOLVED: To approve the following payment

Staff Salaries	Mth 9 Salaries	£2801.92
HMRC	Mth 9 Employee-er Tax & NI	£1009.27
Nest	Mth 9 Pension Contribution	£256.30
Woolley Moor Nurseries	Permanent bedding plants and supplies	<u>£3480.00</u>
Total		£7547.49

1317.3 Income Received**Noted****Date****Remittance****Source****Total****Amount****£0.00****1318 Bank Reconciliation****Noted:**

Opening Balance 01.04.2023	£656,537.26	
Receipts to 01.12.2023	£201,321.55	
Sub Total		£857,858.81
Payments to 01.12.2023	£99,824.07	
Unpresented cheques	£0.00	
Sub Total		£99,824.07
Closing Balance 01.12.2023		£758,034.74
Bank Balance 01.12.2023		£758,034.74

1319 Exclusion of Press & Public

None

1320 Items for the next agenda

None

1321 Date of Next Meeting: 18th January 2024 7pm at the Meeting Room at the rear of the Baptist Church, Derby Road, Swanwick, DE55 1BG.

Meeting closed at 8.10pm**Signed:** *A Trewick***Date: 18th January 2024**