

# SEWARDS END PARISH COUNCIL

*Parish Clerk – Tracy Coston*

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## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Swards End Parish Council

held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2024 at 7.30 pm

in St. James Church Hall, Swards End

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**In the Chair:** Cllr. Howlett

**Present:** Cllrs, Knowles, Powell, Stokley, Ridler and Briggs

**Also present:** None

**Clerk:** Tracy Coston

**Public:** 1

**1/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr Moran, Cllr Foley, Mike Dean

**2/24 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 minutes):**

Entrance down Pounce Hill: A member of the public reported that the field entrance gate has been installed where a field entrance used to be. The only plans for the field is a woodland tree planting scheme, which is going to be planted next month, and the grass will be cut twice a year. The Clerk will send the map that the owner has provided to UDC Enforcement and Highways.

**3/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive any pecuniary interests relating to items on the agenda: None

**4/24 PLANNING**

**a) Applications for discussion:** None

**b) Decisions:**

**UTT/23/2712/FUL 13A Walden Road**

UDC Approved with conditions.

PROPOSAL: S73 Application to vary condition 2 (approved plans) of (Erection of 1 no. dwelling and garage/home office building with enhanced biodiversity and associated infrastructure (amended scheme to that approved under UTT/15/1520/FUL)

**c) Planning Appeal:**

Appeal Ref: APP/C1570/W/23/3314757 Appeal allowed.

Land to the east of 39 Radwinter Road, Swards End, Saffron Walden CB10 2LR

**d) Access down Radwinter Road:** All in public participation.

**5/24 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

To approve as a correct record the Parish Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2023. The previously circulated minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

**6/24 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:** None

**7/24 HIGHWAYS ISSUES**

- a) **Update about highway issues:** All discussed and reported to Highways.
- b) **Update about presenting at the ECC meeting concerning the path down Pounce Hill:** A meeting will take place on 24<sup>th</sup> January at 2pm with Tom Cunningham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport, Cllr Foley and Adrian Knowles. It is very important that the path is safe to push a pushchair and disabled persons access down the path.
- c) **Flooding issues on Pounce Hill:** The issues have been reported to Highways.

**8/24 WEBSITE**

- a) **Progress report:** The website is progressing well and test site information will be sent out to Councillors. A calendar will be added to the website and the Councillors contact details will be deleted from the website. The Clerk will look into adding a contact us link.

**9/24 VILLAGE GREEN**

- a) **Tractor and trailer delivery date:** The delivery won't be organised until the weather has improved as access is required on the Village Green.
- b) **Village Green fence:** Cllr Howlett to look at the fence around the Village Green as repairs are required.

**10/24 CORRESPONDENCE:**

- a) **Wilding field correspondence:** Information has been received from the local resident who owns the Pumping Meadow.

**11/24 EX-AGENDA**

- **District Councillors Report:** Local plan and bin collections were discussed.
- **County Councillors Report:** Cllr Foley will attend the footpath meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> January.

**12/24 FINANCE**

**a) PAYMENTS**

|     |  |                   |
|-----|--|-------------------|
| D/P | Tracy Coston January Payment & backpay | £ 1,227.23        |
| D/P | Property Jungle (website)              | £ 34.80           |
| D/P | C W Low (Verges)                       | £ 624.00          |
| D/P | St. James Church (Hall hire)           | £ 420.00          |
|     | <b>TOTAL</b>                           | <b>£ 2,306.03</b> |

**b) Clerk's salary and National pay award (all information circulated**

**December 2023):** The National pay scale for a Clerk is set by the Local Government Services Pay agreement. The PC agreed to pay the new rate to the Clerk from April 2023.

**c) Budget discussion and approval or precept amount 2024-25:** The PC discussed the budget and agreed to set the precept at £ 19,700.

The PC agreed a 3.8% increase to cover inflation and a one off increase of £ 5,700 (£ 20.00 per household to complete the improvements at the Village Green).

**13/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**The date of the Parish Council meeting is 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2024.**

The meeting finished at 9.30 pm.

**Signed (Chair)**

**Date**

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