

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 Tuesday 5th March, 2024 at 7.30 pm

in St. James Church Hall, Swards End

In the Chair: Cllr. Howlett

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

Also present: Cllrs Moran and Foley

Clerk: Tracy Coston

Public: 1

27/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Dean

28/24 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 minutes): None

29/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

30/24 PLANNING

a) Applications for discussion: None

b) Decisions: None

31/24 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

To approve as a correct record the Parish Council meeting held on 6th February, 2024: The previously circulated minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

32/24 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

a) Condition of road surface on Pounce Hill:

All the issues have been reported to Highways and residents have been reminded of the website to report all Highways issues. The owner of the field with the trees has assessed the area and wondered if the pipe is blocked under the road as the water is bubbling up in the manhole covers, the pipe also isn't large enough. If the ditch is cleaned out it will make the water flow onto the road even quicker. The ditch isn't owned by the owner of the field with the trees. The road is getting progressively worse and damage is caused by the heavy rainfall.

b) Representative on the Village Hall Committee: Sue Powell attends the Village Hall Committee and is Secretary of the Village Hall Committee. The PC approved that Sue Powell will also represent the Parish Council on the Village Hall Committee.

33/24 HIGHWAYS ISSUES

a) Update about highway issues: The Clerk will look at the Land Registry to see if landownership can be found.

b) Footpath down Pounce Hill: Cllr Foley reported that he is waiting for an engineer's report from ECC. Julia Johnson is Head of Design at ECC. The PC requested for the site to be reorganised.

34/24 WEBSITE

a) Progress report: The website is live and Sue Powell is updating for the Church and Village Hall will be updated. A village calendar is going to be organised on the site.

35/24 VILLAGE GREEN

a) Tractor and trailer delivery date: The rubber matting needs to be removed where the tractor and trailer is going to be installed. The PC will ask the company to remove it and put it in some tonne bags, and then it will be taken to the tip, as it cannot be placed in the skip.

b) Discussion about Phase 2 of the playground refurbishment: Some of the perimeter fencing has been mended and more will be mended at another time.

c) Entrance to playground: The land is very waterlogged due to the weather conditions. It was suggested to install some railway granite. The Clerk will speak to Tim Wells who owns the land.

d) Damaged table top: A table top was damaged last summer and an insurance claim has been made. The table top has been ordered and will be installed.

e) Tree donation: The PC have received some information about a donation of a tree. Clerk to look into.

36/24 CORRESPONDENCE:

a) Pump Meadow: An update has been sent to all Councillors.

37/24 EX-AGENDA

➤ **District Councillors Report:** The budget has been set and balanced.

UDC are selling their 50% share in Chesterford Retail Park. Norse partnership has been dissolved and the work is going back in house. A task and finish group has been set up to learn from the bin issues and to ensure that a failure doesn't happen again. An additional bin lorry is going to be purchased and some of the old stock will be replaced with larger lorries.

➤ **County Councillors Report:**

Report sent. A 4.99% increase in Council tax has been agreed. £ 12 million is being given back from Government to Highways. Cllr Foley is concerned about cuts to youth provision. Swards End Youth Club has had a successful bid for the funding. Cole End Lane potholes have been completed but the passing places haven't been filled.

Complaints were made about the condition of the roads, rural areas are suffering with road being badly drained and lots of potholes.

Service road: The developer cannot open the new service road to Shire Hill as it is not completed yet.

The PC were concerned to hear that an individual that updated the ECC Social media pages was paid a total of £ 500,000 during Covid.

38/24 FINANCE

RECEIPTS

Ansvar Insurance (Insurance Claim for table top)	£	314.00
UDC (Grant)	£	600.00
Total Receipts	£	914.00

PAYMENTS

D/P Tracy Coston (March wages)	£	282.37
D/P J A Bonser (Website)	£	500.00
D/P Tracy Coston (Expenses)	£	245.71
D/P NBB Recycled Furniture (Damaged table top)	£	406.80
D/P Fasthosts (Website host provider 10 months)	£	31.20
D/P Kelvin Newman (Replacing posts)	£	450.00
<u>Total</u>	£	1,916.08

39/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the Parish Council meeting is 2nd April, 2024.

The meeting finished at 9.30 pm.

Signed (Chair)

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Date

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