

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 6th January, 2026 at 7.30 pm
in St. James Church Hall, Swards End**

In the Chair: Cllr. Knowles
Present: Cllrs, Mack, Hutchinson, Chitson, Powell, Stokely, Ridler
Also present:
Clerk: Tracy Coston
Public: 0

1/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllrs Moran and Foley.

2/26 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 minutes): None.

3/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
To receive any pecuniary interests relating to items on the agenda: None.

4/26 FINANCE:

a)	PAYMENTS		
D/P	Tracy Coston (January wages)	£	293.42
D/P	Monthly bank charges	£	4.25
	<u>Total</u>	£	297.67

b) Budget discussion and precept setting for 2026/27: The PC had a lengthy discussion about the budget and agreed to set a precept for £ 22,000. The PC agreed to increase the precept to cover costs of the path improvements down Pounce Hill and to purchase another VAS sign if the 30 mph speed signs are going to be moved down Pounce Hill at ECC.

5/26 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
To approve as a correct record the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd December, 2025. The previously circulated minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

6/26 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: None

7/26 FOOTPATH DOWN POUNCE HILL:
a) Information about permissive paths: The information has been sent out to all Councillors and the path in the Pumping Meadow will be made into a permissive path by the owner of the meadow.

8/26 PLANNING:

a) Applications for discussion:

UTT/25/3326/FUL Barn at Will's Ayley, Wills Ayley Lane

PROPOSAL: Conversion of barn to three self-contained dwellings, with associated part demolition, internal alterations, landscaping, garden enclosures, car parking and vehicle parking and manoeuvring areas.

PC Decision: No objections

b) Decisions: None

9/26 HIGHWAYS ISSUES

a) Moving the 30mph down Pounce Hill: The PC has not received any response from ECC regarding the funding for the moving of the 30mph signs.

The PC agreed to contact the LHP (Local Highways Panel) Chair and all committee members to ask for an update. Clerk and Cllr Mack to send information to the Local Highways Panel at UDC.

10/26 VILLAGE GREEN

a) Community Orchard trees: The PC agreed to continue with removing the trees that have died but they won't be replanted at present.

b) ECC Community Initiative Grant: The PC hasn't received the outcome of the grant for the perimeter fence at the Village Green.

11/26 CORRESPONDENCE:

a) Email correspondence from Mr Pike: The PC will respond that the email has been received and they will invite Mr Pike to the next PC meeting.

b) Local Government Reorganisation - Uttlesford District Council's response to Government Consultation. Deadline 11th January, 2026: The information was distributed and noted.

12/26 EX-AGENDA

➤ **District Councillors Report:** No report received.

➤ **County Councillors Report:** No report received

13/26 Area report:

a) Defibrillator Costs: The PC agreed to pay the costs for the defibrillator and Mike Hall will continue to make the regular checks, on behalf of Swards End Village Hall Committee. Cllr Powell and Mike Hall to meet and discuss.

14/26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Parish Council meeting is 3rd February, 2026 at 7.30pm at St James Church, Swards End.

The meeting finished at 9.25 pm.

Signed

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Date

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