

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 4th March 2025 at 7.30 pm in St. James Church Hall, Swards End

In the Chair: Cllr. Knowles
Present: Cllrs, Stokley, Briggs, Powell, Ridler
Also present: Cllr Moran
Clerk: Tracy Coston
Public: 1

25/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Dean, Cllr Foley
Cllr Nigel Howlett has resigned from the PC and the PC thanked Nigel Howlett for all his work on the PC. The Clerk will organise the vacancy paperwork.
The PC unanimously agreed for Adrian Knowles to become Chair of the PC.

26/25 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 minutes):
Cole End Lane: There are concerns that the condition of Cole End Lane is getting much worse. The Solar farm traffic has made it worse, and the passing places are unpassable with deep potholes. Road works in Saffron Walden are increasing the number of vehicles using Cole End Lane. The PC asked the member of public to report on the Highways reporting website at ECC.
Wimbish PC will ask be approached due to the location of the Solar Farm.
Junction of Walden Road and Cole End Lane The hedge is causing visibility issues for vehicles using the junction. The PC agreed to write to 1A Cole End Lane to ask if they would cut the hedge back.
Water on Pounce Hill: The member of the public explained that due to the condition of the road and water on the road it should be a 30mph speed limit.
The PC explained that they had applied to ECC to move the speed limit further down the hill but it still hadn't been moved.
The Clerk will look into the cost for two speed signs.

27/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
To receive any pecuniary interests relating to items on the agenda: None

28/25 PLANNING
a) Applications for discussion: None
b) Decisions: None

29/25 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
The previously circulated minutes of the meeting that took place on 4th February, 2025 were approved and signed by the Chair.

30/25 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: None

31/25

HIGHWAYS ISSUES

a) Update about highway issues:

b) Footpath down Pounce Hill: The UDC Local Highway Panel Meeting will discuss approving the feasibility study for the footpath on Pounce Hill at a cost of £ 6,500.00, which if approved will be funded by ECC. The landowner has offered to donate some land to make a footpath from Pounce Hall to the double bends to include fencing from the field.

Grants are available to promote walking and cycling.

The PC will write to Sarah Tomlin at ECC to ask to split the project into 3 stages with the section from the S bend on the last section of the path to take place first and make it a more manageable project.

The PC will ask permission to attend the LHP meeting at UDC to explain the project.

c) By-Way from Coles Lane to Saffron Walden: The work will be carried out between June and October this year. The lane is due to have the drainage improved, ditches cleared, culverts installed and then most of it will be surfaced with hardcore and topped with road planings. The Saffron Walden end is in reasonable condition and ECC are suggesting leaving that as untouched as possible to retain some of the character.

d) By-Way to Frog's Green: The PC have asked PROW to improve the ruts on this by-way and have sent photographs to show the issues.

32/25

VILLAGE GREEN

a) Entrance to the Village Green: The path has been installed by Daines-Low and some wood chippings have been spread in the wet areas.

b) Completion of the aerial runway and sign: The aerial runway has been very popular and everyone is really pleased with the new equipment.

c) Fence at the Village Green: One quote has been arranged. One just to replace the rotten posts and one to put in all new posts and reuse the wire. 59 of the posts are wobbly and there are about 100 posts. The brambled areas will be left. Another quote will be arranged.

d) Trim trail at the play area: The equipment has been ordered and there is a 5/6 weeks lead time.

e) See-saw: The PC have had some complaints about the mushroom buffer on the see-saw. After contacting the supplier, it was agreed to reply back to the complainants and monitor the issue.

33/25

CORRESPONDENCE:

a) Email concerning Highway issues: The emails will be forwarded to Martin Foley concerning Pounce Hill from residents.

b) Risk Register: The PC discussed the risk register and made some minor changes before it was approved by the PC.

34/25

EX-AGENDA

➤ **District Councillors Report:** UDC have approved the budget and the change over from Norse to a new company taking over the council house budget is about to take place. Sale of Chesterford Research Park going through and UDC will borrow more money to build council houses.

Devolution: Mayor and the Local Government Elections will take place in May 2027 and abolition of ECC and UDC will take place in May 2028. The unitary authority will be confirmed in September.

➤ **County Councillors Report:** Not present

35/25 FINANCE

RECEIPTS

UDC Grant (Aerial runway) £ 9,725.00

Total £ **9,725.00**

PAYMENTS

D/P Tracy Coston (March wages) £ 282.57

D/P Daines Low (Path to Village Green) £ 249.00

D/P Online Playgrounds (Aerial Runway) £ 15,270.00

D/P Citizens Advice £ 150.00

D/P Tracy Coston (Expenses) £ 261.34

Total £ **16,212.91**

36/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**The date of the next Parish meeting 1st April, 2025 at 7.30pm at
St James Church, Swards End.**

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Signed

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Date

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