

**Minutes of the meeting of the Swaffham Prior Parish Council held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 7.30pm in Swaffham Prior Village Hall.**

Present: Cllr John Covill (JC) (Chair), Cllr Alan Durrant (AD), Cllr David Greenfield (DG), Cllr Peter Hart (PH), Cllr Steve Kent-Phillips (SKP) and Cllr Ruth Lambert (RL).

In attendance: Jude Griffiths (Clerk)

There were 4 members of the public in attendance.

**143/24-25** To receive apologies for absence and to approve reasons for absence where appropriate.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Gynn and Muscroft. Cllr Latchford did not attend.

**144/24-25** Members' declaration of interest for items on the agenda and requests for dispensations

None.

**145/24-25** Public participation for items on the agenda

None.

**146/24-25** Reports

- a) Cambridgeshire County Council. No report received, no representative attended.
- b) East Cambridgeshire District Council. Report circulated by email, Cllr Charlotte Cane attended. Cllr Cane noted that as a result of an extraordinary meeting, all ECDC committees now had 50/50 representation between the Conservatives and the Lib Dem/Independents.  
*The Chair invited questions; none were put forward.*

**147/24-25** Approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
*PH proposed that the minutes be taken as a true and accurate record of the meeting; seconded SKP, passed unanimously.*

**148/24-25** Matters arising from previous minutes (for information only)

124/24-25 SKP noted that the Voneus network is still down and that more people have lost their internet access.

135/24-25 DG had responded to the Kingsway consultation as agreed.

136/24-25 DG had responded to the Hybrid meetings and proxy voting consultation as agreed.

138/24-25 Clerk had applied to add the Paper Sheds to the Heritage List.

Action: Clerk to chase status of application.

**149/24-25** Correspondence for consideration/circulation.

- a) Email from Village Hall committee regarding application for funding for solar panels – for information. Noted.
- b) Email from Cambridge County Council regarding budget briefing – for information. Noted.
- c) Email from Cambridge County Council regarding online briefing for Capital Maintenance Programme priorities. Noted.

**150/24-25** Consideration of planning applications received.

- a) 24/01158/FUL Change of use from an annexe to holiday let accommodation. The Smock Tower Mill, Mill Hill, Swaffham Prior, Cambridge, CB25 0JZ.  
*SKP proposed that the PC object strongly to this application on the grounds that it contravenes two conditions under which permission for the original conversion of the double garage to an annex was granted; seconded PH, passed unanimously.*

Action: Clerk to respond as above.

**151/24-25** Accounts for payment including:

a) Clerk's salary and taxes	£561.20
b) Village Hall rent (November)	£20.00
c) Clerk's out-of-pocket expenses	£100.00
d) Chair's honorarium	£40.00
	<hr/> £721.20 <hr/>

Direct debits:

Vodafone £36.86

*SKP proposed that the accounts be settled in full; seconded PH, passed unanimously.*

*SKP proposed a transfer of £1000.00 from the business to the community account; seconded PH, passed unanimously.*

**152/24-25** To hear from Cllr Latchford regarding the condition of the Lower Allotments and agree maintenance of pathways and unrented allotment plots.

Carried over to January meeting as Cllr Latchford was absent.

**153/24-25** To discuss the Village Hall application for solar panels.

*8.48pm Meeting closed to allow members of the Village Hall committee to speak.*

*8.50pm The meeting restarted.*

*SKP proposed that the PC support the application for funding to add solar panels to the Village Hall; seconded AD, passed unanimously.*

Action: Clerk to ring the Conservation Officer at ECDC to see if solar panels would be viewed favourably in the conservation area and report back.

**154/24-25** Report on Heating Scheme.

DG reported.

- Phase 2 connects continuing
- Phase 3 (30 properties) to be started March 2025.
- CPEN was connected on 21<sup>st</sup> November and is now fully operational.
- The noise suppressors are in place and surveying to measure their effectiveness will take over the next few days.

PH asked if the cause of current problems was known? DG said that maintenance work may have caused some issues.

**155/24-25** Clerk's Report

- Attended Highways Capital Programme online meeting – outlined new scoring method for prioritisation – severity of damage, number of previous temp repairs, how wellused it is, if gives access to amenities, public transport etc. Budget for 25-26 £56 million, roughly half on roads, the rest split between footpaths, drainage, signage etc.
- Contacted the Historic Building List and applied to add the Paper Sheds
- Viv Elston will see to the Pound gate and Village sign when he can.
- Benstead gravestone to be made safe in the new year.
- Many documents deposited at the Archive. The Archives cannot adequately store the Land Girl badges, so I contacted the address on the box they were in to see if I can trace family; otherwise suggest they are offered to Burwell museum.

- The electric speed awareness sign that doesn't work on Mill Hill will be removed by the Traffic Signals team some point before March 2025.

**156/24-25** Parish Councillors' Reports.

- a) DG noted the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS survey printed in the Crier, looking at introducing a 'digital doorway' that would require people to log in digitally to be seen by GPs and at hospitals and the need to raise awareness of this.

Action: Clerk to add survey link to the village Facebook page.

Action: SKP to add survey link to the PC website.

To be discussed further at the January meeting.

*The meeting ended at 8.08pm*

**Open Question Time**

A member of the public noted that adoption of a 'digital doorway' would not lead to equality or inclusiveness in terms of accessibility of NHS services.

*Business concluded at 8.15pm*

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