

Minutes of the meeting of the Swaffham Prior Parish Council held on Thursday 9th January 2025 at 7.30pm in Swaffham Prior Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Alan Durrant (AD), Cllr Peter Hart (PH), Cllr Steve Kent-Phillips (SKP) (Chair) and Cllr Paul Latchford (PL).

In attendance: Jude Griffiths (Clerk)

There were 2 members of the public in attendance.

Due to the absence of the both the Chair and the Vice-Chair, SKP proposed that he chair the meeting of 9th January 2025; seconded PL, agreed unanimously.

157/24-25 To receive apologies for absence and to approve reasons for absence where appropriate.

Apologies received from Cllrs Kate Muscroft, Ruth Lambert, David Greenfield, Sandra Gynn and John Covill.

158/24-25 Members' declaration of interest for items on the agenda and requests for dispensations

None.

159/24-25 Public participation for items on the agenda.

A member of the public noted that 4 members of the public attended the December meeting, not 2 as recorded on the minutes. The member of the public also asked questions of further details of the minutes, which were explained by members of the PC.

160/24-25 Reports

- a) Cambridgeshire County Council. No report received, no representative attended.
- b) East Cambs District Council. Report circulated by email; Cllr Charlotte Cane attended. Cllr Cane noted that a seminar on the ECDC budget would take place next week and the budget would be discussed by Council at the end of February 2025.

The Chair invited questions; none were asked.

161/24-25 Approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 12th December 2024 '2 members of the public' was changed to '4 members of the public' in the record of attendance, and the gate and sign (item 155/24-25) were changed to the 'Pound gate' and the 'Village sign' for clarity. *PH proposed that with these alterations, the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting; seconded AD, passed with 1 abstention.*

162/24-25 Matters arising from previous minutes (for information only).

148/24-25 The Paper Sheds' application for the Heritage List is pending. The Voneus network was reinstated yesterday.

153/24-25 The Clerk had spoken to the ECDC Conservation Officer regarding solar panels on the Village Hall and passed the response on to the Village Hall committee.

163/24-25 Correspondence for consideration/circulation.

- a) Email from SLCC regarding the Strengthening the Standards and Conduct Framework for Local Authorities in England' Government Consultation. Noted.
- b) Email from A-B1102. The preferred supplier for the new bus routes has pulled out, therefore the new routes will not begin before May 2025. The number 11 route will continue to run as normal in the meantime.

164/24-25 Consideration of planning applications received.

- a) 24/01287/FUL and 24/01288/LBC Addition of 3No. Conservation style roof windows to the rear including internal changes. The Smock Tower Mill, Mill Hill, Swaffham Prior, Cambridge, CB25 0JZ.

SKP proposed that the PC have no objections - as the alterations would not be visible from the road, the PC is happy for the application to be decided according to the advice of the Conservation Officer. Seconded AD, passed unanimously.

Approved:

- b) 24/01140/FUL Single storey side extension. Sheldricks Cottage 42 Lower End Swaffham Prior Cambridgeshire CB25 0HT. Noted.

165/24-25 Accounts for payment including:

a) Clerk's salary and taxes	£562.80
b) Village Hall rent - December	£20.00
c) Nurture Landscaping Ltd invoice 356671	£421.20
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	£1001.20

Direct debits:

Vodafone £36.83

Wave water bill £63.77

nPower electricity bill £364.88

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

SKP proposed a transfer of £1000.00 from the Business to the Community accounts; seconded PH, passed unanimously.

166/24-25 To hear from Cllr Latchford regarding the condition of the Lower Allotments and agree maintenance of pathways and unrented allotment plots – carried over from December

PL reported. The unrented allotments are overgrown, 3 of the rented allotments are in good order and the 4th is somewhat neglected. It was noted that weed suppressing ground cover for the unrented allotments have previously been rejected as too expensive an option.

Action: PL to gather quotes for weed suppressing ground cover for the unrented allotments.

Action: Clerk to forward details of past quotes to PL.

Action: Clerk to write to allotment tenants noting that the tenancy agreement includes keeping the paths on site in a reasonable state.

167/24-25 To agree a response to the Cambridge and Peterborough NHS survey regarding a proposed “digital front door”.

The Clerk noted that the survey appeared to have closed on 15th November 2022 and therefore no further action could be taken at present.

168/24-25 To agree the 2025-26 budget and precept.

The PC discussed the budget for 2025 and likely increases in costs.

SKP proposed that the precept rise from £17,000.00 to £17,500.00; seconded PH, passed unanimously.

169/24-25 To agree the PC's response to the Strengthening the Standards and Conduct Framework for Local Authorities in England' Government Consultation.

SKP proposed that the PC does not respond to the consultation; seconded PL. passed unanimously.

170/24-25 Report on Heating Scheme.

Cllr Greenfield had emailed a report that was read out by the Clerk.

Although the installation in November of the CPEN went extremely smoothly it wasn't until December that dropouts started to occur; the issue being the Distribution Pumps protection circuits occasionally tripping out. Once the problem was identified it was possible to put in place a manual reset procedure whilst the issue and a solution was investigated; although a temporary work around was possible which was successful for most occasions, but unfortunately not all. Those with a 'combi' style system would notice immediately e.g. the shower would go cold quite quickly.

It was decided not to implement the planned resolution program due to the holiday period and action it in early January – the works are in hand and will be scheduled in the coming days/weeks with the work around continuing until then.

171/24-25 Clerk's Report.

- The response to the Law Commission consultation was completed.
- Ivett and Reed had emailed to confirm the making safe of the tall Benstead gravestone.

172/24-25 Parish Councillors' Reports.

Report from DG, read by the Clerk.

- Fibre to Premises (FTP); I've had recent discussions with Connecting Cambridgeshire and GigaClear including the new liaison manager Andrew Lipski – if you hadn't noticed the GigaClear team are in the village installing 'anchors' on the telegraph poles. The schedule is being worked on and I'll have an update by the end of this week, hopefully giving some intended date lines/stamps. The scheme will rollout in two phases 1) FTP from poles and/or ducts then 2) the start of the sign up and connection program. I'll keep you informed as and when.

The meeting ended 8.05pm

Open Question Time.

None.

Business concluded 8.06pm

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