

Minutes of the meeting of the Swaffham Prior Parish Council held on Thursday 10th July 2025 at 7.30pm in Swaffham Prior Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Alan Durrant (AD), Cllr David Greenfield (DG) (Chair), Cllr Sandra Gynn (SG), Cllr Peter Hart (PH), Cllr Steve Kent-Phillips (SKP) and Cllr Paul Latchford (PL).

In attendance: Jude Griffiths (Clerk).

There were 5 members of the public in attendance.

54/25-26 To receive apologies for absence and to approve reasons for absence where appropriate.

Apologies were received from Cllrs John Covill, Ruth Lambert and Kate Muscroft.

55/25-26 Members' declaration of interest for items on the agenda and requests for dispensations

None

56/25-26 Public participation for items on the agenda

None.

57/25-26 Reports

a) CCC Cllr Yannifer Malinowski attended and reported:

- reported dealing with many road issues, including the trench and re-instatement of yellow lines on Swaffham Prior High Street. DG noted that Equans have committed to these works.
- Appointed Vice -chair of scrutiny for the Fire Authority and is looking at concerns regarding the fire risks of battery storage at solar farms and the plans of the Fire Authority regarding tackling such fires.
- Feeding back to A-B1102 regarding the Tiger buses
- CCC will also run a survey regarding the Local Government reforms.

b) ECDC report circulated by email, Cllr Charlotte Cane attended. Cllr Cane noted that use of the Citizens' Advice West Suffolk (CAWS) by many residents of the Bottisham ward makes the continued funding of this service more secure. Also, the importance of PC engagement with the ECDC Public and Stakeholder survey regarding the Local Government Reorganisation. Cllr Cane mentioned that the government wanted councils (ECDC and CCC) to adopt a cabinet system instead of a committee system.

The Chair invited questions. DG asked for Cllr Canes assistance in organising a meeting with the head of planning at ECDC regarding the Horse field potential development. Cllr Cane agreed to look into it.

PL noted that some buses are running 4-9 minutes early on the new routes, making them difficult to catch. SG noted a bus waiting not at the bus stop, but with the engine running early one morning – this had been passed on to Jon Cook of A-B1102. Cllr Cane stated the companies need to communicate effectively to maintain minimum changeover times.

Action; DG to take these issues to the A-B1102 meeting next Wednesday.

58/24-25 Approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 12th June 2025.

PH proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting; seconded SKP, passed with 3 abstentions.

59/25-26 Matters arising from previous minutes (for information only)

54/25-6 Concern that GigaClear did not plan to cover the High Street. DG had spoken to Connect Cambridgeshire to check if funding was available – they will update DG when they can. DG noted that fibre is being laid through the village and that there are paint markers on the High Street.

60/25-26 Correspondence for consideration/circulation.

- a) Email from Kevin Drane with advice regarding trimming back of the Village Hall driveway trees. Noted.
- b) Email from ECDC regarding the plans for the future of local government. Noted.

61/25-26 Consideration of planning applications received.

- a) 25/00684/FUL Bricking up of an airey house, replacement porch and single storey rear extension. 25 Fairview Grove, Swaffham Prior, CB25 0LB.
The PC actively support this application.
- b) 25/00671/TRE T1 Sycamore adjacent to house - Reduce height by 5m, reduce spread on all sides by 2.5m and shape round
T2 Cypress adjacent to house - Reduce height by 4-5m down to ridge of roof trim back on garden side by 1.5m
T3 Yew - Trim to clear phone lines by 1-1.5m, remove dead branches in inner canopy. Stocks Farm House 1 Lower End Swaffham Prior Cambridgeshire CB25 0HT.
The PC support this application.

Approved:

- c) 25/00442/FUL Ground floor and rear extension. 15 Fairview Grove, Swaffham Prior CB25 0HX. Noted.

62/25-26 Accounts for payment including:

a) Clerk's salary and taxes	£490.00
b) Village Hall rent (May and June)	£40.00
Total	<u>£530.00</u>

Direct debit:

Vodafone	£39.22
Wave (water bill)	£148.58

HyperJar cash card:

World of computers	£444.00
Well Heeled of Ely (keys)	£ 15.00

Income:

Cambridgeshire County Council (Grass cutting contribution)	£516.21
Transfer of Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial	£ 25.00

SKP noted a £1000.00 transfer from the business to the current account had taken place after funds dropped to £78.00 and proposed retrospective permission; seconded SG, passed unanimously.

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

63/25-26 To provide feedback to CCC regarding the draft Public Right of Way Hierarchy

SKP noted that becoming overgrown was an issue for all Swaffham Prior's footpaths.

Action: Clerk, RLK and DG to co-ordinate response.

64/25-26 To discuss and agree the PCs response to the proposed Long Barrow Solar Farm project

The PC discussed the issues fully.

8.10pm the meeting was suspended to allow for public input.

8.14 the meeting recommenced.

The PC agreed the following points of concern:

- 1) The proposed site is on top of a scheduled ancient monument and an unscheduled bronze age circular ditch. This would require extensive archaeological investigation of both the monuments and the area they are set in.
- 2) The proposed site is under the flight path to Newmarket racecourse and there is concern that light reflected from the solar panels could dazzle pilots overhead.
- 3) The ecological impact of the proposed development on the area, particularly with a view to biodiversity.
- 4) The condition of Heath Road – which is already in need of substantial repair and is not fit for use by the necessary additional heavy construction vehicles that would need access. Are the developers proposing to contribute by funding necessary road repairs and improvements?
- 5) Provision at the junction of Heath Road and the B1102 for increased traffic – at present the PC's Speed Indicator Device has recorded 1000 cars per hour in each direction between 8-10am and 4-6pm. This is not easily combined with heavy vehicles leaving and rejoining the B1102.
- 6) The potential for noise pollution for residents from increased traffic noise, potentially outside of normal hours.
- 7) Access to the site for fire engines – as noted Heath Road is already in poor condition. Also, the robustness of risk assessments for fire at a solar farm, particularly in reference to the battery storage.
- 8) The PC refute the description of Heath Road as particularly quiet. There are currently 4 agricultural contractors based along that roadway in addition to a sizable construction company with a fleet of lorries. This has already increased the volume of heavy machinery using the road at all hours.
- 9) Parishioners have raised concerns about a devaluing of house prices overlooking the proposed farm.
- 10) Concern has been raised around 'scope creep'; that the solar farm, once agreed, could expand considerably in size, as observed at West Wratting, another site in the area.

Action: Clerk to feed these back to Long Barrow Solar Farm.

Action: Clerk to request Mike Barker undertake a biodiversity assessment of the proposed site.

DG noted the importance of raising parish awareness of this development.

65/25-26 To agree a quote for a survey of the cemetery trees

SKP proposed that the PC agree to the ETS quote for the survey; seconded AD, passed unanimously.

66/25-26 To discuss a request for a bus shelter at the stop by the playground

DG proposed that the PC explore the option of providing a bus shelter fully; seconded PH, passed 4 for, 3 against with Chair's casting vote.

Action: Clerk and DG to explore this option.

67/25-26 To decide actions regarding cutting back the village hall driveway trees

As the advice received from the ECDC Tree officer was that permission would be needed to do more than the minimum in tree reduction, the PC agreed to get quotes for the work.

Action: Clerk to ask ETS for a quote.

68/25-26 To respond to ECDCs survey on local council reorganisation

SKP volunteered to respond to the survey on the PC's behalf.

8.33 meeting suspended to hear public input.

8.34 meeting reconvened.

Action: Clerk to forward the link to the survey to the Crier.

69/25-26 To agree an 8% increase in the service agreement with Nurture Landscaping
DG reported that the increase will come into force on 1st August, as the contract allows for 1 months notice.

DG proposed that the PC accept the increase; seconded SG, passed unanimously.

70/25-26 Report on Heating Scheme
Nothing to report.

71/25-26 Clerk's Report

- The Scouts are very pleased to receive their grant.
- A bus single fare is rising from £2 to £2.50 from 1st July.
- Bin bags will be delivered between now and 31st August and the collection timetables in the first 2 weeks of September.
- The keys for the shed have been copied and handed over to Janet Wilmott.
- The Annual Village Assembly 2026 has been booked for 20th May.

72/25-26 Parish Councillors' Reports

- a) DG. The invoices for Nurture Landscaping are still being corrected.
- b) SG noted concerns regarding the speed of tractors through the village by 2 parishioners and that the Stocks Farm hedge was still overhanging the pavement.

Action: Clerk to write to Hurrells, Greens, Chambers and AG Wright asking the drivers to take extra care through the village

Action: Clerk to write to Stocks Farm to ask for news of progress.

The meeting finished at 8.42pm.