

**SWANWICK PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 2024 at 7.00PM**

Present: Cllrs Bates, Beavan, Goodier, Grant, Powis, Tremain, Trewick and Clerk C Miles.

Members of the Public:

Members of the public listed waived their right to anonymity under the Data Protection Act:

D Leam

1338 APOLOGIES

None

1339 VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS

None

1340 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Members were requested to declare any personal or prejudicial interest they may have in any item of the evening's business, and to explain the nature of that interest.

None.

1341 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1341.1 Public Speaking

None.

1341.2 Members' Observations

Cllr Powis asked that we look into having Service names on this year's poppies, this will be discussed at future meeting.

1341.3 POLICE MATTERS

None

1341.4 REPRESENTATIONS OR EVIDENCE FROM MEMBERS DECLARING A PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

None

1342 MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL

RESOLVED:

Minutes of the Full Council Minutes of meeting held 18th January 2024 were received as correct account of the meeting. The minutes were approved by all Councillors and signed by the Chair.

1343 PLANNING MATTERS

1343.1 Planning Applications

None.

1344 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report was presented by the Clerk.

1344.1 Derby Road Bench

The bench has finally been installed.

1344.2 Reporting Potholes

The Council was informed that there had been positive responses to information put on social media that all pot holes needed reporting to DCC.

1344.3 Shirley Road Allotment Dispute update

The Clerk reported that all outstanding monies have now been paid and the fencing now needs to be installed on the allotment boundary, a quote for a 2.4m high 22m long fence ranged from £1292.04 or 2159.15 plus VAT. The Clerk will obtain quotes for 1.5m and 1.8m high fencing.

1344.4 Nether Close Allotments

The Clerk read out emails from 3 tenants objecting to the increase of 14.5% and also having to pay 3 years up front, after being debated at length, the Council voted that the increase was to remain at 14.5% and payment terms to remain at 3 years lease made in 1 payment upon signing of the lease as done in previous years to keep administration costs down. It was noted that 2 of the 5 tenants had already signed and paid. The 3 tenants asked the Council to consider them as an allotment association, this was rejected as it is only 5 plots in total and it

wishes to keep them individual. Council's motives were questioned by said tenants including selling of the land and any Councillor having a vested interest in rental or purchase of this land. The Council categorically denied these claims and reiterated that they had refused offers of purchase from at least one of these tenants as it wishes the land to remain as allotments. The 3 tenants will be wrote to with the decisions and given a new deadline date to either renew the lease or give up the plot so that it can be rented out to others.

1344.5 Newsletter update

The Clerk reported that she had received rough notes from Cllrs Tremain and Trewick and would start working on the newsletter next week.

1344.6 Christmas Tree

Cllr Goodier has asked that the Council once again consider planting a living Christmas tree which would in the long run save money and help the environment. The Clerk reminded the Council of the costs from September 2023, which would be updated and Cllr Goodier would contact another tree provider for prices. The Clerk said that DCC would have to be contacted to see if permission was required to plant a tree in the grass verge.

1344.7 DALC Subscription

The Council will consider which level of cover to take out at the next meeting, once the information has been received by DALC.

1345 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair said all matters to be discussed already on the agenda.

1346 Jubilee Community Hall

No meeting of the Working Group.

1346.1 Jubilee Hall Site

The rear fencing quotes for 84m x 2.4m high are £4167.83 for single weld mesh and £6854.71 for twin weld mesh both plus VAT the Council unanimously voted to have the twin wire mesh at £6854.71 plus BVAT. The Clerk will contact the contractor regarding the installation. The Clerk reported that the Council would need further planning permission to extend the temporary car park and it was decided that the Clerk would contact Mr Morris who dealt with the previous application, to deal with this matter. A working group will be formed to look at the options of the site. The Clerk reported that if the village hall didn't go ahead the PWLB government loan would have to be repaid and the final repayable amount would only be calculated on the day on current interest rates. The Council decided to have a site meeting on this site plus also to look at the Recreation Grounds, allotments and the Memorial Gardens.

1347 Swanwick Recreation Ground (Charity No. 520525)

1347.1 Charity Commission Annual Return 2023

The Clerk is waiting for the Commission to reply.

1347.2 Deeds Update

The Solicitors are currently working on replying to Land Registry.

1347.3 Recreation Ground update

The Chair and Clerk met with AVBC representatives to discuss getting grants from the FA to improve the playing areas and changing rooms. The Council has already looked at this in the past and considers the amount of time and effort it would take is not realistic as all FA involvement needs teams to deal with them not the Council and wouldn't be feasible. The Council still feels this should be treated as open ground for all the community, it voted unanimously to demolish the changing rooms as they are in disrepair and to deter the youth of the village from hanging around behind the building. The Clerk will get demolition costs and look into permissions needed.

1347.4 Community Garden

The Chair reported that the flailing will be done in the next week and she will then meet with the gardening Contractors to discuss mowing of a path around the planters and weeding them on a monthly basis. The Chair will inform the Clerk what information needs going on the signage to obtain quotes.

1348 Correspondence & Circulars

1348.1 Noted

1348.2 DALC Training Courses

Cllr Tremain attended this course and suggests that the Council adapts it and includes it as it's own policy. The Clerk will email this out to all Councillors for them to consider before the next meeting.

1349 Accounts

1349.1 RESOLVED: To approve urgent payments

Date	Payable To	Reason	Amount
23.01.24	Chapman & Chubb	Final charges for allotment case	£597.80

26.01.24	Swanwick Baptist	Room hire Sept to Dec 2023	£120.00
26.01.24	HMRC	Mth 10 Employee-er Tax & NI	£606.49
26.01.24	Staff Salaries	Mth 10 Salaries	£2274.75
26.01.24	Nest	Mth 10 Pension Contribution	£197.01
26.01.24	Mr Christmas Tree	Supply of Christmas tree 2023	£1200.00
29.01.24	Grasstrack	Inv 0987 Pitch Maintenance Jan 2024	108.00
29.01.24	Grasstrack	Inv 0986 Ground Maintenance Jan 2024	£900.00
29.01.24	Grasstrack	Removal of tree and extra pitch work	£192.00
30.01.24	Virgin Money	Bank charges Dec 2023	£12.37
31.01.24	O2	Clerks phone 27.12.23 to 26.01.24	£15.48
31.01.24	Amazon	5 reams copier paper	<u>£18.97</u>
Total			£6242.87

1349.2 RESOLVED: To approve the following payment

Staff Salaries	Mth 11 Salaries	£2221.22
HMRC	Mth 11 Employee-er Tax & NI	£587.05
Nest	Mth 11 Pension Contribution	<u>£192.13</u>
Total		£3000.40

1349.3 Income Received

Noted

Date	Remittance	Source	Amount
23.01.24	BACS	Chapman & Chubb allotment final payment	£7882.16
02.02.24	BANK	Virgin Money Cashback	<u>£0.05</u>
Total			£7882.21

1350 Bank Reconciliation

Noted:

Opening Balance 01.04.2023	£656,537.26	
Receipts to 02.02.2024	£209,354.15	
Sub Total		£865,891.41
Payments to 02.02.2024	£129,543.76	
Unpresented cheques	£0.00	
Sub Total		£129,543.76
Closing Balance 02.02.2024		£736,347.65
Bank Balance 02.02.2024		£736,347.65

1351 Exclusion of Press & Public

1351.1 Staff Update

1352 Items for the next agenda

1352.1 Swanwick Signage

1352.2 Village Planting

1352.3 Lamp Post Poppies

1352.4 Biodiversity Policy

1353 Date of Next Meeting: 21st March 2024 at 7pm at the Meeting Room at the rear of the Baptist Church, Derby Road, Swanwick, DE55 1BG.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed: *A Trewick*

Date: 21st March 2024