

SWINEFLEET PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Swinefleet Village Hall on Tuesday 16th April 2024 at 7.00pm.

Councillors present: Cllrs Thompson, Buttery, Simms, Hart, Hirst, Allport, Blackburn and Harteveld.

Public present: None.

2374 Declarations of interest

None declared.

2375 Apologies for absence

Cllr Burkhill.

2376 To approve the minutes of the council meeting held on 19/03/24.

Minutes circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting and confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by Cllr Hart.

2377 Matters arising from previous meeting minutes.

Play area inspection- Cllr Hart found nothing to report upon during the last month's inspection.

Emergency equipment-Cllr Hart reported ongoing enquiries with the village hall committee regarding the costs, the funding, the insurance, the maintenance and the storage of all proposed new equipment. Cllr Harteveld is to make enquiries regarding the specifications of a generator and Cllr Hart is to consult with a local retired electrician who has offered advice on generator suitability.

Chapel of rest ceiling/roof- the parish council are aware of external and internal ceiling/wall/ roof damage and have agreed to make good the whole building. The clerk has obtained quotations for the repairs and has now applied for £13k from windfarm funds to assist in funding the project. A decision is now pending.

Play area annual inspection-the annual inspection report concerns are still to be addressed .The clerk has now contacted a suggested resident handyman to show him the workload involved and establish if he is willing to do the work and provide a quote. A quote was received and cascaded to the council but due to the high costs involved this quote was declined. It was resolved that Cllr Allport will make contact with a suggested handyman to show him the work involved and obtain a quote to do the work.

Cemetery path- Cllr Allport spoke to the parish council previously about the cemetery path which he feels is in a state of disrepair and requires attention. The clerk has now obtained quotations for the work involved and applied to the windfarm grant funding panel in order to fund the project. The clerk has now been informed that the application was a success and the full £6200 was awarded. It was resolved that S.Gighall will be awarded the path contract.

Cllr vacancy-following the recent resignation of Cllr Hoodless the clerk has been given ERYC permission to co-opt a new councillor. The clerk advertised the vacancy locally and all applications received were discussed at the last meeting. It was resolved to co-opt Mr Graham Blackburn onto the parish council. The clerk has now received all relevant completed paperwork back and the councillors welcomed Cllr Blackburn back onto the parish council.

Clerk vacancy-the clerk has previously advertised the job vacancy but a suitable candidate remains to be found. It was agreed to re advertise the position with a closing date of 29/3. Unfortunately a suitable applicant still remains to be found and as such it was resolved that Cllr Thompson will provide temporary unpaid clerk cover for a proposed 3 month period from 1st May 2024. It was resolved to complete a new bank signatories mandate to include Cllrs Hart, Harteveld and Thompson. Cllr Thompson will meet with the retiring clerk w/c 22/4 to receive workload handover training and Cllrs Harteveld and Allport will arrange collection of all SPC documents that week also. The clerk will continue to advertise the vacancy on social media and other suggested locations.

Village tidy project-Cllr Harteveld has now created a village social media poll to ask residents what they would be willing to do and what they would like/want in order to take pride in their village in an effort to tidy it up and make it visually pleasing to the eye. The poll wording has received SPC approval and will be placed on the village social media sites for residents to provide their opinions.

Village gala-the clerk previously read out a request from the gala committee seeking permission to use the community field on 27/7/24. It was resolved at the last meeting to agree in principle to this request but for the clerk to obtain further information with regard to the field use. The clerk has contacted J.Callery but has not received all the answers to the questions raised and as such the item will go on the next meeting agenda when it is hoped the new information required will be made available.

2378 Planning applications.

No applications received.

2379 Correspondence received/issues raised by councillors.

Streetscene-following on from recent ERYC correspondence received stating what exactly ERYC will/will not do during and after the visits it was resolved that Cllr Hartevelde will write a letter of concern and disappointment about the lack of ERYC help and assistance now offered.

Events calendar-Cllr Hartevelde has suggested creating an SPC events calendar for all councillors to note up and coming projects/jobs to do to ensure items are known about in advance, placed on the agenda and actioned in a timely manner. It was resolved to allow Cllr Hartevelde to create a calendar. Cllr Simms also suggested the possibility of creating a parish council Facebook page. This idea was approved by all present and it was resolved that Cllr Hartevelde and Simms will jointly attempt to create a page after adhering to council guidance notes on the use of social media. The clerk will forward all guidance notes.

Security box-Cllr Simms raised concerns about the future security and safety of cemetery maps and books considering that there is only one copy of each. It was resolved to allow the clerk to obtain prices and, upon approval, to buy a fire/water secure steel box.

TPO list-Cllr Hirst raised concerns with regard to the ERYC TPO list that appears to show a lack of trees that were once in situ, now been removed and not replaced in the village. It was resolved that these concerns will be raised at the next ERYC Streetscene visit shortly.

Woodland Trust-Cllr Hart notified the council of a Woodland Trust offer to provide free tree packages to local community groups. It was resolved to place an order for selected tree packages (to arrive November) and to then plant them around the playing field perimeter fence.

2380 Ward councillor's report

None present.

2381 Financial matters

Accounts-The clerk presented the SPC current bank account year-end financial income, expenditure and reconciliation. This was for information only and will be fully approved at the May annual parish meeting.

VAT-the clerk has claimed for, and received, the year-end VAT claim for £109.08.

The following cheques/BACS were approved for payment.

BACS payment H.M.R.C. £54.58

BACS payment S. Belton salary

BACS payment ERNLLCA £450.85

BACS payment Incredible Edibles £120.00

2382 Date of next meeting.

Confirmed as Tuesday 21st May 2024 at 7.00 pm.