

Swainsthorpe Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
Wednesday 19 March 2024 at 7.30pm

In Attendance: Cllr Ann Chandler, Cllr Geoff Curran, Cllr Andy Haggith, Cllr Margaret Robins, Cllr Joe Casey, Cllr Annette Cooper and Cllr Nicki Craft.

Also present: 7 members of the public, District Councillor John Cook,

1. To consider apologies for absence

All councillors were present.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

3. Co-option

The council agreed to co-opt Annette Cooper to the parish council.
She was appointed as the well-being contact for the council.

4. Minutes

4a. The minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2025 were agreed subject to below amendments.

- To record Claire's resignation under apologies.
- Put "awards for all" in full.
- Byway open to all traffic
- Trod – footpath pressed hardcore

5. Public Open Forum including reports from District and County Councillors

5a. District Councillor John Cook reported that the recent roadworks on the A140 had been causing issues. There had now been complaints from those living in nearby villages such as Saxlingham Nethergate as there was more traffic travelling through them. It was reported that Swainsthorpe had been relatively quiet but there was potential that it could get busier. Relevant councillors and NCC officers had also been involved in the communications regarding the roadworks and the delays. It was noted that a more robust traffic management plan needed to be put in place for when the work started on the field. A discussion was held about the possibility of 3-way lights, but national highways were averse to it and it could potentially slow the traffic down more on the A140. It was suggested to invite EDF to another future meeting to explain what the plan of works was. The Chair reported that she had tried to contact various EDF personnel regarding the minutes of the previously held joint meeting they attended but she had not received them as yet. They will be circulated once they are received.

5b. There was a brief update on Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation. Devolution would happen in May 2026 with the election of a mayor and the delayed elections for other councillors taking place. LGR was a longer process which involved reshaping the current District and County Councils into either 1, 2 or 3 Unitary Councils. Currently each council had to put forward their proposal to Government. Ideally, it was hoped that the County and District Councils would work together and agree. South Norfolk was in favour of two Unitary Authorities, Norfolk County Council would prefer 1, with the other District Councils expressing their preferences.

- 5c. A member of public raised a concern that there were cars on Briar Lane and suggested that a sign could be placed there stating that it was a bridleway. It would be reported.
- 5d. There was concern expressed over the recent licence application, and this would be discussed under item 6, planning.
- 6. Planning**
- 6.1 ***Update on Local Green Energy Applications***
Charles Carron-Brown reported the latest on the green applications and this is appended to the minutes and on the website.
- 6.2 **Consider new planning applications**
An alcohol licence for a new building in the grounds of the Sugarbeet Pub had been received by South Norfolk Council. As it was a licence application, it was not for consultation however a response could be sent relating to the licence laws (deadline 26th March) not the planning application for the building, which was currently being appealed. It was agreed to find out when the appeal for the planning application was being held.
- 7. Correspondence**
- 7a. There had been no correspondence received.
- 8. Finance**
- 8.1 The accounts were agreed.
- 8.2 The current account balance after taking off ringfenced funds was £4413
- 8.2 The following payments were approved;
Nicola Ledain salary February and March: £419.42
HMRC 2024/2025: £326.76
HMRC 2023/2024: £318.45
Church Hire: £200
Play Inspection: £108.30
TT Jones: £405.79
First Responders Defibrillator training: £150.00
Charles Carron-Brown materials: £580.12
- 9. Village gates**
It was reported that the village gates would be put in place this year. It was suggested that they should be placed on A140 where the speed limit changes to 50 and on Church Road to change from being placed near the flowerpots to other side of the vale heading towards Mulbarton.
- 10. Internal Auditor**
- 10.1 The council approved the recommended internal auditor.
- 11. Neighbourhood Plan**
Elaine Parkinson reported that 96 out of a possible 168 surveys were returned (60%), which were currently being analysed by the consultants. The responses would be added to the policies which would in turn draft the neighbourhood plan. The plan would go out for consultation later in the year. She thanked the Steering Group for their work on the Plan.

12. Jubilee Garden and Village Green

It was reported that the climbing plants were being taken out of the Jubilee Garden and being moved to the Churchyard. New roses would be planted in the garden away from the fences. The benches have been installed, one on the Green donated from ex-district councillor Florence and the other on the Jubilee Garden from a resident in memory of her parents. There was a concern raised by a resident of Station Close that the hedge on the corner of the Jubilee Garden was blocking the view for the road. The gardener would be asked if he could cut the corner tight.

13. Telephone box and defibrillator

The telephone box was completed, and the defibrillator had been installed with training having taken place. There would be another session organised. This item would be taken off the agenda as a standing item.

14. Play Area

The inspection report had been received which had raised concerns over the large climbing frame. The outcome of the Awards for All lottery grant was still awaited and Action Play and Leisure had been contacted.

15. Website

The website was due an update and the clerk was in the process of carrying this out with Steve Jackman.

16. VE event

There would be a free afternoon tea on the main green for Swainsthorpe residents on 11th May, with a charge of £10 for non-residents. It was hoped that a £300 grant could be applied for from South Norfolk District Council. It was noted that this was a FIGS event, and leaflets would be circulated.

17. Speedwatch and SAM2

Cllr Geoff Curran reported that he had received performance figures for 2024. 22 sessions of 1 hour had been undertaken. Throughout the year, 80 drivers had been reported for speeding. It was envisaged that the current roadworks would have an impact. It was noted that Speedwatch can't operate while the SAM2 monitor was working, so Norfolk Constabulary had been advised that it would be covered with a temporary cover while a session was active. There were currently 3 Speedwatch sites, 1 of which wasn't viable, so another site would be sought. It was also highlighted within this item, that there were hedges that needed cutting back to ensure safe visibility and this was mainly along Church Road towards Mulbarton. This would be reported to Highways at Norfolk County Council.

18. Annual Parish meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting would take place on Wednesday 14 May at 7pm, before the Annual Parish Council meeting.

19. Items for next agenda

There were no items put forward yet.

20. Dates of next meeting

The next meeting was arranged for Wednesday 14 May 2024.

Meeting finished at 9.10pm.