

**Swainsthorpe Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8**  
**November 2023 at 7.30pm**

**In Attendance:** Cllr Ann Chandler (Chair), Cllr Nicki Craft, Cllr Claire Tuttle, Cllr Geoff Curran, Cllr Joe Casey, Cllr Andy Haggith, Cllr Margaret Robins

**Also present:** Parish Clerk Nicola Ledain, 6 members of the public,

**1. To consider apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from District Cllr John Cook.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no interests declared.

**3. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13 September 2023 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

**4. Public Open Forum including reports from District and County Councillors**

4.1 A whole council training date will be circulated and a date arranged with members of the council.

4.2 It was hoped that a date for the SAM 2 monitor and village gates would be known soon.

4.3 The National Grid powerline upgrade was ongoing and should be finished by the end of the year a month later than scheduled.

4.4 Network Rail has been cutting the trees alongside the embankment and had made a mess. Charles Carron-Brown had sent a complaint.

4.5 Two residents had met with planners at South Norfolk Council. Although the planners had sat and listened to what was happening in Swainsthorpe, it was felt that they hadn't really taken heed of what had been put to them. It was suggested that the local press be notified about the situation, and the flip side of renewable energy. If the Parish Council were to agree such an email, the resident would send it.

4.6 There were concerns expressed regarding the Cruickshank land with a planning application submitted for 5 extra sites, already built 6 and has said he has plans for 14 pitches. Shower block is being trying to be pushed through as agricultural building. The event tent with music is already a major disturbance to neighbouring properties.

**5. Planning**

**5a. Update on 2021/2495 – Installation of a solar farm – Brick Kiln Lane (Bloy's Grove - EDF)**

There was no recent update and it was assumed that the planning application for the cable route was holding up proceedings until notified otherwise. With regards to the footpath from recycling centre to the vale, Andy Haggith and Ann Chandler met with Adam Mayo (Highway Engineer) who came to visit the site. If the farmer would let them have some of the field, then it could happen, and would be half on the Vale side and then cross over. They also spoke to Adam about speed limit and although it wasn't feasible for 30mph outside the Vale, a 40mph limit could be possible.

**5b. Update on 2023/1095 – Energy Storage System – Land North of Hickling Lane - EDF**

This had been approved with conditions and they were currently carrying out an archaeological survey.

### **5c. 2023/2493 | Proposed welfare unit and solar panel LV collection, Land Behind The Sugar Beat Norwich Road Swainsthorpe Norfolk**

There were concerns expressed regarding this application from the parish council and members of the public. It was a bigger application and with more proposed units than the previously mentioned purpose. It would mean noise and disturbance which was already happening with the marquee that had been built.

## **6. Finance**

6a. The financial report was agreed.

6b. The following payments were agreed:

Clerk salary

HMRC

Cutting of the Jubilee garden

## **7. Neighbourhood Plan**

MR reported that an informal meeting had taken place regarding the neighbourhood plan.

The first step was to inform South Norfolk Council that the Parish Council wished to make this happen.

The steering group would be set up with volunteers. Leaflets / flyers would be distributed amongst the residents. Elaine Parkinson added that there would be a lot of work, and she had written the letter to SNC and written the words for the leaflet. The process was likely to take a couple of years. EP would take the lead on the plan, on behalf of the Parish Council. The Council approved an initial working budget of £1000k. Grants and funding would be applied for.

## **8. Bollards on Millennium green**

The Chair had spoken to Adam Mayo about placing bollards on Millennium Green once the lorries from the Bloy's Grove start coming through the village. A discussion was held regarding how many were needed, and if oak or plastic would be more appropriate. Charles Carron-Brown offered to look into the cost of plastic bollards and report back to the parish council.

## **9. Jubilee Garden**

The garden looked tidier than it had and the Chair had written a letter to the neighbour of the jubilee garden to politely ask if the items leaning on the fence could be removed.

## **10. Telephone box and defibrillator**

Malcolm Robins reported that the telephone box had survived the journey from the A140 to its position. It needed some work to restore it. Initial quotes for refurbishing the phone box have been quite expensive, but further quotes and investigations were being sought. Thanks to all those who helped with the move on the day.

## **11. Update on play area**

It was hoped that an advisor from Action Play and Leisure would visit the playground and advise what equipment would be best and what could be saved. This was being arranged.

## **12. Speedwatch**

Geoff Curran reported that there had been six 2 hour sessions, and had caught 12 speeding motorists during these sessions. There were currently 7 volunteers on the Speedwatch team.

It was reported that there were certain criteria that had to be met to become a fully fledged operator and part of this was confirming that the handbook had been read and taking part in an active session.

**13. Items for next agenda**

Phone box, play area.

**14. Dates of 2024 meetings were noted as**

Wednesday 17 January, Wednesday 20 March, Wednesday 15 May, Wednesday 17 July, Wednesday 18 September, Wednesday 20 November. The dates would be published in the Partnership magazine.

Meeting finished at 8.55pm