

**Swainsthorpe Parish Council Minutes of the  
meeting held on Wednesday 13 September 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

**Also present:** Parish Clerk Nicola Ledain, 9 members of the public, District Cllr John Cook

**1. To consider apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Margaret Robins

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no interests declared.

**3. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12 July 2023 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

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

1. District Cllr John Cook reported that a meeting had taken place with Helen Mellors and Tracy Lincoln from SNC planning, and Charles and Malcolm from the parish where they had discussed the dangers of the battery farm.
2. SNC have objected to Norwich to Tilbury application suggesting that off shore windfarms would be preferable.
3. There were also various grants available from SNC for projects around the village.
4. A resident asked if a letter could be written to the County Councillor for the ward as he has not been seen for a while.
5. It was also reported by a resident that she had tried hard to get a meeting with Richard Bacon MP but he had cancelled more than once at short notice.

**5. Planning**

a) Update on 2021/2495 – Installation of a solar farm – Brick Kiln Lane (Bloy's Grove - EDF)  
In response to the Chair regarding the potential footpath from the Vale to the recycling centre, Mousa Chodury replied stating that this would be looked into it, however there were still one or two issues with regard to the cable route and unless this can be approved, there wouldn't be a solar farm. The same applied to the funding that could be available of £20k per year for 35 years. If approved, the path from the vale would be created once the solar farm was finished. EDF had shared the dust management plan and draft traffic management plan (the later had been offline for the last two days). Within the management plan it stated that the workmen would be using the ghost island and not using the Hempnall roundabout as the pc had suggested. The council agreed that SNC and EDF should again be written to stating objections to this part of the plan.

b) Update on 2023/1095 – Energy Storage System – Land North of Hickling Lane - EDF  
It was reported that planning permission had been approved for this. There was a short discussion around what would happen to the permissive path that exists. It was suggested that it may be moved back against the railway but this was the landowners decision and there was no right of way.

c) Update on East Anglia Green Energy Enablement aka Norwich to Tilbury

A consultation meeting was held in Tasburgh Village Hall. A lot of opposition was present at the consultation meeting and had set up camp outside the hall. objection forms were delivered to every household in Swainsthorpe. 70 plus we're collected and sent to Rosie Pearson based in Essex who was coordinating the objection. SNC had also stated that they were against the application.

**6. Finance**

6a. The financial report was agreed.

6b. The following payments were agreed:

Nicola Ledain – salary

David Ashley-Cowan £1732.50

**7. Neighbourhood Plan**

Elaine Parkinson, who would be leading on the neighbourhood plan explained what a neighbourhood plan was on the back of the presentation received at the last meeting. She was starting to create the steering group to start preparing the plan. AC, JC, CT and MR from the parish council had all volunteered.

**8. Bollards on Millennium green**

In principle, the Council agreed to place bollards on Millenium Green. The siting of these would have to take into consideration the position of the water meters and the turning circles of the cars and vehicles which regularly used the track. It was agreed to be reviewed and to come back to the next meeting with a plan.

**9. Jubilee Garden**

The chair would speak to the man next to the jubilee garden as there were concrete posts leaning against the fence and these needed to be moved. The garden needed some tidying up, and some requests of help will be sent out. Once the seat had been installed, the garden can be opened.

**10. Telephone box and defibrillator**

The removal man for the phone box had confirmed he would move it, a date just needed to be organised. Once in place, an offer had been received from a parishioner to revamp the box, then grants and defibrillators could be considered.

**11. Update on play area**

It was reported that the play area working group had met. There were several grants that could be applied for. A local company called Action Play and Leisure would be meeting some members to review the equipment and give a rough quote of potential costs. It was suggested that the fruit trees could be removed due to the wasps that they attracted. Outside exercise equipment was also a potential idea. The basketball equipment needed a face lift and Robin from SCCT would take this forward.

**12. Speedwatch**

GC reported that training would be taking place on 14<sup>th</sup> September and they would be practicing using the devices that would be used on the road. It was reported that they had met with Officers from the Constabulary and had decided on the positions that would be used.

There were 13 volunteers with 9 attending this round of training. Further training would be organised and rota would be created for all the volunteers.

**13. Items for next agenda**

Councillor training, budget

**14. Date of the next meeting was noted as Wednesday 8 November 2023.**

Meeting finished at 8.55pm