

**SWALLOW PARISH COUNCIL INCORPORATING THE VILLAGES OF
SWALLOW AND CUXWOLD**

**Minutes of the Swallow Parish Council Meeting held
On 14th November 2023**

Present: Cllr G Thompson, Cllr J Wilson, Cllr I Hodson, Cllr A Peart, County/District Councillor T Smith and C Hollands (Clerk)

Absent: Cllr A Mathieson, Cllr C Turner.

No members of the public in attendance and no questions were passed to the Clerk for inclusion at the meeting.

The meeting commenced at 715pm

72-23 Apologies for absence.

None

73-23 To receive declarations of interest under the Localism Act 2011 – being any pecuniary interest in agenda items not previously recorded on Member's Register of Interests.

None

74-23 To receive and consider any dispensation requests on agenda items and decide whether they are to be granted.

None received.

75-23 To approve as a correct record the notes of the meeting held on 12th September and to authorise the Chair to sign the official minutes.

Resolved unanimously to accept the notes as a true record.

76-23 Matters arising from the Minutes

None

77-23 To elect a Vice Chairman for the Parish Council

Councillor Peart proposed Councillor Hodson. Seconded by Councillor Wilson. All agreed. Councillor Hodson duly elected.

78-23 To discuss the Vacancy for a Parish Councillor

It was suggested that a female candidate may be appropriate to give balance on the Parish Council. Also that a representative from Cuxwold is desirable to ensure that the Village is represented. Some form of leaflet drop in Cuxwold was agreed.

79-23 To receive and consider a report from LCC & WLDC Councillor.

Nothing to Report that is not an Agenda item for this Meeting.

80-23 To receive a report from the Chair.

- The Chair reported that work has been carried out on Drains in the Village
- Problems with the footpath at the end of Caistor Road should be reported through by residents individually.

- A recent Meeting was held of the Farm-Watch Group. It was disappointing that there was no representation by Lincolnshire Police. An Officer from Humberside Police did attend.

81-23 To receive and consider a report from the Clerk/RFO to the Council on any outstanding matters and correspondence received since the last meeting.

- All relevant Correspondence has been circulated to Cllrs by e mail.
- A Police Engagement Meeting has been arranged for December 14th. The Clerk has booked a place and tabled a question voicing concern about Police coverage particularly as the services of a PCSO have now been lost. The PCSO did engage with residents on a regular basis.
- The Clerk attended a recent event concerning a Finance Workbook for Parish Councils. The Workbook has been adopted by LALC. The Clerk saw merit in the Workbook but felt that it was too complex for the needs of Swallow Parish Council. The Clerk has made amendments to the existing Spreadsheet that should make it easier to read. It was agreed that the current arrangement is sufficient for the Parish Councils' needs.
- The Clerk has obtained Grass Cutting Quotes for 2024 from Glendale, the existing Contractor, and Dyne Group who currently work for Caistor Town Council. Whilst Dyne come highly recommended by Caistor Town Council, their quote at an Annual cost of £3504 + VAT is some three times that of the Glendale quote. Glendale have raised their prices by an average of 9.5%. After discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council is content with the standard of Glendale's' work and that their quote be accepted.

82-23 Financial matters

- To approve the bank reconciliation statement. This was agreed.
- To approve a payment of £105.32 to Glendale Countryside. Approved and cheque signed.
- To ratify payments of accounts, salary and payments already made.

Payment Ratifications	
Clerk Wage & Admin September	£309.02
Clerk Wage and Admin October	£309.02
Total to be ratified:	£618.04

- Resolved unanimously to ratify payments of salary payments already made.
- To review Banking arrangements. The forms for change of signatories on the Account were completed and will be submitted.
- To agree the Budget and Precept requirements for 2024/2025.
There was discussion about the level of Precept to be requested, the options previously circulated by the Clerk and the effect of those options on the Council Tax Payer. It was agreed that the Precept request be increased by 15% on the 2023/2024 figure to account for inflation and to increase the Parish Councils' reserves.

83-23 To further review the ROSPA Playground Inspection Report and agree actions on points raised.

Cllr Wilson had circulated a brief outlining essential Playground issues that needed to be addressed and the cost of doing so. It was agreed that the Parish Council will fund a quote for repairs from Wicksteed of £91.36 and further essential items estimated at £300.

84-23 To discuss and update progress with Flooding issues affecting the Village.

Work to address flooding issues at the Village Crossroads is planned for the 22nd November. The District Council is chasing Anglian Water to carry out their part of the repairs. A delay could have an impact on Farming in the area.

85-23 To discuss the possibility of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme for the Village.

Volunteers have not been forthcoming to participate in a scheme. There are funds available and efforts to attract residents will continue.

86-23 To discuss environmental issues affecting Grimsby Road.

Issues surrounding overgrown foliage affecting the footpath and the presence of vermin at 3 and 4 Grimsby Road were discussed. District Cllr T Smith will continue to press for a Meeting with the Environmental Health Officer to progress these issues. Additional issues discussed included the state of the septic tank and dilapidated vehicles at the address.

87-23 Village Hall – to receive an update from the Village Hall Committee.

Cllr Wilson reported as follows;

- The Village Hall continues to remain available for use by the local Residents and remains financially viable.
- Maintenance issues brought up at the last meeting have been addressed and are in hand. The Hall and Equipment remain in good order. Fire Equipment inspected by Cllr Peart.
- Recent Village Hall activities have been influenced by existing and new committee members to good effect.
- Future events include:-
- The regular Thursday morning get together.
- Bingo on dates to be advised.
- The Village Christmas meal subject to arrangements to be made with the Swallow Pub.
- The Children's Christmas Party and Santa on 17th December.
- Iza Moon classes.
- Group attendance from the Villages being organised for the Pantomime at Caistor.
- The effort to hold at least one event every month remains on the agenda.
- Setting up the Swallow outside Christmas lights.
- Removal of leaves and overhanging branches from the tarmac area.
- The last Village Hall meeting was on Monday 6th November, 2023.
- The next Village Hall meeting will be on 4th January, 2024 at 19:00.
- Communication continues to improve with the assistance of the "Whatsapp" Group - (Swallow & Cuxwold Village Hall Association) and a Facebook page.

88-23 Any other Business and future Agenda items.

Future Agenda items to include 3 and 4 Grimsby Road, Flooding update and Neighbourhood Watch update.

89-23 Confirm date of next Parish Council meeting as Tuesday 9th January 2024. Date confirmed.

90-23 To resolve to move into closed session in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed in relation to the following matter:

Clerks Annual Review

It was agreed that the Clerks Salary be raised to SCP 14 and the Annual Pay Award implemented.

Meeting closed at 850pm

Signed Chairman

Date.....

Next Meeting on 9th January 2024 at 7.15pm at Swallow Village Hall unless otherwise stated. These notes are draft until adopted as Minutes at the next meeting.