

SWALLOW PARISH COUNCIL INCORPORATING THE VILLAGES OF SWALLOW AND CUXWOLD

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting On 4th May 2021

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Government restrictions on travel, public meetings & social distancing placed on all residents of the UK, the January 2021 meeting of the Parish Council has been held online, as granted in legislation, which is valid until May 2021.

Present: Cllr B Mitchell, Cllr R Thompson, Cllr J Wilson, Cllr A Mathieson.
Mrs J A Sparks – Clerk/RFO.

Absent: Cllr Turner & Cllr Wallace.

One parishioner who was to be co-opted at Ordinary meeting present.

01. To approve as a correct record the notes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 12th May 2020 and to authorise the Chair to sign as a true record. RESOLVED unanimously to accept the minutes as a true record and authorize the Chair to sign them.
PROPOSED Cllr Wilson, **SECONDED** Cllr Mathieson.

02 Chairman's report

- The beginning of the year from April onwards was dominated by the Council's response to COVID-19. Councillors Heidi Walgate and Roger Thompson volunteered to help any parishioner who had difficulty getting shopping. The village play park was initially closed due to Government regulations. Once the Government allowed the re-opening of the park, a risk assessment was carried out, safety signs were purchased from GRSsigns and attached to the park fence to regulate activity in the park to make it safe. The park was duly opened.
- The bark in the picnic area of the park was replaced with the help and the generous financial support of the 49 Club. Safety enhancements to the park were carried out by Cllr John Wilson.
- Our previous Clerk Jackie Grainger resigned in March 2020, but, stayed on till a new replacement was found. After reviewing and interviewing a number of candidates, we were lucky to find and employ Judy Sparks as our new Parish Clerk. Judy has taken a great burden off my shoulders and has been a delight to work with.
- The bank account was changed from NatWest to Unity Trust Bank and new councillor signatories added, so that in the event of illness/death/incapacity of one or two councillors, the Parish Council could still function and pay its bills. The intention, as far as is possible, is to do all transactions online, as it's too much of a nightmare to run round getting signatures for cheques.
- Initially the PC looked at obtaining quotes to refurbish the bus stops for Swallow Village on the A46. However, it was discovered that Lincolnshire County Council were responsible for them, and I was told that they would refurbish them. They haven't been refurbished yet, and I will check on the situation. Signs were purchased by the PC to discourage urination in these bus stops and attached to the wall inside the bus stops. I encourage anyone witnessing anyone urinating to report the car registration number to the police, so a warning can be sent. The bus stops in Swallow and Cuxwold villages need refurbishment too – but suitable contractors have yet to be found. This will be discussed at the May Parish Council Ordinary Meeting.

- Lincolnshire County council have been contacted regarding flooding in Swallow village, a missing sign in Swallow village and to erect a new sign in Chapel Lane warning motorists that children are at play. I have to say that the response of Lincolnshire County Council is slow and almost non-existent. This will be taken up with the new councillor following local elections.
- The path in Caistor Rd from the pub to 'The Rectory' was machine cleaned to remove slippery detritus, and the property owner of the land next to The Rectory finally cut back the overgrown vegetation protruding from his land.
- Following discussions on speeding in Cuxwold, a 'Belinda Bollard' has been purchased using a WLDC grant and installed at the roadside in Cuxwold. This is a life-like model of a child to scare motorists into slowing down.
- Following the resignation of Cllr Heidi Walgate, the PC thanks her for her contribution over the past year. Adverts for a new councillor were posted, and so far, we have received one application which will be discussed at the next meeting of the PC.
- Illegal dumping of rubbish around the village is a major concern. WLDC have been good at clearing it up, but it should not be necessary. Both my wife and I go litter picking on Wednesdays as we walk the dogs to help clear general rubbish, and then leave the bag of litter by a village bin, which is emptied on Thursdays by WLDC. Please report anyone seen dumping rubbish to WLDC.

Report accepted.

3. Responsible Financial Officer's report

Income & expenditure sheet attached.

- Sum B/F from 2019-2020 was £4477.04.
- Total income was £7506.77 including precept of £6200 & VAT refund of £424.21.
- Total expenditure for 2020-2021 £7212.66.
- Sum carried forward to 2021-2022 is £4771.15 including £6.00 held by Cassells following a previous incorrect cheque payment which is an increase of £294.11 on the previous year.
- Finances checked and audited by Internal Auditor. Only issue is where Clerk's salary has, historically, been paid gross resulting in an underpayment of tax. The previous Clerk has repaid the sum outstanding but going forward the Clerk's salary must be paid net to prevent the problem occurring again. A new process has been put in place by the RFO to ensure tax due is calculated before payment made.
- SWPC has transferred its bank account to Unity Trust Ltd and will now operate an online account.

Report accepted.

4. Open meeting

- One parishioner in attendance as to be co-opted at Ordinary meeting.

Meeting closed at 7.23pm