

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SWEFFLING PARISH COUNCIL

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7:30pm, taking place at the Sweffling Village Hut, Low Road, Sweffling.

1. **Attendance and apologies:**
  - **PRESENT:** John Stanley in the Chair
  - **COUNCILLORS:** Julia Kinsey (JK,) Jude Chin (JC), Audrey Lummis (AL), Debbie Smith (DS), John Tesh (JT).
  - **IN ATTENDANCE:** Erika Spall, Temporary acting Clerk to the Council.
  - **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** None
  - **APOLOGIES:** No apologies or reports from District or County Councillors.
2. **To receive declarations of interest and to consider requests for dispensations:**
  - There were no declarations of interest and no requests for dispensation.
3. **Minutes of the previous meetings**
  - The previous minutes from the 14/09/21 were voted as correct and represented a true and fair record of that meeting and accordingly the Chair was authorised to sign the same as amended.
- 3.1 **Matters Arising**
  - Cllr Chin (JC) is happy with finance and has done full reconciliation up to end of August. Cllr Stanley (JS) will email (JC) with details of cheques paid out since end of August.
  - Debbie Smith was officially welcome as out new councillors, having completed all the required documentation.
4. **Public participation incl. Police, District and County Councillors/ reports.**
  - No reports received however, Cllr Tesh (JT) would like the Police to give a recent report of the increasing number of burglaries in our village and surrounding areas. Cllr Stanley (JS) will contact Police and ask for report for our next meeting in November.
5. **Village Matters**
  - 5.1 **Jubilee Field**
    - Grass cutting has finished for this year. Contractor will restart in March 2021. Cllr Spall (ES) has contacted Maurice Cook to see if there is grant's available to put all age 'gym' equipment on Jubilee Field. She was advised that money is available and could start grant request process. Cllr Spall (ES) would also like to swap one swing seat for a baby swing. Councillors agree to all the above, providing grant covers costs. Cllr Spall will look at what equipment is available and draw up costs.
    - Cllr Stanley expressed about obtaining something with a roof on Jubilee Field, but it was felt that it might become used more by teenagers wanting a hideout to drink alcohol, rather than young children playing.
    - Cllr Stanley (JS) confirmed we have the grant money from Adnams to buy a second goal for Jubilee Field. Price does not include VAT, so we will have to pay this, then claim back.
    - Cllr Kinsey (JK) has spoken with Jill Abbott about the bench around the tree in memory of Keith Godman, Cllr Kinsey explained that the council could not bear the brunt of the full cost, however, would be prepared to give some money towards this project. Also, concerns previously raised about the need to cut off over hanging branches in order to sit on seat, which inevitably increases costs. A suggestion was made that a simple bench with a plaque could be an option. Jill Abbott now suggests she will take on project and get quotes and oversee fundraising. No further action currently required by the Parish Council.
  - 5.2 **Replenishing grit bins**
    - Cllr Stanley (JS) was prepared to organise a delivery of grit for the bins however, the bins have already been replenished by contractors organised by the district council. So no further action required by the Parish Council.

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**5.3 Water Courses**

- It has been noticed that heavy rains cause a large puddle to form at the bottom of Rectory road. Any drain which we feel should be there is obviously hidden. The ditch opposite Townland Meadow has still not been cleared by local farmer and the gullies that run into this ditch off the road are overgrown. Cllr Stanley (JS) will contact Adrian Holden RE ditch clearance and also contact highways to clear gullies and unearth the drain on the corner of Rectory road.

**5.4 Flagship Sewage Treatment Unit**

- Yet again Flagship have been called out to sort out the failing sewage treatment that serves Blyth villas. Cllr Spall (ES) called the Environment Agency to come out and check as well. Cllr Stanley (JS) states that the environment agency do not want to get involved unless the sewage reaches the River Alde. (By which time it has already passed several houses beside the gull). Flagship do not seem to be interested in replacing the sewage treatment tank. Councillors not sure what to do next!

**6. Other Matters**

- Cllr Lummis (AL) reported about the water leak outside the bungalows near her, Water board are aware however, not classified as urgent as no drop in water pressure to said bungalows. The leak has been dealt with today, temporarily. Water board will return later this week to replace old pipe and stopcock.
- Cllr Smith (DS) would like to set up a Christmas event in the hut for children to visit Santa. This will not be a fundraising event. Another way to encourage villagers with children to be involved in village events. Cllr Smith (DS) will sort out dates with Ann Gladwell and Cllr Spall (ES) will help Cllr Smith (DS) with organisation. Councillors all agree.
- Cllr Tesh (JT) has asked for a wreath to be bought on behalf of Sweffling villagers to be laid at memorial service in November. This was agreed. Cllr Tesh (JT) will purchase and then claim back money for this. Cllr Stanley (JS) will ask Kim Hayes if he would like to lay the wreath as he is ex-service.

**7. Planning matters**

- No planning applications to consider.

**8. Finance report**

- As previously state above in matters arising.

**9. Chairman's report**

- Cllr Stanley (JS) stated has heard from the monitoring officer re: complaint made by Bobby Rusack. One complaint has been dismissed as no grounds for the complaint found. One minor response to second complaint. Cllr Stanley (JS) has 28 days to respond to the report and will feedback in full at the next meeting.

**10. Report from Councillor Kinsey**

- Cllr Kinsey (JK) has now got the stained glass swift from Sharon McMullin which councillors had previously agreed as a present for Maureen (ex clerk). Cllr Kinsey (JK) has also bought gift for Mike Smithson as he has now retired as clerk. Cllr Kinsey (JK) will email councillors with details of costs and those involved in the original decision will 'chip in' to the cost personally. Costs have not come from parish funds.

**11. Correspondence**

- There has been one email from Bobby Rusack, asking if we will link with Rendham parish and their dealings with highways over certain road works. Cllr Stanley (JS) has spoken with Rendham Parish Council clerk and none of the roads in question are adjacent to Sweffling parish, so there is no need for us to be involved.



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**12. Questions to the chair**

- Can we approach UKPN and try to ensure that we are not always the last to get power back in a power cut.

**13. Date and time of next meeting**

- The chair gave confirmation that the next Parish meeting would take place at the Village Hut on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021, 7:30pm.

