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| **Swardeston Parish Council**  **Minutes of the April 2023 Parish Council Meeting**  **At Swardeston village hall, on Thursday 13th April 2023 at 7.30PM**  **Meeting 4/2023** | | |
| Present:  Members - Derek Barber, Justin Barber, Liz Brown, Wendy Middleton, Graham Jermy  Cllr Gerry Francis  8 members of the public attended | | |
|  | **To consider apologies for absence**  Mr Everett and Mr Stock had sent their apologies for absence. |  |
|  | **To receive declaration of interests in items on agenda**  There were no declarations of interest. |  |
|  | **Resolution to adjourn the meeting for public participation and district/county councillor reports**  **Councillor reports**  Cllrs Legg and Spratt had sent their apologies.  Cllr Francis said there was not much to report due to pre-election period.  Horizon House was being prepared for occupation at the end of May/early June.  There had been some positive moves to get the East Anglia GREEN pylons moved offshore.  The other issue was the sale of Cygnet House at Long Stratton.  **Public Participation**  No Issues were raised. |  |
|  | **To confirm minutes of the last meeting held on 9th March 2023 and to review matters arising**  The minutes of the March meeting were agreed and the chairman signed them.  **Matters arising**  The large fence in Bobbins Way had been reported to planning and enforcement action was being taken.  The coronation commemorative bench had been ordered and was expected shortly after the coronation. The sleepers, fixings and wood treatment had been purchased. These would be installed on the common in the next 2 weeks; volunteers would be sought to help dig the sleepers in. It was to be installed near Queen Mothers Wood.  The litter pick would take place on 22 April 2023. The village would be divided In to 10 areas so 20 people required but so far only 6 had come forward. Some work may be done a few days either side of the main day. |  |
|  | **To consider planning applications**   * 1. **2023/0752**   **Location: Almond Villa Intwood Lane Swardeston NR14 8EA**  **Proposal: Demolish existing bungalow and outbuildings and construct two storey house and double garage**  The public were invited to comment and issues were raised about the scaling and it was suggested that the measurements on the plans were wrong. It was also raised that the proposed house was not in keeping with the rest of Intwood Lane. Further concerns were expressed about potentially shadowing on the adjacent properties due to the increased height and positioning of the proposed building.  It was reported that trees on the site had been removed earlier in the day.  The meeting was closed to further public participation.  Mr D Barber proposed that no specific objection should be submitted but disappointment be expressed that the applicant had already removed the trees and that they had potentially made a false declaration in the application. He said that the condition of the existing property was mitigated only by illegal fencing.  The parish council agreed to circulate the drafted comments for final agreement and the clerk would submit a neutral opinion.  **5.2 2023/0617**  **Location: Land North of Hickling Lane Swainsthorpe Norfolk**  **Proposal: Construction and operation of a battery storage facility, underground cabling, fencing, drainage infrastructure, landscape planting and site access road on land to the north of Hickling Lane and up towards the Norwich National Grid Substation.**  Mr D Barber explained the traffic flow from this construction was unlikely to affect Swardeston.  Some concerns were raised about possible Roman remains in Hickling Lane which was believed to be a Roman road through to Caistor St. Edmund. It was agreed an archaeological survey should be undertaken before any work commencing. The clerk would submit a response to planning. | **CJ**  **CJ** |
|  | **To consider possible road-crossing options for the Main Road and issues with speeding traffic**  No update had been received from the county councillor or the highways engineer despite having been chased several times. This would be escalated in the coming weeks to the cabinet member for highways. |  |
|  | **To consider and agree a generic email address for the parish council**  There had been no update on this issue. |  |
|  | **To consider any action on the offshore wind and solar farms and East Anglia GREEN**  Ducting had been installed for the substation. |  |
|  | **To agree to repair the grass in the play area**  Fast germinating grass seed had been purchased at a cost of £11.00 this would be spread over the weekend. |  |
|  | **To receive an update on the defibrillator**  The defibrillator had been checked on 13/04//23 and The Circuit had been updated. |  |
|  | **To agree a new bank signatory**  Mr Jermy volunteered to be a signatory, Mr D Barber would start the process to get him set up. Mrs Middleton said she would be a fourth signatory if needed. |  |
|  | **To consider and agree the membership of NALC and website provision/management**  The cost for membership had been separated from the website hosting. The options were considered and Mr J Barber proposed the parish council continues to subscribe to NALC and to pay for the website without management. Mrs Brown seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed. |  |
|  | **Finance**   * 1. **To review and agree financial statement to 13th April 2023**   The financial statement was proposed as an accurate record by Mr J Barber, this was seconded by Mrs Middleton and unanimously agreed.   * 1. **To agree invoices for payment in accordance with budget**   The following payments were agreed:  BACS £74.98 D Barber Bench fixings  BACS £105.99 C Jowett Clerks salary  BACS £70.40 HMRC PAYE  The payments were reviewed; Mr J Barber proposed the payments be approved, Mrs Brown seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed. |  |
|  | **To consider correspondence received**   1. A request had been received from the play area inspector used last year if this was required again in May, it was agreed to continue with the same provider. 2. Notification of Volunteering opportunities within our communities and The Big Help Out had been received with a request for parish councils to inspire residents to get involved with some new volunteering opportunities, this would be added to the website. 3. Planning Application 2023/07310 had been received and would be dealt with by email. |  |
|  | **To adjourn the meeting for public participation**  No items were raised. |  |
|  | **To agree agenda items for the next meeting on 11th May 2023 at 7:30 following the AGM which will commence at commencing at 7.00pm at Swardeston village hall**  To consider possible road-crossing options for the Main Road and issues with speeding traffic  To consider and agree a generic email address for the parish council  To consider any action on wind farms, solar farms and East Anglia GREEN  To confirm the check on the defibrillator  Village hall trustee nominations  **The meeting closed 20:55** |  |
|  | Mr D Barber led a vote of thanks for the work and commitment Mrs Brown has delivered during the over the 14 years she has served as a parish councillor. |  |
| Signed: Mr D Barber  Chairman to Swardeston Parish Council  [https://swardeston-parish-council.norfolkparishes.gov.uk](https://swardeston-parish-council.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/) | | |