|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Swardeston Parish Council**  **Minutes of the October 2023 Parish Council Meeting**  **At Swardeston village hall, on Thursday 12th October 2023 at 7.30PM**  **Meeting 10/2023** | | |
| Present:  Members - Derek Barber, Justin Barber, Nigel Legg, Graham Jermy, and Dominic Everett  Cllr Webber  Clerk - Carole Jowett  2 members of the public attended | | |
|  | **To consider apologies for absence**  Mrs Middleton had tendered her apologies for absence. |  |
|  | **To co-opt member to fill vacancy following election**  There were no nominations to fill the vacancy. |  |
|  | **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**  **Public Participation**  No issues were raised.  **Councillor reports**  Cllr Webber had sent a report and presented it to the meeting, this is attached at appendix A.  Further updates were also provided.  The Long Stratton building sale was likely to be discussed at a special meeting.  Cllr Webber visited Lotus and received an update on their future growth plans and how the new car fitted the brand. He said that Lotus had showrooms in London Piccadilly and in the centre of Paris. They had built 1550 cars last year increasing to 5000 vehicles this year and with ambition to build 15000 per year. Of the 2 proposed new sheds one would be for production and the other storage.  Trading of nutrient neutrality credits was expected to commence soon.  The pride in place grants would come from different funds and there was a shortage of applications for the revenue fund.  Homelessness was a concern as benefits had not kept pace with rents in the private sector If the housing team were made aware of potential evictions, they could provide support as prevention was a better outcome than homelessness.  Cabinet would be reconsulting on the village clusters as 1 site had been removed and another had reduced capacity.  There had been a presentation on fly tipping at the town and parish forum. And Cllr Webber said that there was to be an in-person town and parish summit on 9/11/23.  Dr Legg raised an issue of side waste not being picked up but Cllr Webber said this could be down to capacity. |  |
|  | **To confirm minutes of the last meeting held on 14th September 2023 and review matters arising.**  The minutes of the September meeting were proposed as an accurate record by Mr J Barber, Mr Everett seconded the proposal, which was unanimously agreed, and the chairman signed them.  **Matters arising**  No issues were discussed. |  |
|  | **To discuss and agree the future direction of the parish council**  After discussion it was agreed to concentrate on agenda’d items and other items that arose and that fell within the parish council’s remit . New issues would be shared amongst councillors as appropriate to reduce the amount of work that fell on the chairman. |  |
|  | **To consider a bid for the parish partnership scheme**  A draft scheme had been drawn up with the highways engineer to address speeding traffic. Suggestions and photographs were used and a new village gateway and signage was being considered near the Mulbarton boundary.  It had been agreed by highways that the parish council could replace the old static VAS sign with a machine of its choosing. A permanent SAM2 was the preferred option and Mr D Barber was working with Westcotec to get a price for the machine and its fitting. Highways had said that it was possible to apply for partnership funding for this as well as the speed control changes.  After consideration it was agreed that to increase the chances of the speed control scheme being accepted and the speed of a new VAS sign being installed this should be paid for from CIL funds, the expected cost was approximately £4000.00.  The gateway options were discussed and details would be circulated for consideration and preferences to be fed back to Mr D Barber by the end of the week. Estimated costs were between £16,000.00 and £20,000.00 so the PC contribution would be between £8,000.00 and £10,000.00.  These two items would be on the agenda for consideration and agreement at the November meeting. | All |
|  | **To consider possible road-crossing options for the Main Road and issues with speeding traffic**  The chairman had written to Cllr Elmer to remind him that he had said he might be able to help fund a traffic survey this year but once again there had been no response. Mr J Barber said he would chase a response.  Mr D Barber had written to the Chief Constable, the Safety Camera Partnership the Police and Crime Commissioner and Cllr Graham Plant about the success of policing speeding traffic with a request for this to continue. A response had been received from the Police and Crime Commissioner saying it was not within his remit but no other responses had been received. |  |
|  | **To consider any action on the offshore wind and solar farms and Norwich-Tilbury**  There had been a presentation in the village hall about a proposed 400-megawatt battery installation in a field off Hickling Lane which runs off Gowthorpe Lane. The intention would be to build a road to get equipment to the site by constructing a permanent road off the B1113 alongside Mangreen Lane with locked gates at each end. |  |
|  | **To receive an update on the defibrillator**  The defibrillator had been checked on 12/10/23 and had been updated on The Circuit. |  |
|  | **To consider a request for a donation from FoSCOM**  It was agreed to pay a contractor for the play area hedge cutting directly, rather than reimburse FoSCOM for organising the work. |  |
|  | **Finance**   * 1. **To review and agree financial statement to 12th October 2023**   The financial statement was reviewed. Mr J Barber proposed it was accepted as a true record of the accounts, this was seconded by Dr Legg and unanimously agreed.   * 1. **To agree invoices for payment in accordance with budget**   BACS £242.86 Norse Eastern Ltd Grounds maintenance  BACS £105.99 C Jowett Clerks salary  BACS £70.40 HMRC PAYE  The payments were reviewed and they were unanimously authorised. |  |
|  | **To consider correspondence received**  No items were discussed. |  |
|  | **To adjourn the meeting for public participation**  A request was made that the district councillor reports be published on the website with the agenda. This would be done for future meetings. |  |
|  | **To agree agenda items for the next meeting on 9th November 2023 at 7:30**  To consider possible road-crossing options for the Main Road and issues with speeding traffic  To consider any action on wind farms, solar farms and Norwich to Tilbury  To confirm the check on the defibrillator  To consider and agree a bid to parish partnership scheme  To consider and agree to purchase a VAS  **The meeting closed 21.00 pm** |  |
| Signed: Mr D Barber  Chairman to Swardeston Parish Council  [https://swardeston-parish-council.norfolkparishes.gov.uk](https://swardeston-parish-council.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/) | | |

Appendix a

**Swardeston Parish Council – 12 October 2023**

**District Councillor Report**

**Grants**

At the September Town & Parish forum, Andy Sexton, Pride in Place Relationship Manager, gave a presentation on Pride in Place grants. Grant applications from round one and two are underway and round three will open in November. There is a total of £379,386.00 available. Further details can be found on the South Norfolk website.

A reminder that Members Ward Grants are available. Community organisations needing a small amount of financial help should approach me or one of my colleagues.

**Sale of Long Stratton Building**

The application by Long Stratton Town Council to secure ‘Assets of Community Value’ status on South Norfolk House has been unsuccessful. The sale of South Norfolk House will be discussed at the forthcoming full council meeting on 16 October.

**Developments at Hethel**

Two significant planning applications for the development of the industrial area at Hethel are currently with SNC planning team: the Lotus Phase 4 application and the application for a new road layout and new industrial units. The Phase 4 application may go to DMC in November 2023.

In connection with these applications, the District Councillors have been invited to visit the Lotus facility on Thursday 12 October.

**Nutrient Neutrality**

The plans to relax these rules have been turned down by the House of Lords. House building will therefore continue to be constrained, but as discussed previously a joint venture with Anglian Water has been launched where housebuilders will be able to ‘offset’ the impact of developments by buying ‘credits’ to fund mitigation measures.

**‘Norwich to Tilbury’ Update**

On 11 September, Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex County councils jointly wrote to National Grid expressing concerns about the scheme. The council leaders said the scheme would have a significant impact on landscapes and local communities, as well as claiming an offshore solution "has not been sufficiently investigated". They also called for a “more participatory approach to public consultation”.

Jim Webber

08 October 2023