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| **Swardeston Parish Council**  **Minutes of the February 2024 Parish Council Meeting**  **At Swardeston village hall, on Thursday 8th February 2024 at 7.30PM**  **Meeting 2/2024** | | |
| Present:  Members - Derek Barber, Graham Jermy, Justin Barber, Wendy Middleton and Nigel Legg  Cllr Webber  Clerk - Carole Jowett  6 members of the public attended | | |
|  | **To consider apologies for absence**  Mr Everett had sent his 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**  The planning application for the 43 dwellings to be discussed under agenda item 6 had been submitted but there were still outstanding issues with water and drainage.  Thanks were expressed to Mr D Barber for his help resolving the fencing issues with Bennett Homes on the Cricketers site.  The chair of the village hall trustees thanked the parish council for the donation towards the work on the roof of the building.  The village hall trustees had sent an email outlining a grant application and plans its for the future. The chairman said this would be discussed in agenda item 12 as it had come in as correspondence.  **Councillor reports**  Cllr Webber had prepared a report which is copied at appendix a to these minutes.  He said he had been looking at the planning application n2023/0908. Once the statutory consultees had signed off the application, it would be very difficult to stop the application, The parish council may have more success in raising specific improvements it wished to see, and additional conditions that should be applied to the planning permission.  There was still a small amount of councillors grant money available but time was tight.  The letter sent by district councillors about the change of the Inspiration Trust admission policy had been leaked to the press.  The correspondence sent to Norfolk County Councillors about flooding on B roads, had not been responded to.  There was a world café initiative encouraging people to get together to help their communities and help particularly with mental health issues. |  |
|  | **To confirm minutes of the last meeting held on 11th January 2024 and review matters arising.**  The minutes of the January meeting were proposed as an accurate record by Mr D Barber, Mrs Middleton seconded the proposal, which was agreed, and the chairman signed them.  **Matters arising**  The Clean Up and bloom grant of £300 had been awarded, photographs would be required to show what the money had been used on.  Discussions took place on potential used of the money, primroses had previously been planted in Queen Mothers wood. It could be possible to plant snowdrops or a mix of native bulbs of daffodils, narcissus etc and there was potentially an opportunity to get some bulbs at wholesale prices. Final arrangements and agreement would need to be gained from the commons steering group.  Mr D Barber had been in contact with Bennett Homes about the issues with the Cricketers site – they had agreed to provide some fencing and some promised trees had been planted.  The village clusters comments had been submitted ahead of the deadline.  The Mulbarton speed watch group would be attending a site in Swardeston just outside of the garage once approved. Mr D Barber said that Swardeston residents were welcome to volunteer. |  |
|  | **To consider amended planning application 2023/0908 and agree any comments**  **Proposal: Development of 43 new dwellings and associated external works Location: Land at The Junction of Gowthorpe Lane and Main Road Swardeston Norfolk**  The original plans had been amended and now claim to address the comments raised by the PC in the first consultation but, in the main, these had been dismissed. The footpath to Mulbarton did not meet the required width but Norfolk County Council Highways would have to deal with that. A pedestrian crossing had been confirmed and was the only positive change. The flooding in Gowthorpe Lane had been ignored but, as the water comes from the proposed development site and the drainage ditch had been filled in this needs to be addressed in these plans. Further comments would be drafted and circulated and submitted by the deadline.  Cllr Webber said an extension could be requested. He added that the transport plan was based on peak hours and average use. The clerk would request an extension of one week for comments to be submitted. | **JB**  **CJ** |
|  | **To consider possible road-crossing options for Main Road and issues with speeding traffic**  A decision on the parish partnership funding bid for the speed reduction initiatives was due in March.  It was stated that the county councillor never responded to any emails and the parish council had failed yet again to get a response. The compliance officer had not answered the phone but this would be escalated. It was agreed that Councillor Graham Plant should be contacted. | **JB**  **DB** |
|  | **To review and adopt the biodiversity policy and action plan**  Mr J Barber had drafted and circulated the policy.  Mr Jermy proposed the policy be adopted, Dr Legg seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed.  The action plan was still to be developed, Mr Jermy agreed to review it and report back to a future meeting. | **GJ** |
|  | **To consider any action on national energy infrastructure projects**  The Equinor decision on the SEP and DEP scheme had been delayed.  Surprisingly given the work already underway, Orsted had only decided, at the end of January, to go ahead with Hornsea 3.  Mr D Barber said he would try to ascertain the actual site plan and landscaping as it was no longer visible from outside the site. |  |
|  | **To receive an update on the defibrillator**  The defibrillator had been checked and the Circuit updated earlier in the day. |  |
|  | **Finance**   * 1. **To review and agree financial statement to 8th February 2024**   The financial statement was reviewed. Mr J Barber proposed it was accepted as a true record of the accounts, this was seconded by Mr Jermy and unanimously agreed.   * 1. **To agree invoices for payment in accordance with budget**   BACS £115.16 C Jowett Clerks salary  BACS £76.40 HMRC PAYE  The payments were reviewed Mr Jermy proposed they were made Mrs Middleton seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed. |  |
|  | **To consider correspondence received**  An email had been received asking about the unmade section of road on High Common. Mr D Barber said he would respond and point them in the right direction.  The village hall trustees had sent a plan of works that was being used as a grant application with further future aspirations. This had been circulated to all members in advance of the meeting and Mr Jermy gave an overview of the application.  Grant had to be applied for by 31/01/24 which was achieved and had an extension granted until 4 March 2024 for more information to be provided.  Match funding was being sought . Feedback was given on the benefit of putting insulation in and this would be investigated further.  It was stated that the windows would need replacing in the future. The aim was to get more bookings to generate more income.  This would be discussed further at the March meeting. | **DB** |
|  | **To adjourn the meeting for public participation**  A question was asked whether the aspirational road crossing would be superseded by the Bennett Homes scheme. It was clarified that the one in the plans could be taken out at any time and may not meet the requirements of the village. |  |
|  | **To agree agenda items for the next meeting on 7th March 2024 at 7:30**  To consider the village hall request for match funding for the pride in place grant  To consider and agree planting using the clean-up and bloom grant  To review the draft biodiversity action plan  To consider any action on national energy infrastructure projects  To consider possible road-crossing options for the Main Road and issues with speeding traffic  To confirm the check on the defibrillator  **The meeting closed at 21.10 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

**District Councillor Report for Swardeston Parish Council – 08 February 2024**

**Grants**

Members ward grants close on 1st March. Requests are needed ASAP.

**Hethersett Academy /Inspiration Trust**

The Inspiration Trust has been consulting on changes to admission arrangements to Hethersett and Hewett Academies. The changes proposed would make Mulbarton Primary School the only feeder school to Hewett and would add an extra primary school to the feeders for Hethersett. The changes seem to further disadvantage children living in Mulbarton who wish to attend Hethersett Academy. Your Councillors are concerned at this discrimination by Inspiration Trust and are responding to the Consultation.

**Leisure Centre Update**

The new E-gym equipment has been installed at Long Stratton Leisure Centre, providing state of the art training programmes for all ages and levels of fitness. This is some of the most up to date gym equipment in the Country.

New discounted membership schemes will be available from April. Students and apprentices will receive a 40% discount on the full membership fee (£23 per month rather than £38), the concessionary discount will be 30% and over 65s who do not qualify for the concessionary rate can join a daytime/weekend scheme with a 25% discount.

**Flooding on B1113**

District Councillors are still active in attempting to resolve this. As this appears to be primarily the responsibility of Highways, your County Councillor has been emailed but no response. We have also tried to contact County Councillor Graham Plant, the cabinet lead for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport. There is no update since the January report.

**Greater Norwich Plan**

The recent SNC Town & Country Forum included a briefing on the Greater Norwich Plan. The inspector’s report is expected to support the plan when published in Mid-February. The Plan will then be adopted by the 3 councils in March.

The second South Norfolk village clusters consultation has just closed. It is expected to be Q3 2025 before this part of the plan can be adopted, following a review by the inspector.

**World Cafes**

The South Norfolk & Broadland Health and Wellbeing Partnership brings together a wide range of bodies with an interest in health and wellbeing. Two world café events are planned for March in Diss and Reepham. These events will provide residents an opportunity to meet in an informal setting to discuss key health topics with a particular focus on prevention and health inequalities. Parish Councils are encouraged to promote and attend these events. Further information can be provided.

**Hornsea 3 Community Fund**

Despite information indicating that the fund would open to applications in early 2024, no further information has been forthcoming. A recent email to Grantscape, who will manage the fund, has not been replied to.

**‘Norwich to Tilbury’ Update**

The formal consultation for this project is planned to start soon (estimated to be April by the action group).

**Bob McClenning, Ian Spratt & Jim Webber**

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|  | **Councillor Contact Details** |  |
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