

SWANNINGTON with ALDERFORD & LITTLE WITCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council – Jim Graves C.Eng. M.I.E.T. D.M.S. M.C.M.I.
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MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON July 19th.2023

Present: Mrs.Sue Darling (Chair) Mrs.Helen Mutimer (Vice-chair) Mr.Steve Williams
Mr.John Powles Mr.Trevor Nelson

In attendance: Mr.J.Graves - Clerk Public – Three Mr.Greg Peck (NCC)
Mr.Peter Bulman (BDC)

- a) **Public Participation** Members of the public present spoke of their concerns at the prevention of public parking on the right hand side of the Upgate Common approach track by the installation of log barriers, and the parking now taking place on the left side where a large area had been mown. Councillors pointed out that the right hand side was designated as a site of Specific Scientific Interest and the Council would be failing in it's legal obligations if parking was not discouraged even if this had been done historically in lesser numbers. Mowing on the left hand side had not been carried out on the instructions of the Parish Council. Concern was expressed at the danger to traffic caused by the narrowness of Alderford Bridge and the Clerk undertook to discuss with the Highways engineer the possibility of priority signage being installed.
- b) **Police Report** There were no incidents recorded in May
- c) **Norfolk County Council Report** The Western Link project had been approved by the Dept. of Transport and is now waiting for confirmation of funding from the Treasury before a planning application could be submitted. A decision on devolution arrangements is likely in December. Cllr.Peck said his members allowance for small grants to parishes in his area had been set at £10k.
- d) **Broadland District Council Report** Cllr.Bulman reported on various planning issues in the area and said that his members allowance for local projects was likely to increase to £1k
- e) **Full Council Meeting**
 1. **Apologies** None
 2. **Declarations of Interest** None
 3. **Minutes** of the meeting on May 17th. were confirmed and signed.
 4. **Reports** None
 5. **Planning** No objections were raised to amended plans for 2 Church Farm Cottages Alderford, amended plans for Double Cottage Upgate and Drainage plans associated with the wind farm cable corridor.
 6. **Commons** Mr.Williams presented his commons report. The Clerk reported on a successful discussion with Mr.Hewson on the acquisition and storage of a bag of aggregate to fill potholes in the Upgate track. Members discussed at length the parking issues raised in the public session and it was agreed that Mr.Williams would contact the Rural Payments Agency to explore the procedure for deleting the left hand side of the track from the HLS agreement before any further decisions were made.
 7. **Defibrillator** The Clerk was asked to ascertain the cost of an electricity supply to the bus shelter with that as a possible site for a defibrillator
 8. **Playground** The playground committee had applied for a grant from Biffa to purchase a new roundabout. This would need a 10% input from another source. The Council agreed that this could be funded from the s.106 planning agreement fund.
 9. **Parish Partnership Scheme** The Clerk reported that NCC would again fund 50% of successful applications for highway related projects.
 10. **Correspondence** None
 11. **Finance** The Clerk had provided an update of the Council's financial balances.

Cheque signed between meetings:

J.Graves – 1st.qtr. Salary and Expenses (inc.PAYE) £761.09

Cheques for signature:

CGM – grass cutting (inc.VAT) £100.80

Norfolk Wildlife Trust – grazing animals at Upgate £1636.00

G.Taylor – Tree felling £240.00

12. Clerk's and Councillors' Reports NCC would be asked to cut verges where Broad Lane exited on to Reepham Road as visibility was currently very poor.

13. The Next Meeting will be at Swannington Church on Wednesday Sept.20th. at 7.30 p.m.