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 17th.2024

Present: Mrs.Sue Darling (Chair) Mr.Steve Williams Mr.John Powles Mr.D.Harvey Mrs.H.Mutimer Mr.T.Nelson

In attendance: Mr.J.Graves - Clerk Public – Four Mr.Peter Bulman (BDC)

a) **Public Participation** Residents discussed at length the need to support commoners' rights as originally agreed by the Parish Council in 2020. Concern was also expressed by a resident who had been involved in a "near miss" at the junction of Reepham Road and Station Road where poor visibility was a contributing factor. It was also reported that at times motorbikes and 4x4 vehicles had been driven on Upgate Common.
b) **Police Report** There were two incidents reported in May
c) **Norfolk County Council Report** n/a
d) **Broadland District Council Report** Nothing to report
e) **Full Council Meeting**
1. **Apologies** None
2. **Declarations of Interest** None
3. **Minutes** The minutes of the meeting on May 15th. were confirmed and signed.
4. **Reports** The Clerk reported that a resident at Broad Lane had agreed to cut back his laurel hedge after the nesting season.
5. **Planning** No applications to be considered.
6. **Commons** Mr.Willams gave his report and said that volunteers had repaired one gate at Alderford and would shortly return to do the other. Total material costs would be in the region of £400.00. The Clerk reported that CGM had been bought by Nature Landscapes Ltd. and after a few teething troubles it was hoped that cutting would continue as planned.
7. **Benches** The Clerk gave details of benches for consideration at a future meeting.
8. **Commoners' Rights** After a short discussion it was agreed that although not formally registered, the Parish Council would support their traditional rights on both commons and this would only be reviewed if there was a significant change in circumstances.
9. **Reepham Road** Following the report made earlier on the "near miss" at the Station Road/Reepham Road junction the Clerk was asked to write to NCC Highways to get vegetation cut back.
10. **Correspondence** NCC had notified the Council that the Parish Partnership scheme for 50/50 funding would continue and any potential highway related schemes should be submitted by early December. The church had written to say that an upgrade of the toilets was under consideration and asking if there could be a grant from the Parish Council. As the church is the only meeting place in the Parish this was received favourably but the Church would be asked to submit a fully costed proposal before a final decision could be made. Mr.Powles had forwarded a letter from a resident regarding fencing and gates which had been erected on land near Upgate Common which had been used for walks. Mr.Williams confirmed that the disputed areas were private land, partly in Felthorpe, and that the routes mentioned were not public footpaths as shown on the definitive map. As such there was little the Council could do but they would endeavour to ascertain who was managing that area.
11. **Finance** The Clerk had provided an update of the Council's financial balances.

Cheques signed:-

J.Graves	Salary & Exp. (1st.qtr. inc. PAYE)	£850.95
Nurture Landscapes Ltd.	Grass cutting (inc.VAT)	£244.80
Norfolk Cons. Corps	Work on commons	£19.50
PLG Ltd.	Timber etc. for repairs (inc.VAT)	£170.80

12. **Clerk's and Councillors' Reports** A possible co-optee was mentioned and would be invited to discuss the matter with the Clerk.
13. **Next Meeting** Swannington Church – Wed.September 18th. at 7.30 p.m.