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.
3 Lawn Close Horsford Norwich NR10 3DJ
01603 898621 salwparishcouncil@gmail.com

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON March 19th. 2025

Present: Mrs.Sue Darling (Chair) Mr.Steve Williams Mrs.H.Mutimer (Vice-Chair) Mr.T.Nelson Mr.C.Drayson Mr.J.Powles Mr.D.Harvey

In attendance: Mr.J.Graves - Clerk Mr.Peter Bulman (BDC) Mr.Greg Peck (NCC) Public – None

a) **Public Participation** None
b) **Police Report** There were no incidents reported in December and January
c) **Norfolk County Council Report** Mr.Peck confirmed that the NCC share of Council tax would rise by 4.99%. The NCC preferred solution to devolution in the local government reform would be for one unitary authority for the whole of Norfolk which would produce significant cost savings. He confirmed that he had received information from the Highways dept. that the replacement signs for the Station Road/Reepham Road junction were now in stock and would be erected shortly.
d) **Broadland District Council Report** Mr.Bulman confirmed that there would be no change in the BDC share of the Council Tax. BDC had bought some housing stock to temporarily house homeless families thereby reducing the costs for B&B and hotel accommodation. The District Councils were likely to favour a three unitary solution to devolution.
e) **Full Council Meeting**

1. **Apologies** None
2. **Declarations of Interest** None
3. **Minutes** The minutes of the meeting on January 15th. were confirmed and signed.
4. **Reports** The Clerk reported that the Upgate information board had been reframed and installed at the entrance to Upgate Common.
5. **Planning** None to consider.
6. **Commons** Mr.Willams gave his report detailing work done by volunteers since the last meeting. He also reported that benches at both commons were in a poor state and needed replacing. The Clerk confirmed that this could be done using Community Infrastructure Levy funds and he would bring alternative styles and quotations to the next meeting.
7. **Nurture Landscapes** The Clerk reported that he had now successfully established contact with their Downham Mkt. depot and obtained quotations for the 2025 cutting season which showed a small increase. These were accepted by the Council.
8. **Norfolk Association of Local Councils** The quotation for annual membership had been received (£126.56) and also one from Norfolk Parish Training and Support. The Council decided to subscribe to NPTS for 2025 at a fee of £62.00
9. **Correspondence** None
10. **Finance** The Clerk had provided an update of the Council's financial balances.

Cheque signed between meetings:		
TCV	Pond Clearance (inc.VAT)	£816.00
PJD Ltd.	Upgate Info. Board (inc.VAT)	£180.00
Cheques signed at the meeting:		
George Taylor	Birch Scrub Removal at Upgate	£930.00
J.Graves	Salary & Exp. 4th. Qtr. (inc. PAYE)	£859.92

11. **Clerk's and Councillors' Reports** The Clerk was asked to contact two householders and ask them to cut back overhanging hedges. Members asked the Clerk to contact NCC Highways again to request priority signing at Alderford Bridge to avoid frequent near misses due to the narrow bridge and poor visibility. The Clerk reported that the Alderford noticeboard was in a poor state and he would bring suggestions and quotations to the next meeting.
12. **Next Meeting** Swannington Church – Wed. May 21st. at 7.30 p.m.