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 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MAY 21st.2025

Present: Mrs.Sue Darling – Chairman Mr.Jim Graves – Clerk
Four councillors Six members of the public Mr.Greg Peck (NCC) Mr.Peter Bulman (BDC)

1. The Chairman gave her annual report:

Work on both commons has continued with the removal of scrub and small fallen together with some fencing repairs. Steve Williams continues to be our lead councillor on all matters relating to the commons and liaises with all funding bodies, contractors and volunteer groups to ensure that they are properly maintained and the Council makes best use of the funds given by the Rural Payments Agency.

The Council co-opted Chris Drayson as a new councillor and the Council now has a full complement of seven members.

The Council has repaired the Upgate information board at the entrance to the common which had lain in the undergrowth for some time. New parish noticeboards and benches for the common are under consideration.

Following expenditure projections from the Clerk the Council again resolved to make a small increase in the parish precept which is now £6,200.

The Council continues to make an annual grant to the Church towards burial ground maintenance and an annual grant to the Play Area.

My thanks are due to all members of the Council for the time spent on community matters for the benefit of the parish.

Sue Darling – Chairman of the Parish Council

2. The Clerk presented the draft accounts for 2024/2025

Accrued Balances at 31-3-2025	
Current a/c	£ 2,960
Deposit a/c	£18,037
Commons a/c	£28,292

3. County and District Council reports. - Councillor Peck gave an update on the proposed devolution plans and the 4.99% increase in the NCC share of Council tax. Councillor Bulman confirmed no increase in the BDC share and expressed his views on the devolution proposals.
4. Police Report - No crimes had been recorded in February or March.
5. Any other business – Residents spoke at length to express their opposition to proposals for a solar farm installation at Alderford and urging the Parish Council to oppose the application once this had been published. The Clerk reminded residents that it was essential that all those wishing to comment on the proposals should make their views known directly to the Broadland District Council planning dept.