Swefling Parish Council

Minutes

**Location:** **Sweffling Village Hut, The Street, Sweffling**

**Date: Tuesday 8th November 2022. Commencing** **at 7.30pm**

1. **Attendance and apologies:**

No apologies were received.

Present John Stanley (JS), John Tesh (JT), Audrey Lummis (AL) and Amanda Daniel (AD) Julia Kinsey (JK), Jill Abbott (JA) and Jude Chin (JC)

No members of the public were present.

1. **To receive declarations of interest and to consider requests for dispensations**: JS declared a possible interest in Sweffling Bowls Club matters
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting: (a)** The Minutes of the previous meeting, having been read were signed by JS as a true record, proposed AL and unanimously agreed. **(b)** **Matters Arising :** The Poultry Housing Order information has been added to the village web site. JT has shared the Hinkley Point video. JS was still unable to contact Stephen Burroughes and AL suggested **JS should enquire at the County Council reception**. AD reported she has had no response from Neighbourhood Watch in regard to information for the web site. JT had ordered the trees for the Jubilee Field and delivery was confirmed. **JT will contact a local farmer to assist with the preparation work for planting. JC suggested Henry Gooch and JT will speak to him.** **JS has been unable to contact Lindsay Jennings, the environmental surveyor, and will continue trying to do so.** It was agreed AD would keep the PC laptop until required.
3. **Public participation incl. Police, District and County Councillors’ reports.** None present butDistrict Councillor Maurice Cook has sent a report by email to all Sweffling Parish Councillors.
4. **Village Matters** 
   1. **The Parish Council web site** **AD to let Laura know that the Wix web site needs to be discontinued in January** and she should contact JS to let him know she is ready for this to discontinue.
   2. **Mower update** JS has spoken to Andy Franklin regarding the mower which is in good condition. Andy agrees this could be used both in parts of the Jubilee Field without blackthorn scrub and the Memorial Garden except for areas immediately around the graves. There is still a rota of volunteers but training will need to be given. JK suggested that a container would make a suitable lockable shed for the equipment. **It was agreed that JK and JS would approach Maurice to see whether a community grant would be available to help pay for this.**
   3. **Election 2023** this will be for the term of office 2023 to 2027. If more than 7 people stand the election will be contested the cost will be circa £2,124. Unfortunately the cost is not related to the size of the Parish and would take up the entire precept. It was agreed we need to monitor the situation. No dates have yet been given but it is expected nominations will have to be in by the beginning of April.
   4. **Parish Clerk** it was agreed after discussion that it is a priority to find a Parish Clerk and this person needs to be qualified and experienced. It was also agreed that the work is likely to involve about 5 hours per week and the precept may need to be raised to cover this. **AD and JS to put an advert together and research an appropriate hourly rate to offer to be discussed at next meeting.**
5. **Finances - income and payments and planning for next year** we had saved £1300 as we had not been paying a Clerk. JS has stopped online banking and is using cheques. There are issues arising from the lack of a parish clerk. JS feels the precept will need to rise by circa 10% but because of the uncertainty as to whether there will be a by election it is impossible to calculate at this time. **JS will pursue outstanding matters regarding invoices and VAT which needs to be looked into**.
6. **Planning –** An objection has been submitted to the outline planning permission on Glemham Road for replacing agricultural buildings with 3 luxury homes. JS has asked regarding cluster development not meeting the local development plan and has not yet had a response.
7. **Correspondence –** only emails have been received. JS has raised the matter of assets of community value with the Bowls Club and this was discussed at their AGM and they have let Adrian Holden know. JA proposed and AD seconded that the Parish Council would support this, unanimously agreed. The Bowls Club had asked Adrian if he would consider selling them the bowls green and Adrian would want this properly valued. JA stated that there could be cluster housing applications on other important green spaces and these should be registered. **JT will raise this issue at the Townlands Trust AGM**
8. **Questions to the Chair –** JA expressed concern about chickens wandering loose in the village and **JS agreed to put a note thought the door of the property concerned**.

The meeting concluded at 9.05 p.m. the next meeting is on 10th January 2023 when the precept must be considered.