Swefling Parish Council

Minutes

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

**Date: Tuesday 11th October 2022. Commencing** **at 7.30pm**

1. **Attendance and apologies:**

Apologies from Julia Kinsey (JK), Jill Abbott (JA) and Jude Chin (JC)

Present John Stanley (JS), John Tesh (JT), Audrey Lummis (AL) and Amanda Daniel (AD)

No members of the public were present.

1. **To receive declarations of interest and to consider requests for dispensations**: None declared
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting:**

There were two amendments on items 5 (C) and 5 (F) It was agreed to add at the end of 5 (C) JS to contact SB to see whether he had sourced this belated funding and at 5 (F) JT reported that he had not stated he would source someone to clear the area and this wording was crossed through. Including the two amendments the Minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the chairman JS. **Matters Arising :**

**5 (A)** JT had followed up in some depth and heard from Bobby Rusack who felt there was no rationale for further discussions. Caroline Weatherby has shared a private video concerning the problems local communities continue to face regarding the Hinkley Point nuclear power station with JT and **JT** will share this video with Parish Councillors. **5 (B)** JS reported that the new website is looking good and Laura Mann has been posting new information very quickly. Development continues. **5 (C)** **JS** has tried to contact Stephen Burrows and will check with colleagues on SB’s health as he has not heard back **5 (C**) **JS** will follow up shortly. **5 (F)** **JT** is waiting for someone to respond and will continue chasing this up but his contact has left. In discussion it was agreed that it would be appropriate to include fruit bearing trees in a planting scheme on Jubilee Field hedgerow and to ask for sponsorship for the purchase of these by **AD** publicising the matter on the new web site. **9** **Questions to the Chair** – JK was thanked for her work on the vexatious complainant policies and the chosen policy was adopted for Sweffling Parish Council, proposed by JS, seconded by AL and unanimously agreed.

1. **Public participation incl. Police, District and County Councillors’ reports.** None present but **JS** has recently received a report from the District Councillor and will forward this to the Parish Councillors noting the reference to a recent Rendham Parish Council grant.
2. **Village Matters** 
   1. JS reported on the interesting Webinar Lecture by Andrew Joliffe concerning Assets of Community Value (ACV) green spaces and village assets. JS identified the Bowls Green, the Townlands Meadow, the Jubilee Field and the Village Hut as potential village assets that might meet the criteria for an ACV. The pub would be unlikely to meet the criteria for an ACV at present but if it had a small shop or post office attached then it might. After discussion arising from the Webinar and AD’s research into village greens which can be registered under the Commons Act 2006 and green spaces which can be designated as a way to provide special protection against development, it was agreed that **JT** would ask the Townlands Trust whether they would like to register the Townlands Trust Meadow as a village green. This would protect the meadow from future development. It was agreed that discussions on green spaces and looking to protect these from future development would take place at the next meeting when more Parish Councilors are present and meanwhile **JS** will speak to Lindsay Jennings, an environmental surveyor resident in Jubilee Close to see if she could offer any help.
   2. AD referred to quotes received from Fram Broadband for a one-off cost for provision of broadband to Sweffling Hut for £130.00 including VAT. The monthly cost for a 35Mbps supply, including a Community Group discount would be £22.10p. including VAT. This supply will allow up to 7 people to use the internet at one time, for a Zoom meeting to be projected onto a screen (taking 5-10 Mbps) or for 5 people to stream TV at the same time. The system could be upgraded at any time to 60 – 70 Mbps subject to a survey establishing that this speed is available in Sweffling. AD reported that the Hut Committee had indicated willingness to pay for the monthly cost. It was proposed by JT, seconded by AL and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would pay for the installation with the Sweffling Hut committee responsible for the monthly supply cost.
   3. Following discussion about local communities who continue to operate a form of Neighbourhood Watch, although without formal input from the Police it was agreed that **AD** would follow up with Laura Mann regarding the possibility of a Neighbourhood Watch section on the website also giving important information such as the Housing Order for poultry flocks effective from 1 a.m. on 12th October 2022
3. **Finances:** 
   1. **Financial Quarterly Report** in the continued absence of a Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, no report was available. It was agreed that the next meeting should be enabled to agree a recruitment method and detail as there are no local candidates. **AD** to research the appropriate hourly rate, job description and contract details. **JS** to ask JC to assess the income and outgoings and how much we can afford to pay and whether the precept would need to be raised as it is essential that there is a Parish Clerk.
   2. **Income and Payments** No income and payments information was available. JS reported that he has had difficulty getting Barclays to change the Poplar Barn address for postal bank statements and **JS** will continue to try and get this changed. **AD** is to collect the laptop and printer from Bea Whittleton so that we have access to the Parish Council records from Mike Smithson’s time as Parish Clerk so **AD** can upload the appropriate documents to the web site before returning the laptop and printer to JS
   3. **Insurance** JS reported that the insurance was renewed on 1st October 2022 and a cheque for £294.35 is required for payment of the annual renewal. AD proposed and JT seconded, agreed unanimously. **JS** will arrange for a second signature when the signatories are available.

The meeting concluded at 9.05 p.m.