**Sweffling Annual Parish Meeting**

**Held at Sweffling Hut**

**On Tuesday 9th May at 7pm**

**Minutes**

**1. Vice chairman Cllr Julia Kinsey welcomed parishioners and visitors and introduced the meeting.**

**2. Present:**

Cllr Amanda Daniel,

Cllr John Tesh

Cllr Audrey Lummis

Cllr Julia Kinsey

Cllr Jill Abbott

Cllr Jude Chin

And 9 members of the public

**Apologies from:**  Cllr John Stanley and Ann Dobson (delayed by weather)

**Minutes of last year’s Annual Parish Meeting** having been circulated to all councillors were signed as a true record.

**3. Reports were received from:**

**a) The Parish Council Chairman** - from Cllr John Stanley and read by

Cllr Julia Kinsey. There were no questions. This report and all further reports are posted on PC section of village website <sweffling.onesuffolk.net>

**b) Report from SPC Treasurer.** In the absence of a clerk, Cllr Jude Chin had maintained the cash book and prepared the draft End of Year Accounts March 31st 2023, in preparation for the Annual audit in July. This document is available for scrutiny on the website. There were questions and explanations - e.g. a clerk had been paid but only for part of the year, hence expenditure had not matched the budget. £11,666 had been received in grants for equipment on the Jubilee Field but not spent in the same year. An external contractor had been used for grass cutting hence this service was not free to the village any more as it had been in the past. The precept is currently £3,900. The account stands at £7,248 but this included the surplus of £1,100 because of no clerk. There needs to be a reserve of £5000 - £7000 for unexpected expenditure.

**c) Adoption of accounts.** JA proposed acceptance of the Sweffling PC End of Year Accounts March 31st 2023, AD seconded and this was carried.

**4. County and District Council Reports**

1. **Suffolk County Council.** An email was received prior to the meeting sending apologies from County Councillor Stephen Burroughes that he was unable to attend and that he would come to our June meeting. The lengthy report is now posted on the website, but was too late for comment at this meeting.
2. **East Suffolk County Council.** No report was received but it is understood from Stephen Burroughes that after the May 4th elections it is all change.

 **c). Suffolk Constabulary** PC Simon Green is the Community Engagement

 Officer, but off sick and will be replaced when he retires. Meanwhile there is a

 link for crime in our area which is Halesworth. See village website.

 **5. To Receive Reports from Village Organisations**

**a). St. Mary the Virgin Parish Church** Church Warden John Tesh read his report and it is posted on the village website <sweffling.[onesuffolk.ne](http://onesuffolk.net/St.Mary%E2%80%99s)t> under St.Mary’s Church

**b). The Townland Trust.** Sheila Tesh read her report and posted it on the village website. She added that anyone in the village who knew of individuals or families who might benefit from the Trust’s help should let a Trustee know. Answering a question about private hire of the Pavilion and Townland Meadow for children’s parties, Sheila said this was possible and Sandy Rowe 663753 should be contacted.

The report is at <sweffling.[onesuffolk.net](http://onesuffolk.net/Townland)> under organisations - Townland Trust.

The APM minutes of last year’s meeting mentioned the TT planning to plant trees. Advice from the Wildlife Trust was that a Spinney would not establish easily with such a high rabbit population. A few Oaks from similar soil (sandy) could be transplanted.

**c). Alde Community Council.** Jenny Tyson read her report and answered questions about the future of First Responders. It was evident that the situation needed more publicity as Councillors did not know about it. There are likely to be members of the community who would be pleased to help. A notice of information will be put in The Bridge and on the Website under organisations ACC. <sweffling.onesuffolk.net>

This prompted discussion about a Village Welcome Leaflet for new residents. Pam Fagan used to produce this but she had fairly recently handed it over to the Parish Council to co-ordinate.

**d). Sweffling Hut Committee.** Jill Abbott as chairman read her report and posted it on the village website, organisations section, Village Hut. <sweffling.onesuffolk.net>

**e). The Sweffling White Horse Bowls Club.** Julia Kinsey read this on behalf of John Stanley who sent his apologies. It is posted on the village website in the organisations section, bowls-club <sweffling.onesuffolk.net>

In answer to a question AD said that the Bowls club themselves can register the green as a community asset. It doesn’t have to be done by the Parish Council.

**f). Sweffling Tennis Club.** Steve Ashurst read the report from Sue Rusack - secretary. It was posted on the Village Website under organisations, tennis club. <sweffling.onesuffolk.net>. Their social event in June was highlighted.

**g). Sweffling Fete Organisation.**  Jill Abbott (chairman) read her report and posted it on the Village Website <sweffling.onesuffolk.net> under organisations - Sweffling Fete

**h). Tree Warden.**  Jenny Tyson had nothing to report.

The chairman reported that SPC had recently planted a hedge of native species of colour, on the boundary of Jubilee Field, which Cllr JTesh had organised. The few trees left over had been donated to the Townland Trust Meadow.

JTesh wanted to record thanks to volunteers who had planted the trees. Mulch from the Boult family’s garden was to be used around the trees - this would need a team with wheelbarrows. LJ said some needed staking. Extra mulch could be obtained from a Saxmundham tree surgeon, J Tesh said.

**6. Public Forum.**

No electors requested time to speak.

**7. Questions to the chair**

None were received.

**8. The next Annual Parish Meeting in Sweffling is confirmed as Tuesday 14th May 2024.**

The chairman thanked those attending for their reports and the meeting finished at 8.05pm.