

**Sweffling Parish Council meeting
11th March 2025 7:30pm
Sweffling Hut, The Street, Sweffling**

MINUTES

1. Attendance Present: SPC Cllr John Tesh (Chair) SPC Cllr Amanda Daniel, SPC Cllr Jillian Abbott, SPC Cllr Audrey Lummis, SPC Cllr Steve Ashurst. District Councillor Vince Langdon-Morris also attended the meeting from about 8:00pm

2. Apologies: Cllr Jenny Tyson – **Approved** – On Holiday

3. Declaration of Interests: No interests were declared

4. Minutes of Last meeting

4.1. The minutes of the last Parish Council meeting of the 14th January 2025 were agreed and signed as a true record. The minutes had been circulated to Cllrs and no errors or omissions were raised.

4.2. **Proposed** by Cllr Daniel, **seconded** by Cllr Ashurst and **passed** unanimously. They were duly signed by the Chairperson.

4.3. Matters Arising:

4.3.1. **Traffic Calming** Cllr Burroughes, Cllr Tesh and the Clerk had a Teams meeting on Tuesday 4th March.

ACTION The Clerk agreed to write up the notes of the meeting and circulate them to the Parish Council.

4.3.2. **Fete Flood money:** the money from the fete allocated to flooding in Sweffling has been sent to Lynda Newsom, Treasurer at the Alde Community Council. The money can be drawn down by Parish Council when required.

4.3.3. **Councillor Vacancies:** Cllr Ashurst confirmed he will be leaving the first week of June and Cllr Abbott confirmed she also intends to leave by the summer.

ACTION: Clerk to check quorum for the Council and ensure action is taken to advertise the vacancies as they arise through ESDC Democratic Services.

5. County and District Councillor Reports

5.1. Cllr Burroughes had sent in his report, and it was circulated to Councillors. There was a discussion about local transport and Cllr Daniel said she had some useful information.

ACTION: Cllr Daniel to circulate information about the free transport available to Sweffling residents

5.2. No reports were received from District Councillors or the Constabulary.

6. Flooding Update:

- 6.1. Cllr Ashurst reported that following some rain the dam and the Gull were coping well and there was no road flooding.
- 6.2. He also stated the Mike Smithson would be taking over as liaison with the Authorities when he leaves in June.
- 6.3. Cllr Ashurst believes the best use of the Fete monies would be to purchase hessian sandbags to be stored somewhere dry, to be filled when required.
- 6.4. Environment Agency and Highways are due to look at Sweffling in the Summer to assess works. However, some works may prove too expensive to contemplate for the 100yr event such as Storm Babet.
- 6.5. Cllr Daniel raised concern about drainage channels adjacent to her property which were the responsibility of the landowner (Gibbons).

ACTION: The Clerk to liaise with Cllr Daniel to write to Mr Gibbons to ask him to clear the channels.

ACTION: Following advice from Cllr Langdon-Morris Clerk to investigate Section 19 report for Sweffling

- 6.6. **A Vote of thanks:** The Parish Council, again, wanted to thank Cllr Ashurst and the volunteers who had done so much over the past months on remedial works around the village to repair damage done by the floods and to prepare the village for any such future event.

7. Local Infrastructure Projects:

- 7.1. **Sizewell C, Nautilus, Sea-link,** Nothing much further to report. Cllr Langford-Morris said he would investigate why landfall could not have taken place at the old Sizewell site.
- 7.2. **Lionlink:** Cllr Abbott highlighted that There are plans to bring in electricity from Dutch windfarms and landfall at the converter site at Friston and there is a drop-in at Saxmundham Market Hall Community scheduled for 2 - 8pm Friday 14th March.
- 7.3. **Solar Farms:** Cllr Langdon-Morris was able to update the Council with some information regarding some issue in the County. There were 4 new applications for Solar Farms, the housing target for ESDC had been raised from 900 to 1,550, although invited the energy minister chose to bypass ESDC during a visit to east Anglia.

8. Village Matters

8.1. **Grit Bins:** Cllr Ashurst agreed to survey current bin sites

8.2. **Jubilee Field:** Nothing to add since previous meeting other than the Rural caravan would like to visit in the Summer.

8.3. **Defibrillator:** Cllr Daniel reported that all the bills had been paid for the installation.

8.3.1. **Training:** Cllr Daniel was concerned that no-one had taken up the offers of training courses. It was hoped some had done the training on-line. Cllr Tesh reminded the PC that the St John's ambulance would provide a free training course, but this needed to be arranged. Unfortunately, they were not answering their emails.

8.4. **Grass Verges:** Cllr Tesh reported that during the recent sugar beet harvest the HGV's collecting beet had cut up the verges in the village. Having investigated it seems that there were several other delivery HGV's in the area at the time and finding those responsible is proving impossible.

8.5. **Litter Pick:** Cllr Tesh was keen to have a litter pick organised in the village. Cllr Lummis said this was normally done on the same Saturday as the flower show, this being the 5th April.

ACTION: Clerk to book litter pick for Saturday 5th April with ESDC and arrange for supply of litter picking equipment etc.

9. **Correspondence:** Mike Smithson had written to the Council asking if he could complete the Flood survey relating to Flood Babet. The Council agreed that this was a good idea.

ACTION: Clerk to write to Mike Smithson inviting him to complete the survey

10. Finance:

10.1. **To authorise cheques** – none processed

10.2. The Chair signed off previously authorised payments made on-line

a) On-Line Credit cash for Defibrillator	(£550.00)
b) Defibrillator Installation Mr Rowe	£285.00 *
c) Clerk expenses MS365 Licence	£59.99 *
d) Clerk Salary January	£228.81
e) Defibrillator Installation Mr McGovern	£289.50
f) Clerk Salary February	£228.81
g) ICO Annual Registration	£52.00

Balances as at 28/02/2025: Current Account **£4,698.36**, Premium Account: **£4,994.51**.

Proposed Cllr Daniel, Seconded Cllr Abbott, Unanimous

11. Audit Review:

11.1. Approval of Internal Auditor for 2024/25

Proposal – That SALC be the Internal Auditor for 2024/24

Proposed Cllr Abbott, Seconded Cllr Daniel, Unanimous

12. Planning

12.1. Planning decisions: None to be discussed

12.2. Planning Applications: Holdan's Lane DC/25/0541/P4BC, discussed at length with Councillor Langdon Morris and agreed to have a Teams meeting with Planning officer as soon as possible with the Chair and the Clerk to discuss the concerns of the Parish Council over the proposals

ACTION: Cllr Langdon Morris to contact Planning to arrange the meeting.

13. Any other Business

13.1. White Horse Public house – Asset of Community Value (ACV): Following contact from a parishioner the Council discussed the possibility of the Council applying to add the White Horse to the list of Community Assets with the District Council. The Council felt it need more information, so, Cllr Ashurst agrees to talk to the parishioner involved to get a better picture of how they envisaged the application going forward.

13.2. Loose Dogs: Cllr Daniel raised concerns over dogs not being on leads being walked in the village following an attack on poultry in her garden. It seemed there was little that could be done unless the owners were approached directly, or the incidents were escalated to the authorities.

14. Confirmation of next Parish Council Meeting:

The next Parish Meeting will be on Tuesday at 7:00pm 13th May 2025 in the Sweffling Hut. This will also be the date of the AGM and the Annual Parish Meeting

Peter Grogan
Parish Clerk
08/04/25