

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 MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 19th.2022

Present: Mrs.Sue Darling – Chairman Mr.Steve Williams Mr.John Powles
Mrs.Helen Mutimer Mr.Trevor Nelson Dr.Mark Hassall

In attendance: Mr.Jim Graves – Clerk Mr.Peter Bulman (BDC) Mr.Greg Peck (NCC)

Public - none

- a) **Public Participation** None
- b) **Police Report** No crimes had been recorded in October and November
- c) **NCC Report** Mr.Peck stated that the budget which was out for consultation was likely to result in a 2.99% increase in the NCC share of the precept. He asked whether the Council supported the Western Link proposal (see agenda item 16)
- d) **BDC Report** Mr.Bulman said that the District Council budget was under review but there was potential for no increase in the 22/23 precept.
- e) **Full Council**
 1. **Apologies** None
 2. **Declarations of Interest** None
 3. **Minutes** of the meeting on November 18th. were confirmed and signed.
 4. **Reports** None
 5. **Membership ceasing (Local Gvt.Act 1972)** The Clerk reported that he had accepted the advice from Norfolk ALC regarding his interpretation of the legislation in regard to absence from meetings and that Dr.Hassall remained a member of the Council.
 6. **Planning** 20212304 variation to design and layout of barn conversions at Hall Farm Lt.Witchingham – No objections were raised by the Council
 7. **Precept** Following a report by the Clerk on predicted expenditure the Council resolved not to increase the precept which would remain at £6,000 for 2022/23
 8. **Council Vacancy** The Clerk had received no response to notice advertising the vacancy and it was agreed that these should be left open ended.
 9. **Parish Council Website** The Clerk reported on the progress with the new site and all members agreed that their telephone numbers could be included.
 10. **Payroll Arrangements** The current payroll provider had been notified that the arrangement would cease on March 31st. And the HMRC software would be used by the Clerk.
 11. **Banking Arrangements** The Clerk had received no response to the letters sent to Barclays to change statements, standing orders etc. and as he was not a signatory he was unable to discuss this with them. Mr.Nelson was given all the details to make contact with Barclays to resolve this.
 12. **Uppgate Common** Mrs.Mutimer brought alternative proposals for a new path with rolled aggregate to replace the boardwalk together with approximate costs. It was agreed to invite the public to discuss the alternatives prior to the March meeting so that a decision could be made on the preferred solution and the source of funding.
 13. **Lord Lieutenant's Plaque** The plaque commemorating the resilience of the community during the pandemic had been received by the Clerk and Mr.Williams volunteered to fix it on the village sign.
 14. **Correspondence** A letter from Norfolk Citizens Advice inviting a donation did not receive support.
 15. **Finance**

Cheques signed since September:

J.Graves – Salary and Exp. Nov.& Dec. (inc.PAYE)	£481.92
Norfolk ALC – Website setup	£10.00
SLCC – Subscription (part)	£23.54

The Conservation Volunteers (inc.VAT)	£17.16
Cheques for signature:	
Norfolk Conservation Corps – Alderford Common	£12.00
Elec-Tech – PAT test urn (inc.VAT)	£30.00
George Taylor – Scrub Clearance	£700.00
PLG Farm Supplies – Posts for common (inc.VAT)	£47.52
Monies received since previous meeting	
Interest	£1.04
Rural Payments Agency (Commons management)	£5,023.95
Wayleave from UK Power Networks	£55.94

Balances c/fwd.

Current and Deposit a/cs	£19,634.52
Commons a/c	£29,018.18

16. **Clerk's and Councillor's Reports** Following Cllr.Peck's question, the Clerk asked for a definitive resolution on the proposed Western Link. After a declaration of interest from Mr.Williams the Council resolved to support the project. Mr.Williams gave his monthly report on the commons including work carried out and a failed attempt to bring grazing cattle on site which had to be abandoned due to the state of the access after wet weather. Mr.Powles said all highway matters had been resolved except repainting two areas of white lines. It was agreed to put potential assistance for burial ground maintenance on the March agenda and the PCC would be informed. Members agreed in principle to assist with the purchase of Jubilee mugs and this would be on the next agenda when further details would be available.
17. **Next Meeting** at Swannington Church on Wednesday March 16th. at 7.30 p.m.