

## Swine Parish Council

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### Minutes of the Meeting of Swine Parish Council held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024

**11/2024/01 – Attendees:** Cllrs Y Wilkinson, A Thompson, J Mackereth, E McMullen, A. Hunter and G Oliver. Also in attendance Cllr Samantha Whyte, for mid Holderness. Also attended for part of the meeting Revd D Messer, Mrs P Porter.

**11/2024/02 – Apologies:** Cllr G Bloom,

**11/2024/03 – Approval of minutes:**

Minutes of the meetings held on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2024 were read and approved unanimously as prepared, and then signed by Cllr Wilkinson.

**11/2024/04 – Matters Arising from the minutes:**

(A) Clerk confirmed that three salt bins have been removed from the East Riding Winter Services register and responsibility for them was now with Swine PC. She asked for clarification as to whether the intention was for all six to have been moved. Council confirmed it should have been all six, and Clerk will request that they too are moved.

(B) Clerk reported that she had received information from Electoral Services that only seven seats were available on the Council. Cllr Whyte confirmed that this figure is set by the Local Government Boundaries Commission. Quorum can be set by the Parish Council, so long as it is not less than three.

(C) Cllr Hunter expressed his deep dissatisfaction with the minuted response from the council regarding the works to the bridge over Swine Church Drain. He added that the field was never repaired properly after the works, that good soil was laid on top of mud, and that a membrane that they installed was never removed. He further commented on the wastage of 9m piles brought to site that were too long and never used, and that the parapet installed is not level. The hedges they installed are dead, and were at the time that the council suggested that “a resident or local farmer may be able to water them during the summer to give them a better chance”, not because of lack of water, but because they were not planted correctly in the first place,

**11/2024/05 – Co-option of New Council Member:**

Clerk had formerly circulated to Councillors an application received from Graham Oliver to fill the vacancy on the council. Cllr Hunter proposed that he be opted on, Cllr McMullen seconded the proposal, and Council voted unanimously in favour. Cllr Oliver was welcomed onto the committee.

**11/2024/06 – Police Report:**

Monthly Crime Reports for August, September and October have been received since the last meeting had been circulated to Councillors on email or hard copy prior to the meeting. Councillors had no particular comments to make on these.

**11/2024/07 – Revd David Messr:**

Revd D Messer asked if he could say a few words about use of the church, and why people of the village didn't use the church more than they do. He voiced concerns that if it didn't get used it could be vulnerable to closure. He expressed his desire to promote the concept of the church being a social space not just a religious space. Suggestions he made for possible use included dance classes, art classes, concerts, cinema, treasure hunt.

It was accepted that running water and toilets would need to be installed at some point. Councillors responded that they were not averse to the idea, but pointed out that there really are not very many people in the village, and that it always falls to the same people to organise and support things.

It was pointed out that St Mary's is also Coniston's local church, but that they come under a different council, who could be approached separately.

**11/2024/08 – Clerk's Report:**

(A) Clerk had received and circulated an update on Lord Redesdale's Lithium Battery Bill, reporting that the Government has now produced its own bill on the matter. Ron Bailey asked that we write to Baroness Jones to urge her to include clauses 5, 6 and 7 (which cover the regulation of batteries and the vehicles they are used in and safe disposal). Clerk confirmed that she had done this.

(B) Clerk confirmed that responsibility for keeping tidy the vegetation along the Hornsea Trail at Swine Station stood with the Public Rights of Way department at the East Riding Council. She had reported the overgrowth, but it was felt that while branches overhanging the path had been cut back, overgrowth around the platforms was in danger of obliterating the platforms, and it would be a shame to lose them. Clerk will contact them again to see if they could do something about that.

Clerk also reported that she had chased PROW up regarding repair of the Spring Nursery Footbridge (locally referred to as Bluebell Wood footbridge). Having initially reported funding issues, they did send a further response stating their current expectation for the repair would be Spring 2025.

Cllr Mackereth also mentioned the footbridge on the other side of the horse paddock at Horseshoe Cottage on the footpath that links to Ganstead, which has now completely collapsed. This has also been reported a few times. Clerk will try to see if that one is scheduled too.

Cllr Whyte offered to help follow up, and requested that all correspondence be forwarded to her so that she had all the details to support our case.

(C) Clerk asked for comments on costs that had been circulated relating to the purchase of "Passing Place" signage, in response to the previous discussion regarding potentially installing our own sign. With no strong feelings expressed by anyone for or against the sign, and the general consensus being that people would ignore it anyway, it was felt that it was not worth spending the money.

(D) Clerk reported her attendance at the Open Doors Meet and Greet at South Cave in October. She felt it had been an interesting and useful experience, having met some helpful people. She declared her intention to attend the next one in Hornsea in November, and reminded Councillors that they are all invited, but should RSVP if they intend to go.

(E) Clerk brought to the attention of the council item 2.2 of the Transparency Code for Small Authorities, which requires that minutes of meetings should be published not later than 1 month after the meeting. Our current process of not publishing them until they've been signed at the following meeting does not enable us to achieve that. Clerk proposed to council a new process, whereby the minutes are issued to councillors in draft within a week of the meeting, for comments and amendments to be returned within another week. They could then be published in draft on the council website, and also the noticeboard, within a month of the meeting, in accordance with the code. There were no objections to the proposal.

(F) Clerk urged council to keep an eye on updates to the Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms Project, and especially to the Pear Tree Solar Farm, the latter being right on our doorstep, and the

installation works and infrastructure will impact on the general area, if not specifically in the Parish. There is nothing specific to comment on at the moment, but updates do come through by email. (G) The Defibrillator grant is still currently available, and clerk was keen to ensure that all possible options for installing one in Swine had been explored before completely ending the discussion. Councillors continued to express concerns about the costs of ongoing maintenance and supplying electricity, and whether the benefits outweighed those costs. It was agreed to continue the conversation, and that Clerk will contact KCom to find out whether the phone box is ever used, and if not whether that could be a potential place to install one. All agreed, however, that we would like to keep the phone box itself exactly as it is, and that we would not want to lose it for a modern one.

**11/2024/09 - Finance:**

(A) Clerk confirmed that a new bank account had been set up, that the paperwork had all now been received, and all that remained was to transfer the money from the old account over. We do not have a current statement of the balance in the old bank account but it should be £1014.70, plus £2000 grant money which needs to be transferred to the Clock Face Repair fund

(B) Prior to the meeting clerk had circulated next year's insurance proposal from Zurich, as the renewal is due at the end of December. She reported that she had contacted some other companies but they had come back with higher premiums for less cover, so would recommend that we stay with Zurich. She will speak to them to see if there are any savings to be made, otherwise the cost will be £224, which is the same as it was last year.

Clerk did check with Zurich that our current insurance covers council's decision to maintain the salt bins. They just require a Risk Assessment to be done and clerk confirmed that she is working on one.

(C) It was agreed that a sum of £200 should be paid to the former clerk as a contribution towards her expenses, which she kindly offered to waive when she left.

(D) It was decided not to make a contribution to the Newsletter at this time. It was felt that people had already made their own considered, personal contributions as they felt appropriate.

**11/2024/10 – Communication from East Riding of Yorkshire Council:**

(A) Council agreed that clerk should complete the Annual Snapshot of Rough Sleepers on behalf of the council for the night on 21<sup>st</sup> November. No-one is aware of any rough sleepers currently in the parish, but Cllr Wilkinson shared information received that Josh had been seen recently not too far away.

(B) Cllr Whyte helped to explain the Design Code Consultation, which is a set of requirements and detailed parameters for new developments in the county. There is a public Consultation open until December 2nd, which can be accessed by everyone on the ERYC website at [www.eryc.link/designcode](http://www.eryc.link/designcode). Clerk has put a poster up on the noticeboard to publicise the consultation to residents, and added a link on the parish website.

(C) Town and Parish councils have been invited by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to suggest a topic or topics for their attention. Cllr Whyte explained that submissions could include any process or department that the ERYC currently operate that we felt required review. Cllr McMullen suggested the PROW, and all agreed that clerk should respond accordingly.

(D) It was agreed it might be helpful for clerk to help publicise the processes for reporting hare coursing and lamping / poaching that have been sent out through the "My Community Alert" process, on behalf of the Rural Task Force. It was felt, however, that poachers can be quite sophisticated and harder to spot than they once were, often using night vision equipment; also that previous attempts to call 999 had not always been successful. Clerk will put something on the noticeboard and the website to remind people to quote the appropriate operation names of Galileo and Zodiac.

11/2024/11 – Residents Enquiries:

(A) The suggestion to make a feature of Danny Well, was considered a nice idea. It was agreed that we would need to be discussed with the Crown Estate, and Cllr Thompson would give details of a contact to clerk to follow up.

(B) It was agreed that a bin by the footpath entrance on Dancing Lane might be a good idea and might help to stop people from throwing dog waste in the drain. Clerk will investigate the process and any associated costs with the council.

(C) Reports of tractors driving too fast through the village were discussed, and it was generally agreed that some of them do. However, it was also noted that they are mostly quite courteous on the lanes and do slow down when they see walkers. It was decided to monitor the situation and review at our next meeting.

**11/2024/12 – Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 7pm, in St Mary's Church Vestry.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed:

Dated: 10/02/25