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Swine Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of Swine Parish Council held on 7th August 2024

08/2024/01 – Attendees: Cllrs Y Wilkinson, A Thompson, J Mackereth, E McMullen and G Bloom

No members of the public were in attendance

08/2024/02 – Apologies: Cllr A Hunter,

08/2024/03 – Approval of minutes:

Minutes of the meetings held on 7th May and 25th June 2024 were read and approved unanimously as prepared, and then signed by Cllr Wilkinson.

08/2024/04 – New Clerk:

Cllr Wilkinson welcomed Clare Evans as the new Clerk to the council. All paperwork and the laptop has been handed over, but there had been a problem trying to change the bank account address as the form required the main contact to be a full signatory. Council agreed that the account should probably have three signatories anyway, and that the Clerk should be one. Clerk will look into getting that set up.

08/2024/05 – Police Crime Report:

Three crime reports 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. It was noted that no crimes were reported from Swine, but Skirlaugh seemed to have quite a bit.

08/2024/06 – Clerk's Report:

(A) Earlier this year East Riding of Yorkshire Council issued new arrangements for the maintenance of salt bins, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. In essence they are reducing the number of standard visits and refills they make, to enable a more responsive service. Requests for repair or refill can now be made through the website if required. With this in mind and in view of the cost of having the bins removed, council agreed to opt for Parish Council maintained salt bins. This would result in higher charges for council refills, but it was felt that we would be able to find cheaper alternative suppliers anyway.

(B) Clerk observed that the overhanging branches and brambles at the road junction near the disused railway had now been cut back, and asked councillors if they were satisfied with the result. Council agreed that although it is not the neatest job, it has improved the visibility on the corner. Councillor Mackereth mentioned overgrowth of the vegetation on the trail either side of Swine Station. Clerk agreed to look into which council or councils would be responsible for tidying that up.

(C) Clerk informed Councillors that an email had been received from PCSO Darren Bainton who had been out to look at the parking on the bend on Dancing Lane. His conclusion was that there is nothing the Police can do unless the whole of the width of carriageway was blocked and an emergency vehicle could not get through. He suggested installation of a passing place sign. Meanwhile nothing further had been heard from Councillor Talbot as to whether she had been able to gain a more favourable response from the East Riding of Yorkshire Council. It was felt by the council that we could install our own sign, and Councillor Thompson was asked to look into making a sign that we could install ourselves.

Councillor Wilkinson further mentioned that the cut-out opposite East and West Cottages, currently used a lot for parking, but had originally been formed due to the skid risk on that corner. She asked whether we should reinstate that as a passing place. After discussion, the consensus was that it would be inappropriate to try to stop the residents of the cottages from parking there now, as they have been doing so for over 20 years

(D) Clerk informed Councillors that an email had been received from Phil Smith at East Riding of Yorkshire Council in response to the matters raised by the previous meeting. He stated that the steel parapets are at the height they are to comply with current specification. Older bridges may have had different regulations to comply with. In response to the comment that the hedges were not growing he wondered whether a resident or local farmer may be able to water them during the summer to give them a better chance, however council felt that several had died already and it was too late to save them.

He refuted the opinion of the contractor that spoke to Councillor Hunter that works could have been completed more quickly, and insisted that a full replacement of the structure would have taken at least 8 weeks, based on the fact that they carry out replacements such as this on a regular basis. He further insisted that consultation was carried out with local landowners and because of the restricted access to the farms and homes it was decided to keep the bridge open and carry out a sleeving operation and the rebuilding of the headwalls and parapets. Council were unconvinced that such consultation was carried out, as no-one seemed to be aware of what was happening at the time.

Clerk has not heard anything more from Councillor Talbot on the subject.

(E) Clerk informed the council that an email had been received and circulated confirming that planning permission had been granted for the Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms Project, subject to a number of listed conditions.

08/2024/07 - Finance:

(A) Bank balance at 15/07/24 £1054.70.

(B) Councillor Wilkinson reminded the council that the previous clerk had waived her expenses for last year on the grounds that funds were low at the time, and asked that consideration be given to offering remuneration now that the bank balance was looking healthier. Council agreed that that was a good idea and that we should review upcoming expenses with a view to making a decision at the next meeting.

08/2024/08 – Communication from East Riding of Yorkshire Council

Council agreed that clerk should complete the NHT survey on behalf of the council, stating that we have no public transport in Swine

08/2024/09 – Communication from Rob Bailey regarding Bill for the Safety of Lithium

Batteries: Council agreed that clerk should write to confirm our support of the Bill

08/2024/10 – Date of Next Meeting: Monday 11th November 2024 at 7pm, in St Mary's Church Vestry

Any other business: -

(A) Councillor McMullen reminded council of the outstanding vacancy on the council, and pointed out that had there been more than one apology we could not have obtained a quorum for the meeting. She proposed that we should look for two more councillors rather than just the one, which council agreed would make sense. Councillor Wilkinson confirmed that she had spoken to one interested party, but it was agreed that an advert be placed in the magazine and on the noticeboard to publicise the further vacancy.

(B) Councillor Mackereth asked whether the clock could now be ordered, to avoid any more increases in the cost. The money raised to-date would be sufficient to pay initial costs and it was considered achievable that the outstanding funds could be raised before they needed to be paid. Councillor Thompson agreed to make the appropriate enquiries and start the process.

Meeting closed at 7.45pm

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. M.' or similar, written in a cursive style.

Date: 11/11/2024