

Swine Parish Council

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Minutes of the of Swine Parish Council Meeting held on 10th November 2025 in St. Mary's Church Vestry

11/2025/01 – Attendees: Cllrs Y Wilkinson, G Bloom, J Mackereth, A Thompson, A Hunter, G Oliver.
Members of the Public in Attendance: Jon Page, Lynne Page, Dick Wastling

11/2025/02 – Apologies: Cllr Samantha Whyte

11/2025/03 – Approval of minutes:

Minutes of the meeting held on 11th August 2025 were approved unanimously and signed by Cllr Wilkinson.

11/2025/04 – Police Report

Monthly crime reports for August and September were received and circulated. Councillors noted the high number of incidents.

11/2025/05 – Clerk's Report:

(A) Clerk attended the Open Doors event in Beverley on 18 September. ERYC will issue guidance on the requirement for parish councils to use gov.uk email addresses.

(B) Vegetation clearance at Swine Station (25–26 October) was completed successfully. Thanks recorded to David Buckton for his help with the hedge cutting, and to Cllr Oliver for arranging it. Suggestions for Phase 2 included planting wild flowers on the platform, research into the origins of the brick walls, and potential grant applications. Mr Page offered to help with a design support and advice around planting wild flowers. Cllr Oliver drew attention to the fact that bricks had been removed from the wall, and Mr Wastling offered to look at the remains of the wall to advise on stability after the recent damage.

(C) The latest update from Highways Engineer regarding the planned works around flooding in Conistion Lane is:

- (i) there is still no confirmed date for the installation of the one-way valve at The Cottage
- (ii) the CCTV survey has now been put back until February 16th due to contractor delays

Clerk has since received a further report of flooding occurring at the end of Main Street, where the bridge was repaired. The contractors had effectively filled in cuts through the verge that directed rainwater into the dyke below, so now it was pooling instead in the road. Dick Wastling offered to investigate; he might be able to re-instate a channel for the water.

(D) Clerk has spoken to the residents at Corner Cottage and Schoolhouse regarding overhanging trees on the corner of Dancing Lane with Coniston Lane.

- (i) The trees at School House are due to be trimmed back from the power lines in December. Council agreed to review once this work had been completed.
- (ii) Residents at Corner Cottage are open to discussion with farmers about their concerns.

11/2025/06 - Finance:

- (A) Clerk confirmed the current bank balance at £1230.31, with an uncashed cheque for £40 to RBL for the poppy wreaths still outstanding.
- (B) Consideration was given to the invoice received from DA Buckton for £180 for hedge and payment was agreed.
- (C) Zurich insurance renewal (£224, unchanged from last year) was considered and accepted.

11/2025/07 – Abbey Garth Farm Ltd

Mr Dick Wastling introduced Mr Jon Page, the new resident and co-partner at Abbey Garth Farm. Mr Page is an agronomist who has previously worked on the farm, and now shares responsibility for running it in a 50/50 partnership with Mr Will Wastling. His role is to meet environmental targets agreed with the Crown under the farm's Environmental Farm Business Tenancy (eFPT).

This tenancy requires the farm to dedicate 15% of its land to biodiversity and habitat improvement. To achieve this, the grass strips around the fields must be planted up. A detailed plan and map is being prepared to show how this will be done. Mr Page presented an indicative copy of the map to the meeting, to give an idea of how it might work, although nothing is yet finalised or signed off.

Councillors questioned the necessity of closing off the strip along the drain that runs behind Main Street. Although not an official PROW, this has been a popular walking route for many years, providing a convenient, short, circular walk for local people, especially dog walkers. Cllr Hunter confirmed that during his time as the farmer he had allowed walkers through there. It was asked whether the biodiversity target could be met elsewhere. Mr Page explained that changing the plan would be extremely costly and could reduce crop yields. The only alternative would be to plant crops right up to within a metre of the drain. He had checked with the council and there was no current DMMO in place.

Other initiatives planned for the farm include educational programmes, including farm open days and Duke of Edinburgh events. has also been in discussion with the police who have visited the farm to consider the possibility of doing incident training and dog training there.

Concerns were raised about additional traffic in the village, and the possible impact on small farm roads.

Plans are underway to upgrade the toilets, install showers and a kitchen at the farm to make the buildings compliant for this. Mr Page informed the meeting that all the facilities would be available for use by the church once completed. They also need to install a defibrillator on the farm, which will be available for village use.

The question was asked as to whether the Crown required planning permission, especially given that the farm is in a conservation area. Clerk will check.

Abbey Garth Farm Ltd have already taken on the grass cutting for the church yard.

11/2025/08 - AOB

(A) Chairman announced with sadness the resignation of Councillor McMullen. The council expressed disappointment, as she had always been a proactive and insightful voice on the council. Clerk will write to thank her for her service.

Councillor Mackereth will take over her role as signatory on the bank account.

11/2025/08 – Date of Next Meeting: Monday 19th January 2026 at 7pm, in St Mary's Church Vestry

Meeting closed at 8.30pm