

Swine Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of Swine Parish Council held on 12th May 2025

05/2025/01 – Attendees: Cllrs Y Wilkinson, G Bloom, J Mackereth, A Thompson, A Hunter, John Holtby.

05/2025/02 – Apologies: Cllrs E McMullen, G Oliver

05/2025/03 – Approval of minutes:

Minutes of the meetings held on 10th February 2025 were approved unanimously as prepared, and then signed by Cllr Wilkinson.

05/2025/04 – Election of Chairman

The annual election of the Chairman was held in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972. There were no new nominations or applications, and Cllr Wilkinson was unanimously re-elected.

05/2025/05 - Finance:

(A) 2024/25 Audit:

- (i) The Annual audit report was presented
- (ii) The certificate of exemption from a detailed/national audit was considered and signed as prepared as income/expenditure does not exceed £25,000.
- (iii) The annual governance statement was considered and signed as prepared.
- (iv) The accounting statement was considered and signed as prepared.

(B) Councillor Holtby questioned whether it wouldn't have been better to pay money raised for the clock face directly into the Swine Summer Fayre account (something previously raised by Mrs Richardson during the internal Audit), as putting it through the Parish Council account inflated the figures. Clerk explained that the Brass Band Concert money was in the account because the event had been organised by the Parish Council, and bank details had been given to organisations when applying for grants. Council agreed that going forward, grants for other projects should not go through the Parish Council account if it could be avoided.

(C) The latest bank statement received, dated 1st May shows a balance of £578.31. During April we received £1000 grant from the James Reckitt foundation for the clock face fundraising, which has been passed on.

(D) Clerk reported that a Remittance Advice for the precept of £900 has been received from ERYC, but the funds have not yet been received into the account.

05/2025/06 – Police Reports:

Monthly Crime Reports for February, March and April have been received and had been circulated to Councillors on email or hard copy prior to the meeting. Councillors had no comments to make, other than to observe that petrol theft continues to be high in the area.

Cllr Wilkinson mentioned the vandalism to the noticeboard. Clerk confirmed that she had reported this to PC Bainton. He had asked that any anti-social behaviour be reported to 101 so that they could increase patrols in the area.

05/2025/05 – Clerk’s Report:

- (A) A response has been received from KCOM regarding the possibility of using the phone box for a defibrillator. This is not currently possible as it is a working phone box, with no other phone box within walking distance of 400m.
- (B) The latest update from ERYC regarding the repair of Spring Nursery footbridge (locally known as Bluebell Wood) is that funding has been approved and a bridge has been purchased in kit form. A contractor needs to be appointed and we are expecting to hear from the newly appointed engineer in a couple of weeks regarding exactly when the works will take place.
- (C) Clerk has not yet received an update on the broken sign at the junction of Skirlaugh Rd and Swine Rd

05/2025/06

Council wanted to extend thanks to Debbie and Alan for the use of their garden for the village VE Day celebrations which took place on Saturday 10th May. Also to everyone who provided food and helped with decorations. It’s estimated that over 40 village residents attended a fun and sociable afternoon, in glorious weather. A grant was secured from ERYC for the purchase of gazebos, tables and a tea urn to help make the event possible. These items will be stored for use at more village social events in the future.

05/2025/07 – Drainage and flooding issues:

Clerk has been in touch with the Area Engineer - Highway Maintenance. Unfortunately, he was unable to attend our meeting as he was on annual leave. She had, however had several email exchanges with him regarding what works had been undertaken along Coniston Lane, and what further works were planned in the light of the fact that the flooding had since recurred. In February and March of 2024 an ERYC drainage team undertook works “without prejudice” to the riparian drainage system which runs under the grass verge. Large sections of the old clay pipe were in very poor condition and were repaired or replaced, between The Cottage and New Cut Drain. ERYC Highways will investigate options regarding any surcharge by the gully outside The Cottage, including the feasibility of installing some form of non-return valve for the gully, but it is unknown if it is possible at this stage.

The Area Engineer said that there was little they could do about run off from the privately owned land on either side of the road, which contributes to the problems.

Cllr Hunter observed that very often the council repairs are done in small sections, and often don’t pick up the damage caused to the clay pipes by tree roots.

He also asked whether mention had been made of the water coming down from Coniston, because that was considered to be a factor in the overwhelming of the drains. Clerk will pass both these comments back to the Area Engineer for response.

Clerk has sent the correspondence from the Area Engineer on to Carter Jonas, as land manager for the adjoining fields, to see what they can do to help, and they have agreed to have a look at it. Clerk also asked Carter Jonas to consider the flooding that occurred last winter on Dancing Lane, due to run off from land on both sides of the road. Carter Jonas asked for council to give it 12 months to see if the newly planted trees in the field behind the Old School House and the gardens along Coniston Lane

would make a difference, but it was felt that those trees were far too small to make a difference, and any potential effect from would take a lot longer than 12 months.

AOB There were no items of any other business.

05/2025/08 – Date of Next Meeting: Monday 11th August 2025 at 7pm, in St Mary's Church Vestry

Meeting closed at 7.45 pm

Signed _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John'.

Date 11.08.25