

Swine Parish Council

Lavender Cottage, Swine
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Minutes of the Meeting of Swine Parish Council held on 11th May 2026

05/2026/01 – Attendees: Cllrs Y Wilkinson, G Bloom, A Thompson, A Hunter, G Oliver

05/2026/02 – Apologies: Cllr J Mackereth

05/202503 – Approval of minutes:

Minutes of the meetings held on 19th January 2026 were approved unanimously as prepared, and then signed by Cllr Wilkinson.

05/2026/04 – 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.

05/2026/05 - Finance:

2025/26 Audit:

- (i) The Annual audit report, previously circulated on email, 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.

05/2026/06 – Police Reports:

Monthly Crime Reports for January, February, March and April were received and had been circulated to Councillors in advance of the meeting, either by email or hard copy.

Councillor Bloom noted that while fuel thefts continue to be reported at Long Riston petrol station, some incidents may be attributable to error rather than deliberate theft—for example, motorists driving away having forgotten to pay, or failing to realise that a card payment had not been processed at the pump. It was therefore possible that some reported incidents had subsequently been settled.

Councillor Wilkinson reported that two young males dressed in black and riding electric bikes had been seen lingering around the village. She also referred to a report that they had knocked on a door at Kelwell Farm asking for water. Concerns were raised that they may have been assessing the area. Councillor Oliver reported a further suspicious incident occurring after the recent burglaries at Hill Farm and Abbey Garth Farm, and the attempted burglary at Hill Farm Cottage. A trial bike, followed by a blue car, was seen entering Abbey Garth Farm, travelling on to Hill Farm, and then continuing towards Woodhouse Farm. On being alerted, Councillor Oliver attempted to follow the vehicles, and the matter was reported to the police. Although the individuals were not located, it was believed the activity may have been a scoping exercise by persons from outside the area. A registration check indicated that the car was hired in Windsor and had previously been sighted in Wakefield.

(A) Following discussion, it was agreed to purchase 4 × 25kg bags of salt from ERYC to refill salt bin 596, located at the junction of Swine Lane and Coniston Lane (Swine Station). Salt has recently been removed from the bin by an unknown person.

(B) The Clerk read from an email received from Highways regarding the recent investigations into the drainage issues on Coniston Lane. The CCTV survey has been completed. Tree roots, which had damaged and blocked the drain, have been cut back and cleared, which should improve flow. However, it has been confirmed that the old section of pipe requires replacement up to the inlet near The Cottage. A funding request has been submitted to the Members Initiative Fund for flood-risk sites to support these works.

ERYC have confirmed they no longer intend to install the one-way valve, as it is considered likely to move the problem rather than resolve it.

(C) The previously offered £1,000 contribution towards repairs to the brick wall at Swine Station has been withdrawn. This is believed to be linked to ERYC requiring Abbey Garth Farm Ltd to submit a planning application for change of use of the old farm buildings from agricultural to educational. It is unclear whether this also affects the earlier offer to provide wildflower seed for the platform area. Meanwhile, weeds are again beginning to encroach on the platform.

Councillor Oliver reported that an estimated 800 bricks would be required to cap the wall with a flat capping. Given that people have been observed walking along the wall, he suggested seeking advice on whether a sloping capping would be more appropriate. He proposed contacting TCV to explore what works they may be able to undertake on the wall and/or the platform and to obtain a quotation. The Clerk will follow up.

05/2026/08 – Proposal to Reduce the Speed Limit Through the Village

The Council considered the proposal to reduce the village speed limit to 20mph. Vehicles have been observed travelling too fast for the conditions, with an increasing number failing to slow down—or stop—at the junction by the bus stop. Concerns were also raised about the speed of larger tractors; although travelling within the legal limit, residents have reported that their speed feels inappropriate for the village environment.

After discussion, it was felt that an application to reduce the limit was unlikely to be successful, due to the cost, the difficulty of gathering sufficient evidence, and the outcome of recent requests for additional signage on the sharp bend on Dancing Lane. It was agreed instead to request that Highways repaint the faded road markings to see whether this improves driver behaviour.

The Council may also canvass residents to gauge community views on a potential reduction to 20mph and whether they would support the Council pursuing this further.

Any Other Business

(i) Concerns were raised regarding activity on the land adjacent to West Cottage, Swine Lane. Residents have reported bonfires, animal noises, and deliveries of hardcore. The landowner, believed to be the resident of West Cottage, has stated that he has rented the land to the individuals carrying out the work. They have installed a play frame and created a path to the caravan. He has advised that they keep only chickens and are not living in the caravan. If this is the case, no planning permission is required and the activities fall within permitted use.

However, goats were seen on the road, believed to have come from the property, raising questions about the accuracy of the information provided. It was agreed that the situation should be monitored, with a record kept of any activities that may appear inappropriate.

Planning permission may be required if the land is used for intensive livestock keeping, or if caravans are used for residential purposes. ERYC may also take action on environmental or nuisance issues, such as noise, waste burning, or animal-related disturbance.

05/2026/10 – Date of Next Meeting: Monday 3rd August 2025 at 7pm, in St Mary's Church Vestry

Meeting closed at 8.20 pm

DRAFT