## SWETTENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at The Swettenham Club on

20<sup>th</sup> January 2025

-	20 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	
Present:	Councillors Shaw, Andow, Kirk, Keen, French, Millward & Sturrock; Clerk & RFO, Mrs P Sturrock; CEC Cllr Wray	Action
Item	Detail	Action
1	Apologies: There were none	
2	Declaration of interest. Cllr Kirk declared an Interest in the payment 6 b iv.	
3	Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 25 November 2024 The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held 25 <sup>th</sup> November were accepted.	
	. Proposed: Cllr Sturrock	
	Seconded: Cllr Kirk	
	Carried Unanimously	
4	Public Forum: The Parish Council welcomed Laura Fuller, the new manager of The Swettenham Arms.	
5	Matters Arising:	
	<ol> <li>The Council updated Laura Fuller on the history of the issues with the Classic Car and Motorcycle meets.</li> </ol>	
	b. Cllr Wray reported to the Council on the state of Cheshire East's financial situation. The Council is	
	£22m in deficit largely due to spending on social services and childrens' social care. Special	
	Educational Needs is the largest area of cost. There is talk of raising council tax by 10%. There is a	
	ceiling of 5.9% increase. Beyond this a referendum is required. Any road issues should be reported to Cheshire East Highways. The local highways engineer is still	
	Richard Cooper. Any report should be detailed with photos measurements etc.	
6		
0	Finance: a. Finance Report to January 2025	
	The RFO had produced a financial report for the period to 20 January 2025 showing balances of	Clerk
	£10924.97 in the current account, after approval of payments on the agenda, and £2094.14 in the	
	reserve account. Cllr Sturrock queried why there was so much money in the current account. Money	
	is being held to pay for the new cemetery gates which are required but some could certainly be transferred to the reserve account and the Clerk was asked to deal with this.	
	b. Payments	
	i. Payment of Clerk's salary – December 2024 January 2025 BACS - £726.96	
	ii. HMRC PAYE BACS - £153.40	
	iii. Harts interim payroll (incl VAT) BACS - £48.00	
	iv Mr D Kirk – cemetery hedging BACS - £285.40	
	v. WaterPlus – cemetery water charges 02/12/24 DD - £6.79 31/12/24 DD - £6.57	
	Payments I,ii,iii and	
	v	
	Proposed: Clir Shaw	
	Seconded: CllrAndow Carried unanimously	
	Payment iv	
	6 for and I abstention Carried	
7	Cemetery & War Memorial	
	a. The Clerk reported that there is a funeral and interment on 5 <sup>th</sup> February for Mrs June Neill. Mrs Neill was not a resident of the parish but her late husband is buried in the cemetery and it is proposed that	Clerk
	the same grave is used.	
	The Clerk had circulated some further amendments to the cemetery rules which were accepted. In	
	addition, Clause 5.2 needs to be amended by the replacement of the words "put in the waste bins	
	provided" with "removed from the cemetery".	
	Amendments Approved Proposed: Cllr Millward	
	Seconded: Cllr Kirk	
	Cllr Shaw will obtain quotes for the new gates which are required. A telephone wire runs underneath	Cllr Sha
	the line of the gates and care must be taken when the new gates are installed that this wire is not cut.	
	He will also measure the cemetery so that a new plan can be drawn up showing the area of consecrated and unconsecrated land. An area of unconsecrated land must by law be retained and it	
	was agreed that this would be a strip along the rear of the cemetery. The solicitor for the Diocese had	
	pencilled in February 23 <sup>rd</sup> for the consecration by the Bishop. It was RESOLVED to approve the	
	application for consecration of the unconsecrated part of the cemetery	
	Proposed: Clir Andow	
	Seconded: Cllr Shaw Carried unanimously	

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	<ul> <li>An application for a memorial had been received for Mr Michael Abbott. The wording was confusing and there was concern that there would be insufficient room on the headstone for his widow's memorial in the future. Cllr Kirk would try to contact Mrs Abbott to discuss this. Subject to the outcome of this discussion the application was approved</li></ul>	Cllr Kirk
8	Highways Maintenance & Footpaths/Bridlepaths The local roads continue to deteriorate. Swettenham Lane is due to be closed on Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January for one day. Cllr Sturrock will see if he can find a firm that could carry out a professional assessment of the state of the roads in the parish.	Cllr Sturrock
9	Proposed Village Gathering The Parish Council would like to hold a Village Gathering and asked Laura Fuller if the Swettenham Arms would be able to host this in the Lovell Suite. She was happy to do so and will look at available Friday nights throughout the summer and autumn months	
10	Standing Orders           The Standing Orders of the Council were reviewed. It was agreed that no amendments were required and it was RESOLVED to adopt the Standing Orders unamended           Proposed: Cllr Shaw           Seconded: Cllr French           Carried unanimously	
11	Correspondence Correspondence, received since the date of the last meeting, appended to these minutes (but not displayed on notice board), was noted by the Council.	
	Date of next meeting. Resolved: to note the date of the next scheduled council meeting as Monday 17th March 2025 which will commence at 7:30pm.	