

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF SWANTON ABBOTT HELD
ON 8th. SEPTEMBER 2026 at 7.15p.m. in the VILLAGE HALL,
SWANTON ABBOTT.

PRESENT –Cllrs. S Day (Chair), K Poland, M Vaughan and S Gray, the Clerk G Kimmerling, NNDC Cllr. Penfold & 4 members of the public.

Open session for members of the public to speak.

A question was asked about responses to an online item about the pub. Cllr. Day said the Parish Council was waiting to get the responses from the survey sent out with the latest Abbott to discover which issues villagers were most concerned about. This included the pub.

He was asked why the survey asked for people's ages. This was to get an idea of the demographics of the village; for example how many children might use the Play Park. The survey results will be available at the next PC meeting in November.

	AGENDA	<i>Action</i>
26.49a	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.</u> Cllrs McAnsh & Drewry – on holiday and NCC Cllr Varley.	
b	<u>DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.</u> None.	
c	<u>TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON JULY 7th 2026</u> Resolution. Proposed by Cllr. Poland, seconded by Cllr. Day and agreed by the Parish Council to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on July 7th 2026 as a true record. These were then signed.	
26.50	<u>CLERK'S REPORT AND UPDATE ON ITEMS FROM THE MINUTES</u> A. There had been no requests to view the accounts and the External Auditors have not asked for any additional information. B. The Play Equipment, fences and seats are now insured. C. The dates for completing the New Councillor courses have now expired. Cllr. McAnsh completed his course.	
26.51	<u>NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL AND NORTH NORFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORTS.</u> NNDC Cllr. Penfold explained that the Unitary Councils have now been paused. The decision for 3 Unitary Authorities in Norfolk has been cancelled but the process will be reviewed at a later date. There should be a Mayoral election for Norfolk & Suffolk next May and an election for NNDC Councillors also in May. A lot of time and money has been wasted on this. Cllr. Penfold has grant money available and is in discussion with the Commons team and the Play Park for funding projects. NCC Cllr. Varley had sent a report which Cllr. Day summarised:- Cllr. John Toye has been approached regarding connectivity and mobile phone signal; any areas of flooding concern should be reported to MAG002; Dennis Bacon is the new CEO of NCC; Flu vaccinations are available from 1 st . September and eligible residents will be contacted directly or can book on the NHS flu vaccine webpage; there is a new free text message & email alert system to inform people of high levels of Air Pollution. People can sign up using this link – Check air quality - GOV.UK Cllr. Vaughan raised the issue of new building on Scottow Enterprise Park. The Clerk said there was to be a meeting with Cambridge Aerospace later in September. <i>NNDC Cllr Penfold left the meeting</i>	
26.52	<u>FINANCES</u> a) <u>TO CONSIDER THE PRESENT FINANCIAL POSITION</u> The Clerk had produced up-to-date accounts. £12.55 had been received for Interest.	

	b) <u>TO CONSIDER AND RESOLVE WHETHER TO APPROVE OUTSTANDING INVOICES FOR PAYMENT.</u> Resolution. Proposed by Cllr. Gray, seconded by Cllr. Poland and approved by the Parish Council to pay the following invoices. The following payments were made on-line before the meeting. <table> <tr> <td>G Kimmerling</td><td>STO Salary</td><td>£ 209.04 x2</td></tr> <tr> <td>URM/UK/Ltd</td><td>DDR Bottle bank</td><td>£ 66.74(VAT£11.12)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Swanton Abbott Village Hall</td><td>Hire of hall</td><td>£ 18.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Zurich Insurance</td><td>Insurance Play Park</td><td>£192.41</td></tr> <tr> <td>Norfolk ALC</td><td>Website</td><td>£ 86.88(VAT£14.48)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Norfolk ALC</td><td>Domain renewal</td><td>£ 69.48(VAT£11.58)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Norfolk ALC</td><td>3 Courses</td><td>£ 61.20(VAT£10.20)</td></tr> </table> Invoice due <table> <tr> <td>G Kimmerling</td><td>Clerk's expenses</td><td>£ 13.49</td></tr> <tr> <td>G Kimmerling</td><td>Microsoft Subscription</td><td>£104.99</td></tr> <tr> <td>SR Print & Design</td><td>The Abbott</td><td>£215.00</td></tr> </table> 2 payments of £50 each to H & M McCrohon for Grass cutting & the Play Park had been made but were included in the last budget sheet.	G Kimmerling	STO Salary	£ 209.04 x2	URM/UK/Ltd	DDR Bottle bank	£ 66.74(VAT£11.12)	Swanton Abbott Village Hall	Hire of hall	£ 18.00	Zurich Insurance	Insurance Play Park	£192.41	Norfolk ALC	Website	£ 86.88(VAT£14.48)	Norfolk ALC	Domain renewal	£ 69.48(VAT£11.58)	Norfolk ALC	3 Courses	£ 61.20(VAT£10.20)	G Kimmerling	Clerk's expenses	£ 13.49	G Kimmerling	Microsoft Subscription	£104.99	SR Print & Design	The Abbott	£215.00	
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26.53	<u>PLANNING</u> a) <u>TO CONSIDER ANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS.</u> PF/26/1584 Potash Corner, 49, Long Common Road Erection of two storey front and rear extensions, addition of first floor, and part rendering of existing walls. Approved by the Parish Council on 21/08/2026 b) <u>TO NOTIFY OF ANY PLANNING DECISIONS BY NNDC</u> None c) <u>TO CONSIDER ANY OTHER PLANNING ISSUES</u> None																															
26.54	<u>HIGHWAYS ISSUES</u> - Update Cllr. Vaughan had a meeting with Highways. Some pot holes have been filled. The drains will be Jet-washed again. The dip in the Aylsham Road is unlikely to be improved.																															
26.55	<u>BROADBAND AND MOBILE PHONE</u> The Councillors had a discussion with NCC Cllr Varley about the problems with the mobile phone signal and he is looking into this. Cllrs. Day and McAnsh had a video discussion with a NCC representative regarding the NCC removing funding for Starlink at the Village Hall. It was suggested that the Parish Council could fund this at £40 per month. Cllr. Poland said as the Village Hall has County Broadband it should not need Stirlink. There was a letter from Steff Aquarone MP saying he will continue to work for practical solutions to the Broadband problems. It was agreed to have an Agenda item for the next meeting – To consider an Alternative Plan in the event of Broadband failure.	Clerk																														
26.56	<u>UPDATE ON THE PLAY PARK.</u> It was agreed that the Play Park is being well used.																															
26.57	<u>VILLAGE SURVEY</u> - Update The survey forms were distributed with the latest Abbott. They can be left at the Village Hall, in the old Post Box or completed online. 10 have been returned so far. The results will be given at the Parish Council in November.	Page 388																														

26.58	<u>TO REPORT AND RESOLVE, WHERE POSSIBLE, ON-GOING COMMUNITY ISSUES.</u> Cllr. Day took part in a Webinar with Anglian Water. Cllr. Day had submitted questions on sewerage, septic tanks and flash flooding and water quality. On capacity they said £17billion had already been invested since privatisation and their future strategy included further investment of 930million in Norfolk by 2030. They are looking into de-salination plants for extra capacity. On development they have a duty to extend drainage and sewerage facilities for new builds. On water quality they said their discharges were 'within tolerance' On water management they said leaks were fixed quickly and they were looking into how to use non-drinking water for companies which use a lot of water for cooling such as data centres. Cllr day gfelt that overall this was a public relations and box-ticking exercise but gave no real challenge to the company's track record.	
26.59	<u>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED</u> To report on Correspondence received. The Clerk read out a letter from Mill House, The Hill, explaining that the owners will be unable to cut the fire break next year. It is the responsibility of the Parish Council to cut this. It was agreed to ask Mr. McCrohon to visit the site and quote for the work. There had been 4 emails in support of listing the Jolly Farmers as a Community Asset. The Parish Council will see how much support there is from the survey forms. Cllr. Poland will collect these regularly.	Clerk Cllr Poland
26.60	<u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING.</u> November 10th. The meeting closed at 8.25p.m.	Page 389