MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF SWANTON ABBOTT HELD ON 10th. NOVEMBER 2026 at 7.15p.m. in the VILLAGE HALL, SWANTON ABBOTT.

PRESENT –Cllrs. S Day (Chair), K Poland, M Vaughan, S Gray, G. McAnsh & G. Drewry, the Clerk, G Kimmerling, NCC Cllr. Varley & 5 members of the public.

Open session for members of the public to speak.

A question was asked for clarification on whether the Jolly Farmers pub is still listed as a Community Asset. Cllr. Day said the questionnaire provided an opportunity to express support for a licenced premises, but only 29 responses did this. As the Government policy on public houses has changed (see National planning Policy Framework) it may no longer be necessary to list a pub as a Community Asset. He read out the following information from CAMRA:- *Since 2017, any change of use of a pub needs planning permission, so non-pub use it for local authorities to decide… An applicant wanting to convert one must demonstrate there is no reasonable prospect that the building can remain a local due to lack of community support or because it is not commercially viable. To argue a pub isn't viable, requires evidence that reasonable steps have been taken to market the property for its existing use without success for at least 12 months.* He suggested that the village needed to talk to the publican.

Two people said they did not receive The Abbott with the questionnaire and knew of other people who did not receive this. Cllr. Day said there is a delivery system for the Abbott and he will look into why this did not work. The questionnaire will be put on the website for people to complete.

	AGENDA	*Action*
26.61a	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. NNDC Penfold. Cllr Penfold had emailed that £950 had been agreed for Information Boards and some tree work on Low Common and thanked Mrs. Vaughan for her application.	
b	DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA. Item 26.66 Christmas tree – Cllr. McAnsh, Village Hall Committee Item 26.65 Play Park – Cllr. Drewry, Play Park Committee.	
c	TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON September 8th 2026 **Resolution.** Proposed by Cllr. Poland, seconded by Cllr. Day and agreed by the Parish Council to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on September 8th 2026 as a true record. These were then signed.	
26.62	CLERK'S REPORT AND UPDATE ON ITEMS FROM THE MINUTES A. The Clerk said she had been told that £303.95 would be received from Re-cycling credits but would check on this as it is much lower than last year. It was agreed when the final figure is received, the money will go to Macmillan Nurses via Mrs. Vaughan.	

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26.63	NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL AND NORTH NORFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORTS. NCC Cllr. Varley was concerned with proposed drastic cuts to services - fewer gritted roads, less verge cutting etc. He felt people are paying more and getting less. He urged people to comment on the NCC website on savings and spending by 7th December. He will ask about cuts to re-cycling centers such as Worsted – either closures or reduced opening times; and ask about re-use shops for the area which help reduce waste and give items a new lease of life. He doesn't have a Highways budget anymore but can contribute to the 50/50 scheme. He is hoping for another meeting with Steff Aquarone and mobile phone providers to consider the poor mobile coverage. He said he will attend our meetings when possible but has 15 Parish Councils to cover. The PC can keep in touch via email.	**Page 390**
	Cllr Vaughan asked about disposing of fridges and freezers. Some places still take these. Cllr. Day asked if there was any money for improving mobile signal in villages. He had consulted Breathe but was told they are not allowed to install in rural areas. Cllr. Poland asked if a phone could be re-instated in the phone box as the village is now digital. Cllr. Varley said there are possible solutions such as batteries and suggested another meeting between NCC and the Parish Council to discuss this. He will try to arrange it before Christmas.	**NCC Cllr Varley**
26.64	VILLAGE SURVEY RESULTS. a) TO REPORT ON AND CONSIDER THE RESULTS OF THE VILLAGE SURVEY. Cllr. Day said there had been 47 replies from 200 surveys which was disappointing. The most concerns were about mobile phone signal and speeding, followed by parking in The Street and dog fouling. The facility most used was Low Common. 23 people supported The Revels and there was interest in having licenced premises, a history society, men's club and an art group. The Parish Council could precept to offer grants for start-up groups. There was also interest in a Defibrillator course and he will look into this. b) TO CONSIDER THE RE-INSTIGATION OF SPEEDWATCH. At least 9 volunteers are needed to run a Speedwatch group as three people are needed for each weekly session. People were caught on the Aylsham Road during the previous Speedwatch. People also speed along Long Common Lane and Church Lane. There were comments about fast farm vehicles and one particular Sanders bus driver. **Resolution.** Proposed by Cllr. Day, seconded by Cllr. Poland and agreed by the Parish Council to try to re-instate a Speedwatch group. Cllr. Day will ask for volunteers in The Abbott and on-line.	**Cllr Day**

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26.65	FINANCES a) TO CONSIDER THE PRESENT FINANCIAL POSITION The Clerk had produced up-to-date accounts. Two balance figures were amended. £4500 had been received for the precept. b) TO CONSIDER AND RESOLVE WHETHER TO APPROVE OUTSTANDING INVOICES FOR PAYMENT. **Resolution.** Proposed by Cllr. Day, seconded by Cllr. McAnsh and approved by the Parish Council to pay the following invoices. The following payments were made on-line before the meeting. G Kimmerling STO Salary £ 209.04 URM/UK/Ltd DDR Bottle bank £ 36.04 Swanton Abbott Village Hall Hire of hall £ 18.00 SR Print & Design Newsletter £215.00 H & M McCrohon Grass cutting x2 £200.00 H & M McCrohon Play Park grass cutting x2 £200.00 G Kimmerling Wreaths £46, McAfee subs £57.49 £103.49 Invoices due G Kimmerling Clerk's expenses £ 11.30 S Day Chair ½ year allowance £ 50.00 G M Window Cleaning Bus shelter windows £ 60.00 The Clerk explained that the McAfee subscription is shared with Scottow PC.	**Page 391**
	c) TO CONSIDER THE QUOTE FOR CUTTING A FIRE BREAK ON THE HILL This is for one year only while the residents are away. Mr. McCrohon had quoted £75.00 per cut. The Parish Council agreed to ask Mr. McCrohon to cut the fire break twice and not too early in the year. d) TO CONSIDER DONATING FUNDS FOR A CHRISTMAS TREE BY THE VILLAGE HALL. A letter had been received from the Village Hall Committee asking for funding for a community Christmas tree. It was agreed that it would be better sited by the memorial on Aylsham Road. **Resolution.** Proposed by Cllr. Day, seconded by Cllr. Poland and agreed by the Parish Council that Cllr. Drewry should purchase a tree up to £100 in value. He will also provide a stand and have this in place by 5th December. e) TO CONSIDER AND SET THE CLERK'S HOURS AND SALARY FOR 2027/8 It was agreed that the Clerk's hours and pay scale will remain the same. The Clerk will confirm the amount per hour. f) TO CONSIDER AND SET THE CHAIR'S ALLOWANCE FOR 2027/8 It was agreed to keep the Chair's allowance at £100. g) TO CONSIDER AND AGREE THE PRECEPT FOR 2027/8 The Councillors had previously seen the draft precept figures. It was agreed to add a column for Depreciation with a figure of £820.00. The hire of the hall will increase to £23.00 per evening from January. The precept will be set at the January meeting. h) TO DISCUSS THE COUNTY COUNCIL'S BUDGET CONSULTATION. Cllr. Day suggested raising the problems with mobile phone signal and asking if Starlink could continue at the Village Hall or if any money would be available for alternative solutions. This was agreed.	**Clerk** **Cllr Drewry** **Clerk** **Cllr Day**

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26.66	PLANNING a) TO CONSIDER ANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS. PF/26/2133 The Old Forge, Aylsham Road Proposed garden office to replace existing shed. Approved by the Parish Council on 03/11/2026 PF/26/2205 Christmas Cottage, The Footpath, Aylsham Road Erection of 2.134m x 4.267m wooden shed in front of property (retrospective) Approved by the Parish Council. b) TO NOTIFY OF ANY PLANNING DECISIONS BY NNDC None c) TO CONSIDER ANY OTHER PLANNING ISSUES None	
26.67	HIGHWAYS ISSUES. *This was discussed before26.66.* The surface water drains by the phone box have not been jetted yet. Problem with pot holes should be reported on-line on the NCC site. a) TO CONSIDER COLLECTING EVIDENCE OF PAST WATER AND SEWERAGE PROBLEMS IN THE VILLAGE. Cllr. Day attended a forum with Anglia Water and put forward 3 questions. One asked if the directors would bathe in the effluent. He felt the answer trivialised the problem. Anglia Water also said they had not been told of any flooding in the village. He will get photos and other evidence to send to them. Cllr. Vaughan has some photos. Cllr. Vaughan said that the drainage behind the properties in The Street need checking. The Clerk will write to the properties concerned. *NCC Cllr. Varley left the meeting.*	**Cllr Day** **Cllr Vaughan & Clerk** **Page 392**
26.68	BROADBAND AND MOBILE PHONE a) TO CONSIDER AN ALTERNATIVE PLAN IN THE EVENT OF BROADBAND FAILURE. b) TO DISCUSS THE LACK OF MOBILE SIGNAL COVER. These issues were covered under 26.63 and 26.65h. Cllr. Poland said Starlink in the Village Hall was good but no help if all the power goes. The Councillors will wait for the meeting with NCC and Cllr Varley.	
26.69	UPDATE ON THE PLAY PARK. Cllr. Drewry reported that the wind chimes have been returned. He said the Play Park continues to be well used.	
26.70	WELCOME LETTERS. A) TO CONSIDER THE WELCOME LETTERS/DIRECTORY AND WHO SHOULD DELIVER THEM. Organisations have been asked to give any updates to the Directory. At the moment, the Clerk delivers these to all newcomers once she has been made aware of them. It was agreed this should continue.	
26.71	TO REPORT AND RESOLVE, WHERE POSSIBLE, ON-GOING COMMUNITY ISSUES. The Clerk said the Parish Council needs to have documents in place for the Compliance Policy. Cllr. Day will check with NALC that we are compliant. Cllr. Drewry asked if there was a problem with light pollution from the Scrap Yard in Long Common Lane as the lights are on all the time. It was agreed to put the questionnaire on the website so that people who did not receive one can complete this.	**Cllr Day**

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26.72	CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED a) TO REPORT ON CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED. The Clerk had received one e-mail saying that the questionnaire had not been received. This person does not have the Abbott but has asked for it to be delivered in future. Clerk's and Councils Direct 168.	
26.73	DATE OF NEXT MEETING. January 19th 2027 The meeting closed at 9.00p.m.	**Page 393**

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