

SWANTON MORLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY 20TH JANUARY 2020 AT 7PM

SWANTON MORLEY VILLAGE HALL

Councillors Present: Mr R. Atterwill (Chairman), Mrs B O'Dowd (Vice Chair), Mr S. Westbury, Mr J. Rodrigues, Mr I. Cawdron and Mr G. Curran

Also in attendance: Mrs K. Pickard (Clerk), and 1 member of the public.

Matters Raised Under Time Allocated to the Public

None raised

The Meeting Went into Session

1. To Accept Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Turner and Councillor Keen, accepted by the Council.

2. To Receive Declarations of Interest

Councillor Westbury declared an interest in Allotments.

3. To Consider an Email Received from CGM Regarding the Current Three Year Contract

The Clerk reported that following the agreement of the three year contract signed in 2019, the CGM Account Manager has sent an email expressing his apologies that the original quotation was incorrect. In 2019 CGM sent the contract with a covering email giving the figure of £2359.13 for 2019/20 however the actual figure that the contract equates to was £6126.54 for the first year. This figure will then increase by 2.5% per year thereafter.

All Councillors agreed that the incorrect figure was human error and that the contract itself is correct therefore there is no financial implication.

4. To Agree the 2020/2021 Parish Council Budget

The draft budget had been sent to Councillors for consideration prior to the meeting.

The income and expenditure for the remainder of 2019/2020 was discussed.

The budget for 2020/2021 was then discussed.

Open spaces and church grounds were considered and it was agreed that the pressure washing and repainting of the benches in the Village would need to be completed again this year. Provision was also discussed to replace the damaged litter and dog bins in the Village.

Staff costs were discussed in line with contracts issued in 2019.

The training budget was revisited to support the Clerk with the CILCA qualification along with a training session for any new Councillor that may join.

The general breakdown for subscriptions, audit fees and donations were discussed. This is now to include the Microsoft software and support package for the IT systems and the annual subscription for the Scribe accountancy package.

It was agreed to increase the budget for communications for financial year 2020/2021 due to an increase in printing costs for the Mardler publication and other communications within the Village.

It was agreed to remove the Community Car from the budget as this is no longer running.

Councillors agreed to allow a provision for the service of the church clock.

The burial ground and churchyard budget was increased to allow for potential work on the footpaths and grounds maintenance following inspection reports.

Financial Year 2019/2020

At the January Parish Council meeting it was agreed to honour £1000 in the budget for Swanton Morley Festival 2020 as per the previous year.

There was a small increase in the budget for Christmas on the Village Green due to a requirement for new lights.

Councillors agreed that one notice board in the Village would need replacing, so a budget to cover the cost of that was decided.

The Parish Partnership budget was increased following a quotation provided by Highways regarding the kerbing on Rectory Road.

Due to the formation of a Climate Change group, Councillors agreed to a budget of £2000 to be put in place for anything required.

A budget of £2847.15 was then agreed for the flagpole project.

Councillor Atterwill proposed a budget of £105,903.07 seconded by Councillor Rodrigues and carried.

5. To Agree the 2020/2021 Parish Council Precept

The tax base for the village has increased slightly this year.

The precept for 2020/2021 was agreed at £78,865.04 after a proposal from Councillor Atterwill and a second from Councillor O'Dowd. This results in a decrease in council tax on a Band D property of £9.39 per annum (78p per month).

The Meeting Was Suspended for Further Comment from the Public

The member of the public in attendance thanked the Parish Council for considering and agreeing the church clock budget.

The Meeting Went Back Into Session

One members of the public left the room

The meeting closed at 8.33pm

_____ (Chairman) _____ Date