

Pond and Community Garden

Swanland's village pond greatly enhances the centre of the village and is much admired by residents and visitors alike. The upkeep of this is an ongoing task and more volunteers are always welcome. Contact details are on the website.

The Gardening Group have again come up trumps and planted a wonderful display in the village flower beds. Many thanks to the volunteer team of village residents for helping to make Swanland a pleasant place to live and visit.

Allotments

Most of the plots are being kept in good order. There are periodical inspections to make sure that the agreements are kept and any problems are dealt with if and when they occur. The waiting list currently has 10 residents patiently waiting for a plot. Please let the Clerk know if you are on the list and wish to be taken off.

Father Christmas Round the Pond Monday 18th December

Once again Father Christmas has told us that he will be pleased to come to our festive evening and his strong and willing elf will row him around the pond so that the children will be able to see him and wave to him. He will meet them and speak to them when he arrives. A roundabout, music, carols, refreshments and stands will be there for your entertainment Swanland Parish Council and other helpers will attend wearing their yellow reflector jackets. They will be walking about with collecting tins hoping that you will support our local charities.

Organisation for this event starts very shortly if you have any ideas or would like to get involved please contact the Clerk who would love to hear your suggestions.

Contacts

www.swanlandparish.org for the Parish Council website which gives you access to planning, news, who your councillors are with links and contact information. We are also on Facebook and the Notice Board by the pond has Minutes, Agendas and other information.

Contact: Parish Clerk 01482 632309

Email: clerk@swanlandparish.org

Swanland Parish Council,
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AUTUM NEWSLETTER 2017

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN –

As I write this letter (at the end of August), the developers for Westfield Farm have not (yet?) appealed against the rejection by ERYC.

There is currently a vacancy on the Parish Council and we are following the specified procedure in such circumstances. There may be an election, or the Parish Council may look to co-opt someone, to fill that vacancy depending on the outcome of the specified procedure. It may be that, by the time you read this, this process has concluded – if so, sorry!

Can I suggest that, if you are interested in helping our local community by becoming a Parish Councillor, you check the Parish Council website regularly or follow our Facebook page (to be sure that you don't miss this or future opportunities). You are of course welcome to contact me, the Clerk or any member of the Parish Council to find out what the role entails.

I know that the issue of dog fouling and general litter is a regular cause for concern. A dog warden recently issued a fixed penalty notice in the village for "failure to clear up after a dog has fouled". I mention this in the hope that every single dog owner does what the vast majority already do, clean up after their dog! Some litter bins that are in poor condition are being replaced and another

new bin is being sited near to the cut through between Mere Way and The Spinney in light of a number of complaints about litter being dropped in that area.

I mentioned in my last letter that the building of houses continued to be a major political issue and I thought I would repeat some of what I wrote then as it is still very relevant.

I think there is a widespread misapprehension about the ERYC Local Plan with the assumption that ERYC (and the Parish Council) have produced this Plan because they actively support building 10%+ more houses in the village. The opposite is the case.

Without a Local Plan there would be nothing to stop housing developments in any area in or around the village. In addition to 'encouraging' the production of local plans in this way, government also specified that there should be a housing increase of 10% in every local authority area.

ERYC (with the support of Parish Councils) tried to restrict this to 5% in small villages such as Swanland but this was overthrown by a Planning Inspector and 10% imposed. Even with this increase some developers have still then applied to develop additional areas outside of the Local Plan, such as at Westfield Farm.

The Parish Council do not approve and are not able to reject planning applications but can only comment on them – as can every resident.

ERYC do reject applications taking into account national policy, set by national government, and recent decisions. Clearly, it would be a waste of your and my money if they rejected an application knowing that an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate would be successful and incur substantial legal costs to the ERYC.

The Parish Council does have an emergency plan, which is primarily intended for a, hopefully extremely unlikely, occasion when the village was cut off from help from the emergency and other services. This is in the process of being reviewed. It is simply a plan for how to initially react and set up a coordination group, as subsequent actions will clearly depend on the exact circumstances at the time.

The initial group will be Parish Councillors but we would be interested to know of any in the village who would be willing to be on a 'call-out' list if additional people were needed to assist with whatever might transpire. This would simply be a list of names, telephone numbers, addresses and (ideally) email addresses retained by the Clerk (and not publicly available) for use if ever needed. If you wanted to make yourself available in this way, please contact the Clerk.

Let's hope the good weather over the August Bank Holiday continues a little longer!

Derek Shepherd

Parish Council Meetings

Parish Council meetings are held on the first Monday of the month except for Bank Holiday. If you would like the councillors to know your thoughts on planning applications and matters concerning Swanland please let us know. Your presence at the meetings and contacting us for discussion of matters concerning the future of the village is vital. There is an Open Forum at the beginning of every meeting for you to let the council know what you think as a resident. You will be very welcome to attend.

Swanland Playing Fields

We can now confirm that the commuted sums application from East Riding Council has been allocated for payment upon completion of the works. The new equipment to replace some of the old and tired equipment has been ordered and work will commence in the next few months. The Playing Field Committee do a fantastic job making sure this area is safe and clean for our children. They understand how important outdoor playground is to the local community. It should be a fun-filled and safe environment for all ages to play and interact with each other. As always, they need other help as well – so if you can give a little time please get in touch with the Playing Field Committee, they would love to hear from you.

Contact details are on the Swanland website. www.swanland.info/playingfield