**WHAT TO EXPECT AT A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING?**

Please come along to one of our meeting all the dates are on our notice board(located next to the bowling green entrance) and you will also be able to find them on our website <http://www.swanlandparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

Prior to the start of an ordinary Parish Council meeting thirty minutes shall be set aside for members of the public (residents of Swanland) to speak on any matter of concern whether or not that matter is an agenda item. All members and the Clerk shall be present for this thirty-minute session.

**Hedges**

Spring is not far off and soon the birds will be looking for nesting places so if you have any hedges that need cutting back now may be a good time.

It is very easy for hedges to get thicker just by a little bit each year, despite being cut back regularly, to the extent that they eventually take up quite a lot of space on a pavement.

That hedge may require some radical pruning to put it back where it should be. Indeed, your hedges may need more than one pruning session to keep them inside your boundary line.

**Contacts**

If you are concerned about anything that affects our Village, please let us know. We would love to see you at one of our Parish Council Meetings all the dates are published on the website. <http://www.swanlandparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

The website aims to allow the Council to communicate more effectively with residents and to provide ways to allow you to contact both Swanland Parish Council and East Riding of Yorkshire County Council. It is kept fully updated with items of local concern including access to current planning applications and how you can register your comments.

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| swanPCsmall | **NEWSLETTER SPRING 2023** |

**LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN –**

I write this at the start of February as the daffodil shoots begin to appear and the first Coronation most of us will have seen approaches.

As is the case in many areas, there is a growing shortage of volunteers across the village whether on the SVA, the pond partnership, the gardening group, the Heritage Centre etc. King Charles has asked if Monday 8th May can be a national volunteering day – so why not see if you could (re)start volunteering! (Opportunities for this in the village will no doubt be publicised over the months ahead).

There has been concern about parking outside the school (just like at most other schools) for many years from parents and other road users. A small minority of road users fail to show the consideration, patience and care that most would expect (and which the Highway Code encourages).

Some may remember that, back before COVID hit, ERYC consulted about parking restrictions along Tranby Lane aimed at reducing parking on both sides of the road and moving parked cars further away from the school.

As far as the Parish Council was aware, these were going to be progressed once delays caused by staff and contractor availability during COVID were removed.

It was only towards the end of 2022, when we sought clarification about the timescale for completion, that we were informed that no parking restrictions were going to be introduced, following a review by external consultants (without reference to the Parish Council). The only change planned was to make the yellow zig-zag lines outside the school enforceable (as they are currently not).

I was extremely disappointed, mainly because the promised restrictions were not going to be put in place but also because ERYC chose not to inform the Parish Council.

This disparaging approach to the Parish Council has recently been compounded by the cancellation (at very short notice) by ERYC of a meeting outside the school (so others could attend) to be replaced by one where, although I pointed out well in advance I could not attend, no attempt was made to rearrange it.

Judging from the emails I have seen following this meeting there is a lot of confusion and different recollections about what was proposed/discussed/agreed. I hope this important issue does not become one for political party point scoring – as it appears it might do from recent party communications – and that any future meeting is properly minuted and includes the Parish Council.

Another reminder that only pedestrian access to the playing fields is possible along Wold View – car park access is via Blossom Close. Please do not park on Wold View and use that pedestrian gate as it often blocks Wold View (which is narrow) and more importantly negates the safety benefits of separating foot and vehicle access.

There is currently one vacancy (out of nine) on the Parish Council which can be filled by co-option, so please consider if you could give some time to take part in this voluntary role. If you are interested, please get in touch with me or the Clerk (contact details are on the Parish Council website).

Derek Shepherd

**Street Collection at Father Christmas on the pond**

A sum of £388.41 was gathered mat the Christmas event. This has been shared equally between Godfrey Robinson Homes for the Disabled in North Ferriby and DRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young). Thank you everyone who donated.

**Elections**

In May the four- year term of the existing councillors comes to an end and there will be an election process for the nine councillor posts that make up Swanland Parish Council. The process (which will be publicised in due course) involves those interested in the role requiring nomination from a couple of local residents and, if there are more than nine such nominations, there will be an election. Please consider if this is a role in which you could support our village over the next four years – and if so, put yourself forward!

To stand for election as a parish councillor you must:

**Be** a British, Commonwealth or EU citizen

**Be** 18 years of age or over

**Be** resident within the parish or up to 3 miles away, or work in the parish

**Be** able to attend one evening a month meeting

**Be** interested in local issues and keen to improve the local environment

Understand and be willing to represent the views of the whole community

Agree to abide by a Code of Conduct and publicly declare any interests which may conflict with your duties as parish councillor