

Poors Land. Annual Report for the Parish Council 2025/26.

During the past year the committee have looked at potential options for the Poors Land, with the overriding priority of maintaining it as a Green site area, which benefits the residents of Swilland.

In researching these options, it has further highlighted the restrictions and costs in doing this. We have agreed to extend the contract with Ms Nikki Garvin for a further year, having also increased to annual rent. The partnership with Nikki has worked well over the past year, where she is able to provide toilet facilities and experience in proper event management. As agreed with her, we also now receive an additional donation from any event put on in the field.

As set out in last year's report, we did write to all residents of Swilland, explaining the background of the land and responsibilities of the committee. Over 75 letters were delivered, from which we received 4 responses. One of those did propose a use for the land, whilst accepting it would be too expensive to develop. It was an interesting idea, but would have been far too ambitious. The others said they did not require the annual gift.

We did also review the annual gift to the pensioners at Christmas. It has been expressed that this is a tradition that some felt should be continued. We agreed to change to the gift to a box of biscuits, also reducing the number of those who received it. We remain conscious of the core purpose of the Poors Land and ways in which we can assist those in need.

I have contact with the Parish Clerk who sends me funding opportunities, which we are keen to keep updated on, as we continue to be open to alternative, appropriate uses for the Poors Land.

Please accept my apologies for not being able to attend, but as the Clerk will be able to confirm, I was already booked to be away when I was informed of the date of the AGM.