**Poors Land, Swilland.**

**Chairman’s Report April 2025.**

1. The year started with the sad passing of Allan Hammond, whose involvement spanned over 40 years as a committee member and many years as Chairman.
2. I have served on the committee of the Poors Land for over 10 years and asked to be considered for the role of Chair, which was accepted by the existing members of the committee. Margo Barker has also agreed to join the committee.
3. The Poors Land currently has funds of £2787.88. Its main source of income is an annual rental income from Nikki Garvin, landlady of the Moon and Mushroom. Our expenses were £363.16, incurred as traditional gifts for pensioners living within the boundaries of Swilland.
4. A survey of the land was carried by Suffolk Wildlife Trust on 17/12/2024. This was to assess what alternative options may exist in rewilding the land or further developing the site as a wildlife area. There appears, currently, limited income generating opportunities for the Poors Land beyond its current use.
5. We have renewed the contract with Nikki Gavin who, following the departure of her previous manager, is now looking after the area a lot better. We have made amendments to the contract that will ensure better management of some of the external boundaries, in particular the public footpath running alongside the school.
6. Ms Gavin has agreed to make a donation from events she runs on the field to the Poors Land, increasing our annual revenue.
7. The committee is committed to building a more transparent and productive relationship with our current tenant and other bodies, being open minded about future alternative opportunities. But, this is an important green site within the boundaries of Swilland, and we remain determined to ensure decisions taken protect this area.
8. With the changing population in Swilland, there does appear a misunderstanding of the history of the land, its ownership and what and who it was traditionally expected to support. In the coming months we will deliver a letter to all residents of Swilland, explaining this, the current management structure and welcoming input.
9. We recognise the tradition of providing tea and biscuits to all pensioners of the village at Christmas, is now somewhat outdated. We will be exploring more sustainable projects and/or initiatives that offer visible benefits for the residents of Swilland.