

SWANTON NOVERS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 9th April 2015 at Swanton Novers Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Those present: Cllr Mrs. V Hart (Chair), Cllr. Mrs. C Armstrong (Vice Chair) Cllr. Mrs. R Leeder, Cllr. R Hadden, Cllr. R Hart, Cllr. Mrs. V Brittain and Clerk, J Smallbones. 5 members of the public were also present.

1. Apologies – County Councillor Mr. D Ramsbotham, Cllr. Miss F Jenkinson

2. Declarations of Interest – Cllr. Mrs. V Brittain regarding item 9 on the agenda – Oak Tree Cottage planning update.

3. Report from – As there were not any District or County Councillors present nor representation from the Police no direct reports were given. However, PCSO Shane Artingstall has provided the current crime report which was circulated.

4. Public Forum – Members of the public present Mr. R Winterbone, Mrs. M Bishop, Mr. D Wilson and Mr. & Mrs. R Monday.

- Mr. Winterbone raised the matter of dog fouling around the village and highlighted Church Lane and Hempits Lane as particular “hotspots”. The matter of loose dogs was also raised. Cllr. Mr. Richard Hart raised concern over dogs being walked around field margins, this has been observed in the fields between St. Giles Road and Church Lane. The Clerk has agreed to contact William Hepworth-Smith (Farm Manager) to highlight these matters. The Clerk provided Mr. Winterbone with details of the NNDC voluntary Dog Warden scheme and he indicated that he would be willing to investigate the possibility of fulfilling this role in the village.
- Mr. & Mrs. Monday of Oak Tree Cottage, St. Giles Road. Informed the meeting that they had applied for retrospective planning permission and that the NNDC building control engineer had visited the site to carry out a structural investigation and that the results of this would be known on April 10th 2015. The Clerk informed the meeting that the Parish Councils comments had been passed to NNDC by hand and that a request to have the application debated in the next sitting of the Planning Committee had been made.
- Mrs. Bishop raised the point of refuse bins being left out on the pavement and road well after collection day, causing a nuisance and obstruction to pedestrians, especially after dark. The Clerk noted this point and confirmed that this matter would be included in the forthcoming newsletter.
- Mr. Winterbone & Mrs. Bishop were concerned over the number of vehicles being parked on the green area in The Croft. This has been further aggravated by the recent improvements to the parking areas by Victory Housing. This has resulted in reducing the number of parking spaces available. The Chair, Mrs. Val Hart and the Clerk are hoping to meet with Victory Housing to discuss possible improvements and the possible provision of additional car parking.

5. Minutes of the meeting held on 19th February – were agreed and signed.

6. Report from the Chair and Clerk.....

- **Barney Lane** – nothing further to report as we have had no information from Highways/Footpaths regarding our request for investigation. The lane continues to deteriorate, and we will continue to ask for improvements to be made.
- **Dog nuisance** – there are a couple of dogs in the village which escape fairly regularly. The owners have been informed in the past, but appear to be quite relaxed about the issue. *This item was discussed at length in the Public Forum detailed above.*
- **Speed check** – a dedicated group of ‘checkers’ meet regularly to monitor potential speeding motorists. To date, no-one has been caught speeding.
- **Pill Box restoration** – the project has attracted a lot of volunteers, and the result is looking very good. Flowers have been planted and a bench is being made, which will be dedicated to those who died in the Second War. A small event for those interested parties is planned for May 9th to commemorate VE day. We would like to thank all volunteers and especially Rosemary Leeder who provides hot drinks and food for the Pill box team.
- **The Litter Pick** was a very successful event this year, despite the rain. Sadly, very few children took part, but adult numbers remain excellent. Rosemary Leeder and her team served a very welcome coffee and cakes afterwards.

- **Fly Tipping** – the village is still suffering from irresponsible people “Fly Tipping” at various points around the lanes. The Holt Road and Hempits triangle suffer regularly as do Galowhill and Gunthorpe Lanes. We also have a person or persons who regularly drop “Scruppy Jack” and “White Lightning” cans around the village. Both Fly Tipping and dropping Litter are offences and carry fines of up to £2500 for a first offence. We will be working actively with North Norfolk District Council to prosecute anyone caught offending. *Mr. Winterbone informed the council that more tyres had been dumped in Hempits Lane. The Clerk said that he would inform Richard Crabb NNDC to arrange removal. A member of the public has suggested names of the offenders who drop “Scruppy Jack” and “White Lightning” cans around the village. This problem will be highlighted in the forthcoming newsletter.*
- **Allotments** – the take up of the allotments has been excellent and all allotment holders have been hard at work preparing the ground and planting for the coming season. *The Clerk said that there was still one allotment plot available if anyone wanted one to contact him.*
- **Website** – the Parish Council website will be available by the end of this month. This will be hosted through the Norfolk Association of Local Councils and will be fully compliant with current directives. We are currently looking to set up a village website and are actively seeking someone to help with this. *PC Chair Mrs. Val Hart asked if anyone was willing to take on the task of providing a Village (not Parish Council) website and that this matter would also be raised in the forthcoming newsletter.*
- **Newsletter** - a newsletter is being compiled for distribution throughout the village during May. If anyone has items for inclusion. Please pass these to the clerk or any parish councillor by the end of April.

7. Change of date of next meeting – It was requested if the next Parish Council meeting could be changed to Monday 11th May 2015 to fit in with the new Parish Council taking up office for the forthcoming year. This was not opposed by any present and would be adopted.

8. Correspondence – All items of correspondence had been received and circulated

9. Planning Applications – Oak Tree Cottage, St. Giles Road (Retrospective) – Please see details in the Public Forum section above.

10. Financial Report – This was presented by the clerk. The continuing high cost of providing the street lighting was noted. Cllr. R Hadden asked if the precept had been increased to cover the rising costs He was informed by the clerk that the precept had been increased to £4K for the coming year and this should provide a small surplus if costs over the forthcoming year are in line with current levels.

11. Matters from the Public and Councillors and items to be discussed at future meetings – Litter & Fly Tipping, Website, Dog Nuisance, Barney Lane, Planning Updates.

There being no further business the Chairperson thanked those attending and closed the meeting at 20:02pm.

Signed..... Chairperson dated.....

Signed..... Parish Clerk dated.....

Next meeting (Annual Parish Meeting) MONDAY 11th MAY 2015 at 19:30 in the Village Hall