

SWANTON NOVERS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 8th December 2016 at Swanton Novers Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Councillors present: Cllr Mrs. V Hart (Chair), Cllr Mrs. C Armstrong (Vice Chair), Cllr. Mrs. R Leeder, Cllr Mr. R Hart, Cllr. Mr. R Hadden, Cllr. Mrs. V Brittain and Cllr. Miss. F Jenkinson.

Others present: NNDC Cllr. Pierre Butikofer, NNDC Cllr. Sarah Butikofer, County Councillor David Ramsbotham and PCSO Shane Artingstall,

2016/70 Apologies – None received.

2016/71 To receive declarations of interest: None received.

2016/72 Report from PCSO. Shane Artingstall,

- He reported that no crimes had been reported since our last meeting in October but that it is the time of the year for heating oil theft to start. Also, that several churches in the North Norfolk area have been targeted and lead stolen from the roofs.

2016/73 Report from County Councillor. David Ramabotham.

- **Broadband:** It was reported that hi speed broadband should be up and running no later than the end of 2017.
- **Devolution:** This was rejected by 5 of the 7 District Councils in Norfolk and has now been abandoned for Norfolk.
- **Holt Road:** It was agreed that the repairs carried out to Holt Road were less than satisfactory and that he would take this matter up with Highways Department on the parish councils behalf.

2016/74 Report from NNDC Cllr. Pierre Butikofer.

- **Dong Energy / Vanguard Energy Wind Farms:** He confirmed that our parish would not be affected by any of the proposed cable routes for the distribution of power from the wind farms. Also, that work on these was not likely to start until 2021 at the earliest.

2016/75 Public Forum: No members of the public attended this meeting.

2016/76 To sign as correct the minutes of the meeting held 27/10/2016: The minutes had been previously circulated to councillors and were passed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed accordingly.

2016/77 Matters arising from previous meetings minutes: Councillor Miss Frances Jenkinson reported that it was hoped that the work on the trees located on the parish land and adjacent footpath would soon be started, although no date has yet been set for commencement.

2016/78 Report from the Chair:

- **Adult Fitness Equipment:** The visit to evaluate the equipment offered by Wicksteed Group was very informative. The items evaluated were found to be well constructed and extremely robust and are supplied with a 25-year guarantee on the framework. The Parish Council will, in due course be applying to the NNDC Big Society Fund for a grant to allow the purchase of several items of equipment. This is to be installed on the playing field adjacent to the village hall. NNDC Councillor Pierre Butikofer was approached to be a referee for the application and he accepted subject to checking his eligibility.
- **Dogs 1:** A campaign to approach dog owners and ask if they have the means to clean up after their dogs is proposed. This will require approaching members of the public and providing suitable bags if needed.
- **Dogs 2:** A dog has escaped from a property adjacent to the village play area. It entered an adjoining garden and chased two sheep causing damage to garden plants and pots. The concern is for the safety of children using the play area and what may happen if the dogs escape from their garden and attack a child. County Councillor David Ramsbotham reported that he had been in contact with the police regarding this matter and he was told that there was no direct evidence of the dog attacking the sheep. The Police were informed of the incident and PC Pegdon has since spoken to the owner of the dog and has been assured that measures were in hand to secure the garden against future escapes. NNDC Councillor Pierre Butikofer said that he would take this matter up with the NNDC Environment Officer who he would encourage to visit the premises to ensure that it was secure. A discussion took place resulting in a proposal that a letter outlining the Parish Council's concern be sent to the owner. A vote on this proposal was taken and passed unanimously. It was agreed that a letter would be compiled and circulated to councillors for approval prior to being sent.

Continued/

2016/79 Parish Precept: The clerk presented proposals for increasing the precept for the financial year 2017/2018. This additional funding is required to cover known and likely future increases in the Parish's liabilities. Cllr. Rick Hadden stated, that as far as he was aware, parish councils who wish to increase their precept would not be subject to a referendum this year. He went on to say that he thought this situation was unlikely to continue and that in future we may be limited to the same percentage increase as the principle rating authority. Therefore, if they are capped at say 2 percent the parish would also be limited to this level of increase. This would result in additional funds of only £120 on our present precept of £6K. A discussion followed resulting in the proposal by Cllr. Viv Brittain for a 20 percent increase for 2017/2018. This was seconded by Cllr. Chris Armstrong. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

2016/80 Financial Report: The report had been previously distributed to Councillors and no questions were raised. Cheques were presented for payment to K & M Lighting, Kenny Bishop (mowing footpaths and greens). These were agreed and signed by the Chair and Vice-Chair.

2016/81 Correspondence Distributed: Big Society Fund prospectus, Crime Report.

2016/82 Planning Matters: 2 Reading Room Cottages – single storey extension. The Clerk Informed Councillors that on behalf of the Council he had submitted a no objection return. **Springfield, St Giles Road.** Plans have been circulated relating to the proposed installation of some roof lights.

2016/83 Any other Business: No items were raised.

There being no further business Cllr. Val Hart closed the meeting at 21:07pm

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

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

Next meeting will be held on Thursday 19th January 2017 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.