

SWANTON NOVERS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 2nd March 2017 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. Miss. F Jenkinson.

Others present: – County Councillor David Ramsbotham, District Councillor Pierre Butikofer and 1 Member of the public.

2016/95 Apologies, PCSO Shane Artingstall and Cllr. Mrs. V Brittain.

2016/96 To receive declarations of interest: None received.

2016/97 Report from County Councillor:

Council Tax will increase by 4.8% for 2017/18 This is due to the continuing reduction in funds received from central government and the permissible 3% addition to fund adult services. Despite this increase there will still be a shortfall of £48 million this financial year which will result in further cuts to services and additional back office savings to be made. In addition, the County Council will reduce the amount that it passes to local charities. It is hoped that the District Councils will pick up some of this shortfall.

2016/98 Report from District Councillor:

NNDC have re-launched their website to make it easier to use with smart-phones and tablets. This is part of an initiative to make the council more accessible to the general public and parish councils. Additionally, NNDC are sending out a team of officers to meet with parish councils to encourage closer ties between the district and parishes.

NNDC are considering selling of some of their assets (car parks etc.) to fund a projected shortfall of funds over the next three years. The reason given for this is to negate the need for further cuts to services. However, they are not increasing their precept this coming financial year to cover this as they have over £15 million in reserves.

NNDC is reducing the planning cycle from 4 weeks to 3 weeks. This will require a very swift turnaround of the paperwork circulated. In addition, NNDC will no longer be sending out planning packs as in the past. All planning information will in future be sent electronically in A4 format. The A3 copies of plans will only in future be available to view at the Cromer planning office.

2016/99 Public Forum:

A member of the public said that she was continuing to clean the bus shelter on The Croft and had not received her complimentary box of biscuits for the last two years. She also requested that a shelf be put up in the bus shelter to stop the mess from the birds that nest in the shelter causing problems.

2016/100 Matters arising from previous meetings minutes:

Cllr Mrs. C Armstrong said that she was concerned as to the way that comments made when discussing a planning application could be misconstrued by the applicant if they were passed on to them by the planning department and she urged councillors to use caution when dealing with planning matters in the future.

2016/101 To sign as correct the minutes of the meeting held 19/01/2017: The minutes had been previously circulated to councillors. Cllr. Rick Hadden pointed out an error in minute 2016/88/2 where the text says “District Council” this should be replaced by “County Council”. This was noted and will be altered prior to being signed off. This was the only alteration required.

2016/102 Report from the Chair:

- **Adult Fitness Equipment.** The grant application to the NNDC Big Society fund was progressing well and had been submitted. The application was for just short of £15K. This being the grant limit. Pierre Burikofer is acting as our independent referee. Feedback that we have had from NNDC to date has been favourable and we are hopeful of being awarded some funds when the committee sit at the end of March.
- **Fly Tipping.** This continues to be a problem for the village. A number of items have been cleared that had been dumped over the past month. However, this problem continues. Items for collection are regularly reported on the NNDC website by councillors and the clerk. Collection of these items is supposed to be within three days of reporting but we have found that it usually takes a couple of weeks before they are cleared
- **Holt Road.** The condition of the Holt Road continues to deteriorate. Cllr. Ramsbotham has taken this up on our behalf with Highways Department but so far progress is slow in getting remedial repairs started.

- **Annual Litter-Pick.** The date for this year's litter pick was suggested to be April 9th. This will be confirmed shortly. A flyer will be distributed to all households in the village.
- **WW1 Centenary of ending in 2018.** It was confirmed that we have registered the village for a beacon. A pack will be forthcoming from the Pageant Master, Bruno Peek shortly with further details.
- **Visit from Keith Simpson MP** This meeting went well with lively discussion. It was noted that attendance at the meeting was unfortunately disappointing, despite all households being leafleted about the event.
- **Church Lane / Littlewood Lane.** Unfortunately, this road is in a poor state due to the use of it by farm vehicles and large delivery vehicles. This has been reported to Astley Farms who have swept it on a couple of occasions but as of today it is once again completely covered in mud. This has again been reported and we are awaiting it to be cleared.

2016/103 Financial Report: The report had been previously distributed to Councillors and no questions were raised. Cheques for outstanding accounts were agreed and signed by the Chair and Vice-Chair.

2016/104 Correspondence Distributed: NNDC planning scheme for rural areas. No questions arising / Local Crime Report.

2016/105 Planning Matters

Oak Tree Cottage: A letter was received from NNDC clarifying the position regarding the northern boundary and the planting scheme relating to it. In a nutshell, it appears that this restriction was put on this boundary in error and they would like the opinion of the PC before removing it. A vote was taken on the motion to remove the restriction. 5 votes in favour, 1 vote against. The motion to remove the planting scheme as a requirement of the retrospective planning was passed.

Reading Room Cottage – Kitchen Extension: The planning pack was distributed and no objections were raised. A vote was taken and passed unanimously in favour.

2016/106 Any other Business: The matter of the flood-lighting at the Rectory was raised as there had been complaints. It was decided that the parish council should write to the owner to open a dialogue.

There being no further business Cllr. Val Hart closed the meeting at 20:57pm

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

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

Next meeting will be held on Thursday 20th April 2017 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.