

SWANTON NOVERS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 20th April 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. Miss. F Jenkinson.

Others present: – District Councillor Pierre Butikofer and Visiting District Councillor Annie Claussen-Reynolds

- 2017/001 Apologies,** PCSO Shane Artingstal, County Councillor David Ramsbotham Cllr. Rick Hadden
- 2017/002 To receive declarations of interest:** None received.
- 2017/003 Report from County Councillor:**
Cllr David Ramsbotham had sent his apologies. No written report was received.
- 2017/004 Report from District Councillor:**
Big Society Fund : We were informed that the next round of the Big Society Fund was now open for applications.
Regarding our recent award from the fund. He went on to say the reason that we had not been awarded a full grant was because of the number of second homes in the parish, and that awards were based upon this ratio. This point was challenged and we were assured that this would be checked and reported back. He was also asked to check if we could re-apply to the fund for the shortfall of the grant for Adult Fitness Equipment.
NNDC Newsletter: A newsletter from NNDC will be distributed by email to all parish clerks for onward distribution to councillors. This will include up to date information on recent council and cabinet meetings together with news about events and a diary of forthcoming meetings.
Boundary Changes: The Boundary Commission has produced its final report on the changes to the local electoral areas; Astley Ward will be disbanded and Swanton Novers will be incorporated into the new Stibbard Ward: This will effect all elections from 2019 onwards.
- 2017/005 Public Forum:** No members of the public were present.
- 2017/006 Matters arising from previous meetings minutes:**
Cllr. Viv Brittain asked who it was that cleaned the bus shelter and if they had been given their boxes of biscuits as thanks. The clerk confirmed that the delivery of biscuit to Sharon was in hand. The matter of providing the requested shelf in the bus shelter was also raised and Cllr. Richard Hart confirmed that this had not yet been done but was in hand. Cllr. Richard Hart asked if the letter had been sent yet to the owners of the Rectory regarding their floodlighting. Cllr. Val Hart said that it had not yet been sent but would be shortly. Cllr. Frances Jenkinson asked if the planning matter regarding Oak Tree Cottage northern boundary had been approved. The clerk confirmed that confirmation of approval had been received from NNDC.
- 2017/007 To sign as correct the minutes of the meeting held 02/03/2017:**
The minutes had been previously circulated to councillors. They were approved as a true record and duly signed.
- 2017/008 Report from the Chair:**
Adult Fitness Equipment: We have received a grant of £7K towards the purchase of the equipment. The terms of the grant specify which items are to be purchased. We have 1 year to spend this grant. Wicksteed, who are the suppliers of the equipment have been contacted to see if they can supply a reduced package of equipment at the previously quoted price. It was suggested that further grants be sought and suggestions for this requested.
Litter Pick: This year's litter pick was judged to be a success despite the reduced amount of litter collected this year. The change of time to a Sunday Afternoon was also judged to be a success as many commented that it was nice to have afternoon tea after the event. Cllr. Val Hart went on to thank Rosemary and the Village Hall team for providing the much appreciated refreshments.
Fly Tipping: Yet another incident of fly tipping has occurred around the village, this time in Plantation Lane. As this was not on the public highway the problem of removing it has fallen to the landowner, Astley Farms. The matter is believed to be in hand and will hopefully, be removed shortly.

Badgers: The matter of the continuing damage to gardens and devastation to wildlife was discussed at length. The clerk confirmed that Badgers were protected by law and that unless we were in a bovine TB area an order for culling would not be given consideration by Natural England.

Holt Road: Continues to deteriorate, with little prospect of repairs being carried out due to financial cutbacks. It was noted however, that a sum of money has been allocated by the Government for repairs to the roads in Norfolk but that this was not destined for minor roads.

Church Lane & The Street: These roads continue to be in a poor state due to their use by farm vehicles and large delivery vehicles. The verges have been churned up badly on The Street and the road has been covered in mud from the adjoining fields. Astley Farms are the main perpetrators of this problem and have already been asked to clear the roads however, we are still awaiting some action to be taken. This will be chased up with the Estate.

End of WW1 Celebrations: This matter was discussed and a suggestion that a relative of one of the fallen be asked to light the beacon is to be followed up by Cllr. Viv Brittain who had met a relative of Hiawasee Bullock at the church recently. In addition it was suggested that a committee be formed to oversee the celebrations and that this would be discussed further at the next meeting.

2017/009 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. The charges for the gardening were queried by Cllr. Rosemary Leeder. In response, the clerk has promised that a more detailed breakdown of these charges will be presented at the next meeting

2017/010 Correspondence Distributed: NNDC composting seminar, planning items and Big Society Award notification

2017/011 To Set Parish Council Meetings for the Coming Year: A lively discussion took place regarding the number of meetings to be held each year resulting in the proposal that the number is reduced to 6 per year. The clerk is to re-issue a calendar of dates to reflect this.

2017/012 Planning Matters:
Oak Tree Cottage: The notification of approval to the removal of the planning restriction on the northern boundary has been received.

2017/013 Any other Business:
Broadband: Cllr. Christine Armstrong asked how things were progressing regarding the coming of hi-speed Broadband to the village. The clerk will check the latest information and report back at the next meeting

There being no further business Cllr. Val Hart closed the meeting at 20:49pm

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

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

Next meeting will be held together with the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 17th May 2017 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.