

SWANTON NOVERS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 12th October 2017 at Swanton Novers Village Hall at 7.30pm.

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

Others present: – County Councillor Steffan Aquarone, 3 Members of the Norfolk Badger Trust and 3 Members of the public.

2017/045 Apologies, Cllr Mrs V. Brittain and District Councillor Pierre Butikofer.

2017/046 To receive Declarations of Interest:
No declarations of interest were received.

2017/047 Report from County Councillor:
Cllr. Aquarone stated that central government are cutting the grant to NCC over the next 4 years and that £175 million will need to be saved over this period. There is a promise not to cut front line services, but the extent that other so called non-essential services will be cut is of concern particularly, social care and mobile library services.

2017/048 Report from District Councillor:
This written report was received from Cllr. Butikofer and presented by Madam Chairman
He referred to the recent problem that the village hall had removing some homeless people and their caravan from the village hall car park. It was in fact the intervention of his wife, on his behalf, with her contacts on the police committee that arranged the removal at no expense to the village.
Brown Bins The problem recently experienced by people wanting these bins which are for the disposal of garden waste has now been remedied. The new contract which will ease the waiting list for these bins is operational and anyone waiting for their bin should receive it shortly.

2017/049 Public Forum: There were no matters raised by members of the public present.

2017/050 Presentation by the Norfolk Badger Trust.
Mr Fitch (Chair of the Norfolk Badger Trust) and his colleagues lobbied the Parish Council in respect of their proposal to ask the County Council to provide badger warning signs on the B1110 Guist Road as a high number of badgers have been killed by vehicles on this stretch of road. This was followed by a lively Q&A session. Following on from this a vote was taken on whether to support the provision of signs. This was passed 4 to 1 with 1 abstention by Cllr Richard Hart. Madam Chairman thanked Mr Fitch for an informative talk.

2017/051 Matters arising from previous meetings minutes: None.

2017/052 To sign as correct the minutes of the meeting held 27/07/2017:
The minutes had been previously circulated to councillors. A spelling error was highlighted by Cllr. Rick Hadden. The Clerk apologised and confirmed that they would be corrected prior to being signed. Apart from this error they were approved as a true record.

2017/053 Report from the Chairman
Adult Fitness Equipment: The equipment has now been installed and was being used regularly by villagers. This was provided by grant from the NNDC Big Society Fund and additional support from the Village Hall Committee and the Parish Council.

WW1 2018 Celebration: Madam Chairman informed the council of her intention to oversee the formation of a committee to administer the celebrations and that this committee would hopefully comprise of members of the PC, Village Hall Committee and members of the public. Unfortunately, due to prior engagements it was not possible for the Chairman or Clerk to attend the last Village Hall Committee meeting. however, It is hoped that they will be able to attend the next meeting to discuss some outline planning. She would also like to arrange a village meeting to gauge support for this event.

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Cllr. Val Hart informed the meeting that she is leading a group to make a map of the village to show where all members of the forces that took part in WW1 lived. It will also tell the story of each one.

2017/054 Financial Report: The report had been previously distributed to Councillors and no queries were raised. Cheques for payment to Wicksteed Products and K&M Lighting were presented and approved for payment.

2017/055 Correspondence Distributed: Information from the Police and correspondence from NALC had been previously distributed. No questions were forthcoming.

2017/056 Proposed Amendment to Timings and Structure of PC Meetings:
The following proposed changes were discussed, and a vote taken.

1/ In the future all parish council meetings should start at 7:00pm.

A vote was taken, and this point was passed 4 to 2 – Therefore, future meetings will start at 7:00pm

2/ Meetings should be conducted by way of a timed agenda, allocating each item a specific time.

A vote was taken, and this point was rejected 5 to 1

3/ Meetings will in future finish at 9:00pm, with any un- transacted business carried over to the next meeting. This item was split:

1/ finish meetings at 9:00pm

A vote was taken and passed 5 to 1

2/ To carry forward any unfinished business to the next meeting.

A vote was taken and rejected 5 to 1

In conclusion: Future meetings will commence at 7:00pm and finish no later than 9:00pm

2017/057 Planning Matters: No planning items were received.

2017/058 Any other Business:

Referring to the recent celebration for the opening of the Swanton Novers Sports Hub Cllr. Val Hart asked the following questions on behalf of councillors present who were concerned about an incident that occurred between Cllr. Miss Frances Jenkinson and NNDC Sports Hub Coordinator, Wyn Nurse, prior to the event.

- On October 10th members of NNDC Sports Hub visited the village hall to celebrate Swanton Novers achieving full membership of the Sports Hub project. Were you present, that morning, in your capacity as Chair of the Swanton Novers Parish Council.
- If so, were your remarks made to Wyn Nurse, who co-ordinates the Sports Hub project and is not a District Councillor, made on behalf of the Parish Council.
- Again, if so, we suggest that the remarks that you made, (which were overheard by others) were rude and unjustified and should be withdrawn. They were very upsetting for the recipient who said they were nasty
- Consequently, we believe that you should consider offering a personal apology to Wyn Nurse, and to the Parish Council, stating that your remarks were not made on behalf of the Council.
- Should you not agree to make an apology, do you therefore think that you should consider your position as Chair, and representative of the Parish Council.

Cllr. Miss Frances Jenkinson replied: I believe that the Parish Council were given only 24 hours' notice of this meeting and unfortunately, I had a prior engagement that was difficult to change at such short notice. However, I felt that it was my duty to attend in my capacity as Chairman of the Parish Council as the Clerk had informed me that the adult fitness equipment was to officially be opened by a District Councillor at the same event. Additionally, I felt that it was insulting that the Parish Council had not been officially invited to attend.

I did not feel that I was rude, and I feel that is a matter of opinion that I was. I do not feel that an apology is necessary, and I do not feel that I should consider my position as Parish Council Chair, the fault was entirely with the NNDC.

Continued...

The discussion continued, during which, Cllr. Rick Hadden suggested that as Cllr. Miss Frances Jenkinson (Chairman) felt that it was unnecessary to make an apology, she might instead speak with Wyn Nurse to explain the reason for her actions. Finally, Vice Chair Cllr. Mrs Christine Armstrong said that it had been a shame that she had not been asked to deputise at this event, when in fact she then had to step in at short notice to represent the Parish Council, a task that, drawing on her teaching experience, she was more than competent to perform.

There being no further business Cllr. Miss Frances Jenkinson closed the meeting at 20:40pm

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

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

Next meeting will be held on Thursday 23rd November 2017 at 7:00pm in the Village Hall.