

SWANTON NOVERS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 23rd November 2017 at Swanton Novers Village Hall at 7.00pm.

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: – District Councillor Pierre Butikofer. No members of the public were in attendance.

2017/059 Apologies, Cllr Mrs V. Brittain and County Councillor Steffan Aquarone.

2017/060 To receive Declarations of Interest:
No declarations of interest were received.

2017/061 Report from County Councillor:
This written report was received from Cllr. Aquarone and presented by Cllr. Frances Jenkinson (Chair)

As the County Council prepares to see the detail of proposals to reduce spending by £100m, the details of how these cuts will be made are emerging. Clearly this is a difficult position for any administration to find itself in. However, our concerns are that while 'visible' services will be preserved, the cuts will fall heaviest on less visible services: adult social care, for example, which only 3% of us use at any one time, but that half of us will use at some point in our lives. Vulnerable people who depend on these services are the ones least likely to have a strong voice with which to complain.

Talking of which: I am deeply concerned about the significant increase in case work I have seen in relation to adult social services. I am now concerned that the Council may be failing to meet its statutory obligations and, moreover, that people are suffering as a result. Please keep your eyes and ears open in the community for people who rely on adult social care - and let me know if you find anyone who is struggling to get the help they need, or whose care package appears to have been reduced unfairly.

Mobile libraries - would anyone who has not yet taken the opportunity to fill in a survey or email me already, please send me their views on the service via email (steffan.aquarone.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk). All views are welcome - good, bad and ugly!

Mobile phone coverage - has taken an interesting step forward. The County Council will soon be commissioning surveying of signal on all networks across Norfolk but on main roads, B roads and tourist hot spots only. For us rural people, they have agreed to procure, in the tender that will shortly go out, that the winning provider supply kits to communities to help fill in the gaps. Our 500+ volunteers for the phone project are poised to receive the outcome of this, which will feed into the Council's very similar plan to mine, to use its buildings to add small cell transmitters. For the gaps that still remain, we will recommend the variety of ideas that continue to come in for alternative small-cell sites.

2017/062 Report from District Councillor: Pierre Butikofer.

The Bacton Walcott Sandscaping Scheme. This is a multi -million-pound scheme to protect the coastline between Bacton and Walcott. This scheme is being funded by contributions from the Norfolk Business Rate Pool, NNDC, The Regional Flood Defence Committee and the National Flood Defence Fund. The total cost of this project will be between 17 and 19 million pounds.

NNDC is giving its backing to higher fly tipping penalties. At present the fine is £250. So far, this year there have been over 500 incidents of fly tipping costing NNDC in excess of £40K to remove. A lively discussion followed this item where the suggestion was made that the present policy adopted by the Tidy Tip staff is only aggravating this problem.

NNDC are considering replacing the "Splash Pool" in Sheringham. A scheme has been put forward that will include a Hotel on the site and it is hoped this will contribute to the cost of the new pool. Costings for this scheme are not yet available but will hopefully be forthcoming at a future meeting.

NNDC is now a council without a single party having a majority. It is hoped that this will lead to more democratic decisions being taken in the future.

Cllr. Val Hart asked if anything could be done regarding the nuisance caused by the floodlights from the Thursford Christmas show. A discussion followed this point, finishing with Cllr. Butikofer promising to look into the matter and report back at the next meeting.

Continued....

Two points were raised with the District Councillor by the Parish Clerk.

Planning Application Information. It has been brought to the attention of the clerk that the new system of only sending planning application information to Parish Councils by email is not satisfactory. The complaint relates specifically to the plans. In the past, detailed A3 sized plans were sent out, these showed not only the building seeking planning but also, the location in relation to adjoining buildings and land. The experience of the last two applications received has highlighted the shortcomings of this new system. It was suggested that NNDC revert to the former system and charge the planning applicant the extra costs of sending out A3 copies of the plans. Cllr. Butikofer suggested that the parish council may wish to contact the applicant or their architect directly and request these copies. He also agreed to take this matter up with the NNDC Planning Department and report back at the next meeting.

Second Homes Council Tax: The Clerk asked if the changes to second homes council tax relief recently announced by the Government would be applied in North Norfolk. The change relates to councils being able to charge 100% council tax on second homes. Cllr. Butikofer promised to investigate this and report back.

2017/063 Public Forum: No members of the public were present at this meeting.

2017/064 Matters arising from previous meetings minutes:
Cllr Frances Jenkinson referred to the events of the 10th October. (for details of this please refer to the minutes of the meeting held 12/10/2017) She went on to say that she had written to Ms Nurse explaining the situation. As she has not received a reply the matter should now be considered closed.

2017/065 To sign as correct the minutes of the meeting held 12/10/2017:
The minutes had been previously circulated to councillors and were approved and signed.

2017/066 Report from the Chairman:
Hedge Cutting: Madam Chairman sought the council's permission to have the hedge at the end of St Giles Road cut. No objections were forthcoming, and the clerk would contact the contractor to arrange this.

2017/067 Financial Report: The report had been previously distributed to Councillors and no queries were raised. Cllr. Rick Hadden asked what the projected surplus would be at the end of the financial year. The clerk estimated that it would be in the region of £4K.
The 2017 charitable donations were discussed, and the following were agreed: Holt 1st Responders £75:00, Citizens Advice Bureau £75:00 and Food Bank £50:00.

2017/068 Setting the 2018 / 2019 Precept:
The 2018 / 2019 budget was presented by the clerk together with calculations for increases in the precept of 3%, 5% and 10%. After discussion a vote was taken and 3% approved unanimously.

2017/069 Correspondence Distributed: Information from the Police and correspondence from NALC had been previously distributed. No questions were forthcoming.

2017/070 Planning Matters: No planning items were received.

2017/071 Any other Business: No matters were raised and no items for inclusion on the next agenda were requested.

There being no further business Cllr. Miss Frances Jenkinson closed the meeting at 20:15pm

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

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

Next meeting will be held on Thursday 25th January 2018 at 7:00pm in the Village Hall.