

## SWANTON NOVERS PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 25th January 2018 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.

**2017/072**      **Apologies**, Cllr Mrs V. Brittain.

**2017/073**      **To receive Declarations of Interest:**  
No declarations of interest were received.

**2017/074**      **Report from County Councillor: Steffan Aquarone**

It was reported that the controversial pay increase for County Councillors was passed in a recent County Council meeting by the conservative majority. The burden of this to the counties residents and businesses will be in the region of £142K per year. To put this figure in context it amounts to one third of the proposed cuts to the Mobile Library service or half the cost of the proposed cuts to the Bus Subsidy. Cllr Aquarone is going to use his pay rise to set up a fund to support community projects in his constituency. So far, he has put the back pay awarded into the fund which will be £540 less tax. He went on to say that he has awarded his first grant to the Melton Constable Country Club £18:00.

The proposed cuts to the Bus Subsidy, Road Gritting and Library's are due to be discussed at the next meeting of the Policy and Resources committee, and he is confident that some of these cuts will be reduced or postponed.

Cllr. Miss Jenkinson said that the Parish Council had recently received correspondence regarding the proposed "Western Link" extension to the Northern Distributor Road and asked if this was likely to materialise. Cllr. Aquarone replied that although this was likely to become policy, there were a lot of hurdles to cross concerning the owners of the land and some restrictions that were granted when one particular land owner purchased his land. He will keep us informed of any future developments.

**2017/075**      **Report from District Councillor: Pierre Butikofer.**

**NNDC** went to the High Court in connection with the planning permission granted for the Old Rectory at Blakeney. The review was decided in NNDC's favour and they were awarded costs in the region of £10K.

**NNDC** are backing the replacement and development of the Splash Pool in Sheringham. The new complex will have a new pool and a new hotel and other facilities. The project will be funded jointly by NNDC and the proposed hotel company.

**Norfolk Constabulary** are proposing replacing 150 PCSO's with 80 full time officers. NNDC are proposing giving the Constabulary £200K per year for the next 5 years to provide extra full time Police Officers to cover Cromer, Sheringham, Holt, Stalham and North Walsham. These extra officers will exclusively work in the 5 towns and will not be deployed elsewhere, except in dire emergency or terrorist situations. This funding will be provided from the 15-million-pound reserve fund currently held by the council.

**NNDC** The controlling majority of conservative councillors on the NNDC have now been replaced by a coalition of Independent Conservatives, Liberal Democrats and independent councillors. This is proving to be a more democratic administration now that the Cabinet administration model has been abandoned. Council Leader Tom Fitzpatrick will stay in post for the time being.

**NNDC** at a recent meeting, decided that 2<sup>nd</sup> Homes Council Tax will now be increased from 95% to 100%.

**Thursford Christmas Lights.** In response to concerns raised about these at the last meeting Cllr Butikofer made enquiries at NNDC and has been informed that all the necessary permissions have been sought and granted by NNDC. He went on to confirm that a number of complaints have been received by NNDC from members of the public, however, as permission has been granted and the lights are a temporary display over the Christmas period that nothing more will be done. Cllr. Val Hart said that she had been in contact with Thursford registering her complaint and that she will be in contact with the CPRE regarding the level of light pollution caused.

**NNDC Planning** - In response to a complaint made to the changes in the planning process and the provision of hard copy plans. NNDC are not considering reverting to providing plans and it will in future, be up to Parish Councils to request copies from the applicant's architect directly.

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**2017/076 Public Forum:** No members of the public were present at this meeting.

**2017/077 Matters arising from previous meetings minutes:**  
None were raised.

**2017/078 To Sign as Correct the Minutes of the meeting held 25/01/2018:**  
The minutes had been previously circulated to councillors and were approved and signed.

**2017/079 Report from the Chairman:**  
Firstly, I would like to wish all the Parish Councillors a Very Happy New Year and hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas.  
Little has happened since our last meeting two months ago, but I would like you to know that we are continuing to keep in our minds how the village will mark the ending of WW1. Arrangements are in hand to hold a meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> March, to which all the residents of the village will be invited. At this meeting further discussions will take place as to how everybody in the village can be involved in the memorable event. We are receiving more details by the month from the Queen's Pageant-Master and organising authorities. We will communicate these as they come through. So far, the program is as follows. In the morning we will hopefully have a Piper and there will be readings of the WW1 Poets. This will be followed by the sounding of the Last Post at 6:55pm followed by the Beacon being lit at 7:00pm and ringing of the church bell in the church for 5 minutes. We hope to have a good turn out for the meeting on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March and I will report back on the outcome at the next meeting.

**2017/080 Litter Pick 2018**  
The annual Litter Pick was discussed, and it was decided to hold it on Sunday April 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm followed by refreshments in the village hall.

**2017/081 Financial Report:** The financial report had been distributed earlier to Councillors and presented by the clerk. No questions were raised and the accounts to date were passed.

**2017/082 Correspondence Distributed:** No questions were raised concerning the correspondence that had previously been distributed to Councillors. However, the Clerk did draw councillor's attention to the coming changes to the Data Protection Act and some of its likely consequences for parish councils. He confirmed that he would be attending a training course in the near future and will report back at the next meeting.

**2017/083 Planning Matters:** No planning items were received.

**2017/084 Any other Business:** Cllr. Val Hart raised the state of the village roads, particularly, the pot holes in Holt Road the blocked run-off gullies and the mud and broken-down banks on the roads. Cllr. Frances Jenkinson added that she had happened upon some people from the Highways department carrying out a survey of the run-off 'gullies and had told them of the poor state of them and the roads throughout the village. District Councillor Pierre Butikofer took note of the areas concerned and said that he would do what he could on our behalf and would contact Steve White to add his concerns

**There being no further business Cllr. Miss Frances Jenkinson closed the meeting at 20:17pm**

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

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

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