

SWANTON NOVERS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 29th March 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 and Cllr Mrs V. Brittain.

Others present: – No members of the public were in attendance.

2018/001 **Apologies** received from, **County Councillor: Steffan Aquarone.**

2018/002 **To receive Declarations of Interest:**
No declarations of interest were received.

2018/003 **Report from County Councillor: Steffan Aquarone. Presented in his absence by Cllr. Frances Jenkinson.**

County Council Budget

Good news for Melton Constable division! As planned cuts of £500,000 to bus subsidies and £400,000 to road gritting were reversed by Norfolk County Council follow pressure from our group. The issue of mobile libraries has been kicked into the long grass: the cuts weren't planned until next financial year anyway, so we will continue to fight for this issue. It's particularly important, since these are some of the few services people in rural areas actually receive from the County Council.

In other news...

My mobile phone project has taken a positive step forward. The County Council has commissioned surveying of signal on all networks across Norfolk but on main roads, B road and tourist hot spots only. For we rural folk, they have agreed to procure, in the tender that had gone out, that the winning provider supply kits to communities to help fill in the gaps. Our volunteers for the phone project are poised to receive next steps from 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.

2018/004 **Report from District Councillor: Pierre Butikofer.**

The report from the District Councillor was received too late to be presented at the meeting. However, it is included, for information, at the end of these minutes.

2018/005 **Public Forum:** No members of the public were present at this meeting.

2018/006 **Matters arising from previous meetings minutes:**

Cllr Richard Hart asked if the clearing of the drain gullies and repair to the pot-holes was in hand. The clerk confirmed that these items have been reported and are awaiting actioning by NCC. Council Chair Miss Frances Jenkinson asked if any progress had been made with the owner of Swanton Cottage regarding the hedge at the junction of St Giles Road and The Street. The clerk said that it was hoped that the owner would be visiting over the Easter weekend and that he and Cllr Rosemary Leeder would call round to discuss the matter with the owner.

2018/007 **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.

2018/008 **Report from the Chairman:**

Firstly, I would like to report that the hedge at the end of S Giles Road has been cut and a good job has been done.

The end of World War 1 centenary celebrations. The Clerk and I recently attended a meeting at NNDC for villages that are marking this event in November. It was interesting to hear how other parishes and towns were intending to celebrate the event. Various things have come to light and Rosemary informed me that a hog roast would cost around £500. This would be a non-starter as the expense would not be justified. Therefore, we will fall back to what was previously discussed, a fairly simple meal consisting of something like a cottage pie and a dessert. Discussion continued covering likely numbers and the timetable for the event. It was agreed that this matter will need to be discussed further. A steering committee has been set up and will report to the full council at future meetings.

Continued....

2018/009 **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. The clerk went on to present the variance analysis for the year in which no significant deviations from the budget were reported. The clerk reported that the appointed auditor company (PKF Littlejohn) are offering a package to cover the cost of answering any queries raised by third parties resulting from the publication of the annual accounts statement. The charge for this service would be in the region of £250 per year. This matter was discussed and no decision at this point was made.

2018/010 **Correspondence Distributed:** No questions were raised concerning the correspondence that had previously been distributed to Councillors. Cllr Frances Jenkinson reported that a request for funding had been received from Age UK. This request was discussed and it was decided to reply explaining that the decision as to which organisations receive funding during the following year is taken at the November meeting of the PC and that the Age UK's request will be considered, along with others, at the November 2018 meeting.

2018/011 **To set the dates for the 2018 Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Council meetings for the next 12 months.**

The following dates were decided upon for the following 12 months. Please note that all meetings will start at 7:00pm in the Village hall.

23rd May 2018 Annual Parish Meeting followed by Parish Council Meeting (Wednesday)

19th July 2018 Parish Council Meeting (Thursday)

20th Sept.2018 Parish Council Meeting (Thursday)

22nd Nov.2018 Parish Council Meeting (Thursday)

24th Jan 2019 Parish Council Meeting (Thursday)

21st March 2019 Parish Council Meeting (Thursday)

2018/012 **Planning Matters:** No planning items were received.

2018/013 **Any other Business**
Cllr Rick Hadden asked the council to consider at the next meeting discussing increasing the number of parish councillors to 9. This would hopefully encourage new blood and also ease the requirement of councillors to attend every meeting. It was agreed that this would be put on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

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 Wednesday 23rd May 2018 at 7:00pm in the Village Hall.
This meeting will also incorporate the Annual Parish Meeting**

Report from District Councillor: *Pierre Butikofer*.

At full council meeting on the 21st February, Tom Fitzpatrick stood down as leader of the council. John Lee was voted in as the new leader. He reduced his cabinet from 10 seats to 7 making it more reasonable in size as well as cost.

The council is now hung - with Cons 22 seats, Independents with 8 and Lib Dems with 18. It is the first time in many years that NNDC is a hung council.

As a consequence of this the Lib Dems along with the independents put forward amended budget proposals. The included community transport, market town initiatives and support for homelessness and people in crisis within North Norfolk.

It is the first time that proposals put forward by the opposition groups were considered and accepted by the council in over eight years.

The budget was also accepted for an increase of 5.99% or just under £5 for a Band D property.

Waste bins - the issues have now been fully resolved and bins should be collected in a timely manner.

NNDC had a successful prosecution on animal cruelty - 22 weeks prison sentence suspended for two years was handed down.

Vatenfall has announced that they will be using HVDC transmission connection instead of using HVAC for wind farm electricity transmission. This will avoid the need for a cable relay station at East Ruston. Also the cable corridor will be 45m rather than 100m.

The inaugural business awards were held and proved to be a success. We are now hoping that DONG will follow suit.