

# SWANTON NOVERS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 19th September 2018 at Swanton Novers Village Hall at 7.00pm.

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

**Others present:** – 6 Members of the public. – *Mr Eaton, Mrs Eaton, Mr Reece, Mrs Reece, Mr Harman and Hazel Mindam.*

**2018/044**

**Apologies.**

None were received

**2018/045**

**To receive Declarations of Interest:**

No declarations of interest were received.

**2018/046**

**Report from County Councillor: *Steffan Aquarone.***

The Parish Council informed Cllr. Aquarone of the meeting date and sent a reminder requesting his report from NCC. Unfortunately, we have not received an apology or report in time for this meeting.

**2018/047**

**Report from District Councillor: *Pierre Butikofer.***

The Parish Council informed Cllr. Butikofer of the meeting date and sent a reminder requesting his report from NNDC. Unfortunately, we have not received an apology or report in time for this meeting.

**2018/048**

**Public Forum:**

No matters were raised.

**2018/049**

**Matters arising from previous meetings minutes:**

**Drains:** The Clerk replying to an enquiry regarding the roadway drains from Mr Eaton said that he had been in contact with NCC regarding the program for drain cleaning and had been informed that they are cleaned twice a year and the next clean should be before the end of the year.

The Councillors went on to discuss the problems with the land drains and who, if anyone was responsible for their maintenance. It was generally thought that Astley Estates were responsible, and it was hoped that the new Farm Manager would attend a future meeting where this problem could be raised. Cllr. Chris Armstrong asked if the Astley Estate could be contacted to see if they have any plans of the drains.

Cllr. Rick Hadden said that at the moment that Barney and Fulmodeston are having main drains connect and wondered if it would be possible to find out if our village is likely to be connected.

**2018/050**

**To Sign the Minutes of the previous meeting as a true record:**

No additions or alterations were raised and therefore the minutes were signed by Cllr. Jenkinson and the Clerk

**Report from Chair. Cllr. Miss Frances Jenkinson**

**Dogs:** Dog mess continues to be a problem in the village. I am not sure what can be done about this as nobody is prepared to be a Dog Warden. Dog poop bins can be controversial regarding sighting and the cost of emptying, and it is doubtful if the perpetrators would use this facility if provided. As a suggestion, perhaps dog owners could take extra bags and offer them to anyone that they see not picking up after their dogs. We also have a lot of people drive to our village to walk their dogs and we can have no control over this.

A dog owned by Mrs Doncaster of the Rectory continues to get out onto St Giles Road and has caused problems for road users. I certainly would not like the animal to be hurt. A discussion amongst councillors followed by a request the clerk visits the property to report this nuisance.

**Speeding:** The clerk has received a complaint about the speeding vehicles in The Street, especially in the vicinity of the bus stop. This is where children are picked up and dropped off by the school bus.

We have in the recent past carried out a Speed Watch in the village and did not catch anyone exceeding the limit. This is not surprising considering the warning signs and restrictions required when monitoring vehicles. Cllr. Val Hart suggested getting one of the speed indicator signs that light up with your speed. The Clerk was asked to contact Highways to enquire if they could provide one and the likely cost.

**Roads:** The condition of the roads throughout the village continues to give concern especially with regard to the potholes and standing water and blocked run-offs. Highways have been informed and the Highway Rangers are due to visit the village during December.

***The Noise item is reported below in full from the recording taken at the meeting.***

**Noise:** There has been an awful lot of building work in the village lately. Some of it is amateur and some professional, the professional, and I use the word amateurs to refer to house owners. Professionals, you know that the builders have to stop and will only work during certain parameters and it would be nice if the, for want of a better word, amateurs, just think of the neighbours sometimes because this summer has been a lovely summer and we would like to enjoy our gardens, and very often it has been quite difficult because there have been machines of various sorts going all over weekends and sometimes in the evenings and if they could plan their work to ensure that the noisy work is done during the day and the quieter work could be done in the evenings I think that a lot of people would appreciate it. Cllr. Hart asked if there had been complaints and Cllr. Jenkinson said Yes, there has a lot been going on and I've had complaints. The clerk said that he had received two complaints about the noise, music and fireworks coming from Swanton Cottage late at night and confirmed that he had been aware of it. Cllr. Leeder said that the owner only comes here for his party's. Cllr. Armstrong asked how often this has been happening, the clerk replied a couple of times in the past three months. Cllr. Brittain said that this could be when the property is rented, and this could be to multiple families or groups because it holds ten and you can imagine that people might come there and have a party. Cllr Hart said that on the same theme, she has been in contact with Thursford and her contact there, Charlie, has taken her comments about the lights on board and would be seeing what they could do with them in our direction. They will not do away with them as Father Christmas will not be able to see where they are without them, they are going to lower them.

Mrs Reece asked Cllr. Jenkinson if we could go back to the question about the amateur building work and asked what restrictions that there were, Cllr. Jenkinson replied that there are no restrictions on people doing their own work, I think what they were asking was that they would have a little thought for the neighbours and that possibly at weekends and evenings you could sort of try to think that we might want to be in our gardens, particularly during this lovely summer weather. Sound travels a very long distance, we've all found that because we have had complaints. Mrs Eaton asked what exactly the noise was. Cllr. Jenkinson replied, machines, drills, all sorts of machines that are used. Cllr Hadden said that he had noise from Nextwood Cllr. Jenkinson said that they were proper builders Cllr. Hadden replied that they started very early and finished late and they worked at weekends. Cllr. Brittain agreed and went on to say that they had lots of vans there. We knew it was going to end so we didn't do anything. The worst thing is if these so-called professional builders bring loud radios. Cllr. Jenkinson said Anyway, we've had complaints so there we are. Mrs Reece said. Sorry, I would like to go back to this as it's making some of us feel quite uncomfortable about these complaints about amateur builders. Cllr Jenkinson replied, this has been going on for a very long time and will continue for quite a long time and I'm not the only one. Mrs Eaton asked, is this only your problem. Mr Eaton said that drills, mowers and other equipment, he is strict about not using them after five o'clock in the evenings. Cllr. Jenkinson said that if I hear noise again, I will come and find out who it is. Mrs Eaton said that they have only use a chain saw twice since they had been there. Cllr. Armstrong said that the noise from hedge cutting came from elsewhere and was carried out by someone who felt inspired to do the job when they had come home quite late, about eight o'clock! Mr Eaton said that he always tries to be thoughtful and responsible and will always stop work outside before the evening. Cllr. Hart said Wouldn't it be a good idea if the people affected by this noise just mentioned it to whoever was responsible in a friendly way. Cllr. Jenkinson said that she hopes that in the future people will not be affected by this nuisance. Mrs Eaton asked how many people have been affected because We cut out grass once a fortnight and we have only used our chainsaw twice in two years and I'm having trouble establishing what the noise is. Cllr Jenkinson replied. It's not continuous and it's not just you, it's also others up and down St Giles road.

**2018/052**

**Report from the Chair of the Parish Council**

**Astley Estate:** I have had a meeting with the estate and they are drawing up a plan of hedge cutting to be carried out over the next few months. I am aware that this is a matter of concern to some people. They are restricted in what they can do both by environmental concerns of the soil association and others. I am hopeful that the new Farm Manager will be able to attend our next meeting and explain the plans for agriculture around the village. Cllr. Brittain said that she had already been in contact with the estate office regarding the nature strip that borders her property. She was told that they would be attending to it but due to their shortage of labour the work has been delayed. Cllr Hart said that this is also the case regarding the area in front of their hedge that borders the land between her and Mr and Mrs Parsons. It is so overgrown that they are unable to cut their hedge until it is cleared.

**2018/053**

**Financial Report.**

The clerk presented the accounts up to date (These had previously been emailed to councillors) together with payments awaiting approval for lawn mowing, hedge cutting, street lighting maintenance and village hall hire. Cllr Hadden said that as the finances had improved that perhaps we could purchase a speed warning sign. The council was also reminded that the Defibrillator will need replacing in around two years and that this also needs to be looked into. There were no further questions. Cllr. Armstrong said that the equipment was donated by Holt First Responders and said that the Village Hall pay for the upkeep, batteries, pads etc. Cllr. Brittain asked if it could be arranged to hold a refresher course for the operation of the equipment as her and her husband have forgotten how to use it correctly. Cllr Leeder said that it is fool proof and talks you through stage by stage in how to use it.

**2018/054**

**Correspondence Received.**

Correspondence was distributed to all councillors prior to the meeting.  
No items needed further discussion.

**2018/055**

**Update on WW1 Armistice Events**

Cllr. Jenkinson invited Hazel Mindham to update the council:

Hazel passed around a draft copy of the booklet to be distributed on November 11<sup>th</sup> which is full of information on the fallen and includes some poetry that will be read on the day. Our attention was then drawn to the 4 additional soldiers that she had discovered as a result of her research that are not commemorated on the war memorial in the church. Cllr Hart pointed out that we will need to replace the plaque attached to the Pill Box with the additional names. A lively discussion followed the presentation and Hazel was warmly thanked for all her hard work in producing the booklet. Cllr. Hart then gave an update on the magnificent map of the village which reflects the village as it was in 1918. A local artist, Josephine, has produced the map with an additional sheet showing the key relating to the map. Mr Eaton informed the council that he, in conjunction with others is planning an exhibition of memorabilia relating to WW1 and he will be leafleting the village to hopefully, get people to look out anything that they have that may be of interest to include in the exhibition. In conclusion, planning for the day is at an advanced stage and hopefully, it will be a great success.

**2018/056**

**Planning.**

NNDC have sent a copy of the planning application by Barry Mann to excavate his front garden and create two off road parking spaces. A discussion on this followed where concerns were raised because this property is on a bend in The Street. A vote was taken and passed unanimously to approve the application.

**2018/045**

**Any other Business:**

Cllr Hadden, referring to the vote taken during the last meeting to increase the number of Councillors said. I feel that we should adhere to the democratic process and canvas all houses in the parish, asking people to come forward if they would like to be a parish councillor, then, depending on the response we will be able to know if an election is needed. The clerk confirmed that elections will be held during May 2019. If the number of candidates exceeds seats on the council a ballot will need to be held and that will be held on the same day as the District Council elections. If, however the number of candidates is less or the same as the number of seats, the candidates will be deemed to have been elected by default. Additionally, if a ballot is held, the cost is likely to be in the region of £2K. Cllr Hadden proposed a vote that all named on the electoral roll for the parish be contacted by personally addressed letter, inviting them to stand for election to the parish council if they so wish. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. The clerk said that this will be done in the new year which will give plenty of time for the declaration process to be carried out.

**There being no further business Cllr. Miss Frances Jenkinson closed the meeting at 20:24pm**

**Signed..... Chairman dated.....**

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

**Next meeting will be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at 7:00pm in the Village Hall.**