

# SWANTON NOVERS PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 24th January 2019 at Swanton Novers Village Hall at 7.00pm.**

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

**Others present:** – District Councillor Pierre Butikofer, District Councillor Vincent Fitzpatrick and 5 members of the public: Mr John Walton, Mr Gerrard Eaton, Mr Paul Reece, Mr Christopher Maxted and Luke Rodway (Manager Astley Farms)

**2018/073**

**Apologies.**

Steffan Aquarone (County Councillor)

**2018/074**

**To receive Declarations of Interest:**

No declarations of interest were received.

**2018/075**

Report from County Councillor: Steffan Aquarone (presented in his absence)

We are in budget preparation mode again, and the politicians who control Council Council have begun to finalise their budget for the financial year 2019/2020. It may already have come to your attention that there is a plan to lower the minimum income level below which people do not have to contribute to the cost of their adult social care. We are deeply concerned about this and believe it will push a number of people into a desperate position. The current threshold, below which care cost contributions are not required, is £189 per week and the proposed new level, which is legally the minimum the Council can possibly set it to is as follows:

- 18 - 24 years old - £132.45 a week
- 25 - 64 years old - £151.45 a week
- 65 years old - £189 a week

Along with reversing the proposed closures to Children's Centres, this is one of the issues we are fighting hardest about in the run up to the budget. Please do get in touch if any constituents are able to share personal stories of what it might mean to them, and likewise if we can offer any help to them working out what they are entitled to.

**Mobile phone coverage**

Jacob has already written to clerks explaining the latest development in my campaign to improve phone signal in Norfolk. You may remember me mentioning that the Council is compiling a list of sites that may be available for small transmitters as they look to find solutions to the many 'not spots' that still exist. These transmitters work to boost the mobile signal but are so small as to be virtually unnoticeable.

Parish Councils and the wider community are now invited to recommend any sites they own that may be suitable for small cell transmitters. These will be added to a database that the council is using in its ongoing discussion with mobile network operators and includes over 200 sites the council itself owns.

**2018/076**

**Luke Rodway – Astley Estate Manager**

Luke Rodway introduced himself to the council. He has worked with Astley Farms since October full time and said that he has an open-door policy for anyone that wishes to see him, and he hopes that relations between the Village and Estate can be improved.

Luke took questions on the following matters: - 1/ Littlewood Lane and Plantation Lane and the mud and state of the road. 2/ Clearance of the drainage ditches. This was discussed and the matter of flooding at the rear of Springfield and Oak Tree Cottage and to the side of 37 St Giles road. Luke Rodway said that he would investigate the matter and visit the site and see what could be done within the constraints that English Nature impose on the management of the field margins.

The matter of notification of shooting in the Great Wood and areas where an access permit is required was discussed. Luke Rodway explained the need for the cull of the deer, and he took onboard the need for notices to be displayed at the entrances to the reserve and agreed that they will be put in place. Chair: Chris Armstrong thanked Luke for his time.

**2018/077**

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

There is a photographic competition for pictures taken in Holt Country Park sponsored by NNDC. Photographs can be entered for inclusion on the 2020 calendar and there are 8 more chances to win a prize.

There is the introduction of an Arts and Culture fund to promote the wellbeing of residents- several grants have been awarded to local organisations. Cinema City have been awarded a grant for presenting dementia memory therapy, showing films and having displays of memorabilia that will help sufferers recall memories.

NNDC offices are having solar panels fitted to help reduce their carbon footprint.

**2018/078**

**Public Forum:**

John Walton raised the matter of the increase in traffic past his property.

**2018/079**

**Matters arising from previous meetings minutes:**

No matters were raised.

**2018/080**

**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 the Chair of the Council and the Clerk.

**2018/081**

**Report from Chair. Cllr. Chris Armstrong.**

Firstly, Happy New Year to everyone.

Since our last meeting, which was before Christmas, things have been fairly quiet. Jeff and I met with Graham Connolly from North Norfolk District Council on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January. He came to the village to look at possible sites for social housing. We showed him the two sites which may be of interest to the council. One is where the allotments were and the other is the piece of Parish ground beside the Old Village Hall. This first meeting was to familiarise Graham with the designated areas and show him how they sit within the village. He was interested and will send us details of what is possible and will come and talk to the Parish council possibly at the next meeting.

I have been giving our commitment to transparency some thought. I am aware that we should not do anything too radical at the moment and need to wait until after the elections. But I am also aware that we can implement small, doable, steps which we could begin to discuss tonight.

**2018/082**

**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. No questions were asked.

**2018/083**

**Drains and Drainage.**

The ongoing problems with the drainage on the north side of St Giles Road were discussed. It was noted that Luke Rodway will be visiting the area where the problems are in the next week or two and hopefully something will be able to be done. The matter of Mains Drainage was discussed, and Cllr Val Hart was tasked with making initial contact with Anglian Water to determine the possibility of getting the village connected at some point in the future.

**2018/084**

**Correspondence Received.**

Cllr. Viv Brittain raised the matter of the mobile phone signal, or lack of it in St Giles Road. Chris Armstrong and the clerk said that they had both responded to the information requested by Steffan Aquarone about the provision of a small cell booster on the village hall.

The Clerk reminded councillors about the coming elections and how to obtain nomination packs, all councillors have been provided with the election timetable and the clerk will be happy to assist with applications prior to the nomination date. Information will be posted on to the parish website in good time – please check regularly for updates.

**2018/085**

**Planning.**

Barn Conversion to the rear of Dennisby House.

This matter was discussed at length. A vote was taken and was passed unanimously as Approved. No objections were raised. The Clerk will inform NNDC of the decision.

**2018/086**

**Transparency – (Small Steps)**

Chris Armstrong addressed the Council and said that she was aware that we need procedures in place to deal with matters like complaints. I feel that we should say to the complainant that as condition of raising your complaint in Council that we should be able to inform the council who is making the complaint. Cllr Rick Hadden said that the Council should not be made into a general complaints forum. Cllr. Val Hart said that some complainants for whatever reason may wish to remain anonymous, this was discussed, and it was suggested that councillors must be informed of the identity of complainants prior to the meeting but that their name would not be minuted. Cllr Armstrong in conclusion said that this matter will be put forward for discussion once the forthcoming elections have taken place and the new council are sitting.

**2018/087**

**Items for inclusion for discussion at the next meeting**

None.

**There being no further business Chair. Chris Armstrong closed the meeting at 20:45pm**

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

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

**Next meeting will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 7:00 pm Village Hall.**