

SWANTON NOVERS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 21st March 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, Hazel Mindham & Ian Watson

2018/088

Apologies.

Steffan Aquarone (County Councillor)

2018/089

To receive Declarations of Interest:

No declarations of interest were received.

2018/090

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

Parish Council Nomination Forms

Following concerns raised by the Clerk of another Parish Council, I contacted Democratic Services for information about the submission of Parish Council nomination papers. Nomination papers for Parish Council candidates must be had delivered to the NNDC offices in Cromer by hand by the candidate themselves or by someone they trust. I understand that some received advice stating that these papers could only be delivered by the candidate, their agent or the parish clerk, which the District Council have confirmed to me is not the case. Papers cannot be submitted by courier or post. or by fax, email or any other electronic means. The deadline for submission is 4pm on Wednesday, April 3rd.

County Council budget for the year 2019/20

Full Council met three weeks ago, as it does several times a year, this time specifically to discuss the budget for the coming financial year. This is set against a backdrop of the total removal of government support for local authorities by the year 2021/22. The effect of this reduction is to remove £100m from the County Council's annual budget. Whilst this might seem like a manageable percentage of our total £1.3bn annual spend, the vast majority of council expenditure goes on children's and adult services (looked-after children, social workers, and adult care including elderly care) that are in fact not able to be reduced because they are already being delivered at the statutory minimum level.

Therefore, the effects of the recent reductions are profound and particularly harsh on the services that stop people needing to come into care in the first place. Whilst the ruling conservatives on the Council have written to government asking them to slow down the removal of support, there remain serious party political differences about how to manage budgets and finances. All of our motions to amend the budget were rejected by the controlling Conservative group and it remains the case that I believe now is exactly the 'rainy day' that any previous fiscal responsibility was saving for, and that it is vital in any tightened financial situation to be able to invest for the long term.

I was therefore particularly disappointed, given the parlous state of County Council finances in general as well as our weak economic development record in Norfolk, that our amendment to propose a £500,000 public transport innovation fund was defeated. Public transport is vital, both as an economic catalyst and for social mobility i.e. the ability for everyone in society to get access to a job and access to medical facilities amongst other things. Protecting the vulnerable and investing in the future appear to be causes that were defeated at Full Council.

Email: steffan.aquarone.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

Tel: 01603 327827

2018/091

Report from District Councillor: *Pierre Butikofer*.

1. On the 27th February 2019 at full council, the budget was approved for 2019/20. Some of the keys elects are listed below.

A) additional £33K to be allocated to these community transport fund.

B) £130K to be allocated to a new business development fund including the creation of a new full time post to support small business start-up's and related initiatives including an allocation of £20K to anew local industries hub at Alderman Peel High School, Wells

C) £30K to fund the opening of all public conveniences through the year with the exception of the facility at Mundesley promenade.

D) £20K to be allocated to support Norfolk Constabulary's Operation Moonshot for automatic number plate recognition

cameras to protect our communities from criminal activity.

E) £4K grant funding to Cromer museum provided match funding is forthcoming from Cromer town council.

F) £2 million pounds to establish a property investment company for the purpose of helping address local housing need and to create a property portfolio to provide a revenue stream for the council to address the financial deficit in future years.

2. Riding establishment near Tunstead fined for taking payment for hiring horses in contravention of the Riding Establishment Act 1964. Fined £250 with £750 costs. Had applied for a licence but had been refused on basis of location lacked required facilities.

3. Successful North Norfolk business awards with two dozen of district's business winning plaudits for success. Oyster Yachts won the chairmans award.

4. Landscaping award signed. This the placement of 1.8 million cubic metres of sand off the Bacton gas Terminal and was awarded to the Dutch company Team Van Ord.

5. NNDC became the first authority in Norfolk to sign the Couthold Commitment 2025. It is a voluntary agreement which aims to make food and drink production and consumption more sustainable. It does not commit NNDC to any additional expense.

6. Bigot goats - six kids were born as a part of the district's goat breeding programme. These goats are classed as vulnerable by the Rare Breed Survival Trust. They have helped to keep the cliffs at Cromer clear but now Norfolk Wildlife Trust and Suffolk Wildlife Trust have bought and borrowed some of the herd for habitat management.

2018/092

Public Forum:

Mr Ian Watson addressed the meeting referring to the Chair's report that had been distributed earlier and said. I was the parishioner who had the informal meeting with some members of the parish council. I would like to put on record my appreciation and thanks for the professional and courteous way that you dealt with the occasion with myself and I felt reassured from the meeting that we had and thank you very much.

2018/093

Matters arising from previous meetings minutes:

Drains & Drainage

Cllr. Chris Armstrong reminded the council that Cllr. Val Hart had been tasked to contact Anglia Water to find out if they were planning to connect Swanton Novers to the main drainage system at any time in the future. Cllr. Val Hart replied that she had obtained some literature from AW and that the clerk should contact them to obtain further information.

Astley Estate

Cllr. Val Hart stated that she had found contacting the estate manager (Luke Rodway) somewhat difficult however, when he was eventually contacted, the state of the lane between Rudd's Farm and Church Farmhouse was raised. When asked if the lane could be put in to a serviceable state he replied that he had no plans to do so for the foreseeable future and this is despite him saying at our last meeting that he wanted to improve relations between the estate and surrounding villages.

2018/094

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.

2018/095

Report from Chair. Cllr. Chris Armstrong.

Since we last met, I have continued, along with Jeff, to gather information regarding the possibility of building additional social housing in our village. We had a fact-finding meeting with Graham Connolly, Local Housing Enabler, Nicky Debbage, also a Local Housing Enabler and Delaval Astley. The three areas that were looked at when Graham made his initial visit were briefly discussed and it was quickly established that the owner of Swanton Cottage, whilst sympathetic to the idea of social housing, did not want anything developed on his land. The piece of parish ground by the Old Village Hall, which is a designated a Village Green, was also discounted which left us with the part of the field that was used as an allotment. Delaval Astley stated that, his initial response, is to gift this piece of land to the village for the purpose of building social housing. There are conditions attached to this offer both legal and aesthetic which are not insurmountable and are in fact welcomed. This is hugely exciting news for the village as it will allow us to consider running a Community Land Trust. (We have been promised some leaflets for the meeting which will give everyone a rudimentary explanation of what this means.) Or you can log onto <https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/communityledhousing> which contains most of the stuff that the booklets contain.

As well as the fact-finding meeting, I have also met with a parishioner who wanted clarification about our initial findings. This was a very constructive meeting where clarification was gained on both sides and all parties left feeling hugely better than when the meeting began.

Now the facts have been found this now becomes the general business of the Parish Council. We will have lots to consider, discuss and decisions to be made. I should imagine this may well be the lion's share of business with the newly elected Parish Council.

So, to come on to the subject of elections. I was saddened to discover that some fellow Parish councillors were stepping down and not prepared to stand for election. Whilst we are hoping for 'new blood' I feel that the 'old blood' still has very much to offer both in village knowledge, experience and a passion for the village. You will all be sorely missed but I fully understand your reasons for not standing.

So, this 'old blood' will be standing along with the wonderful response that we have had to Jeff's call for prospective candidates. So good luck to everyone.

2018/096
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.

2018/097
Correspondence Received.

The Clerk had previously distributed correspondence from The Police, the NALC regarding training and other courses available and The Police and Crime Commissioner. Responses on some of these items were received from Cllrs. Val Hart, Chris Armstrong and Rick Hadden.

2018/098
Planning Matters

The Clerk reported that the council's response to the application for the conversion of a barn at the rear of Dennisby House had been submitted and that no objection was raised. Hazel Mindham (Member of the Public) asked for clarification on the planning application. Chair. Chris Armstrong responded and said that the plans were available to all on line at NNDC.

2018/099
Parish Council Elections 2nd May 2019 – Update

The clerk informed the council of the names of parishioners who have put their name forward for election, also that on the evening of Monday April 29th there will be an opportunity for voters to meet the candidates in the village Hall at 7:00pm

2018/100
To set the date for the Annual Parish Meeting and the first meeting of the Newly Elected Council

Due to holiday commitments, the two dates available in May are Thursdays the 9th and 16th. After discussion the councillors decided on May 9th.

2018/101
Items for inclusion for discussion at the next meeting

None.

There being no further business Chair. Chris Armstrong closed the meeting at 20:10pm

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

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

Next meeting will be held on Thursday 9th May 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Village Hall.

