

SWANTON NOVERS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 27th June 2019 at 7:00pm

Councillors present: *Cllr. Chris Armstrong, Cllr. Jenny Anderson, Cllr. Viv Brittain, Cllr Gerard Eaton, & Cllr. Hazel Mindham.*

Others present: – 4 Members of the Public

2019/014

Apologies.

Received from -County Councillor Steffan Aquarone, Cllr. David Harman & Cllr. Ross Keynead. No apology received from District Councillor Vincent Fitzpatrick (2nd meeting missed without any communication)

2019/015

To receive reports from the County Councillor and District Councillor

No reports were sent in from District or County Councillors.

2019/016

Presentation from Graham Connolly – NNDC Social Housing Enabler.

A copy of the presentation is included below.

After the presentation a short Q&A session followed.

In conclusion, it was suggested that to move this project on a village meeting will need to be held and this is likely to be during September (Date to be agreed)

Copy of the presentation: -

Swanton Novers Parish Council Meeting

Purpose

How to progress a community-led housing scheme?

Background

Lots of models of community-led housing each community decides what works for them. A community-led group will have 'ownership' of the housing and control over what is built and who live in the homes. However, we never truly start with a blank sheet. In case of Swanton Novers there has been some preliminary activity.

- Initial meeting - with Chair and Clerk indicted need is for housing for older people who may otherwise need to leave village.
- Looked at some possible sites.
- Land owner for the former allotments site, Deleval Astley, has offered to gift land in return for involvement in the design of the homes built.

For last couple of months things have been on hold to allow for PC elections and to see if new Parish Councillors are supportive of a community-led housing scheme.

Next Steps

1. Set up group:

- Possibly hold open meeting to get volunteers - people who are enthusiastic about community-led housing and who have time to offer.
- Establish a steering group.
- Work through process to set up legal structure - probably a Community Land Trust with a community benefit society legal structure.
- North Norfolk District Council can help with funding for legal costs and support with meetings, etc.

2. Agree objectives:

- Do you want to provide housing for older people only?
- Do you want to use site with offer of free land?
- Do you want to partner with a housing association?
- How much day to day involvement do you want in managing homes?

3. : Delivering Objectives

These are the main elements - there is a lot of detail to work through under each bullet point.

- Acquire a site.
- Arrange funding.
- Finalise design.
- Obtain planning permission.
- Build the homes.
- Let and manage the homes.

Conclusion

This is going to be a big project which will take time and effort. But it will also bring rewards.

Tangible rewards:

- Affordable housing owned by the local community.
- Control over the key decisions.
- Other possible community benefits - for example, a ground rent income, open space/play area, community orchard.

Intangible rewards:

- Bring community together.
- Development of skills.

A Meeting open to all the Parish will be held in September (Date to be circulated when agreed) at the Village Hall

2019/017

Public Forum:

No items were put forward.

2019/018

Matters arising from previous meetings minutes:

Thursford Lights

This statement of information is in response to the item, brought to our attention by Mrs Val Hart. The item regards the Thursford laser lights that are in operation during Thursford Christmas show. Mrs Hart has asked for our 'support' in her campaign to have the Thursford Christmas laser lights stopped.

Since we last met myself and Jeff have had a meeting with Mark Ashwell from the NNDC. These are the points that he brought up during the meeting.

- All relevant planning is in place and approved.
- This is a time limited event.
- This event supports employment in North Norfolk
- This event brings in much needed revenue to the area.

We also had a meeting with Charlie Cushing the general manager at Thursford. He said that they were very mindful that they met all the legal requirements for all that they do at their Christmas show. He verified the information that we had from the NNDC and told us that the laser lights will be feature of this year's Thursford Christmas show.

As Thursford and the district council have met all the planning requirements Swanton Novers Parish Council have no 'power' over their decisions. It would therefore be ineffective as well as inappropriate for the Parish council to 'support' Mrs Hart in her campaign to have the Thursford Christmas laser lights stopped.

The Parish council recognises the strength of feeling that Mrs Hart feels about this issue. A way forward may be for Mrs Hart to join up with likeminded individuals to form a pressure group. This could involve anyone as an individual in their own right.

2019/019

Street Lighting:

The Clerk reported that the council had received two enquiries regarding the strength of the light from the re-furnished streetlights. One by the crossroads of The Street and Holt Road the other at the end of St Giles Road. The clerk made enquiries with the lighting maintenance company and established that the lights could be modified to come on at dusk and go off at a pre-determined time e.g. midnight. The cost for this modification would be in the region of £70 per light and it was calculated that the saving in electricity cost would pay for the modification in around three years. A discussion followed where it was suggested that cowls to shield the light could be an alternative solution to the problem and that parishioners should be informed that this will be discussed at the next meeting.

2019/020

Mobile Telephone Coverage:

Swanton Novers suffers from a very poor and in some areas non-existent mobile telephone signal.

It was hoped that the County Councillor would be able to attend the meeting and advise councillors who they should be contacting about this at County Hall and also what is the current policy for upgrading the service. Unfortunately, Cllr Steffan Aquarone was not able to attend the meeting and it was believed that he would also be unable to attend the August meeting. The clerk was requested to contact Cllr. Aquarone and hopefully arrange a meeting as soon as possible and hopefully before the August meeting of the Parish Council.

2019/021

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

2019/022

Correspondence Received.

The Clerk had previously distributed correspondence from The Police, NALC regarding training and other courses available, The Police and Crime Commissioner, together with emails from Rev.Jennifer Elliott de Riverol and Mr R. Hadden relating to street lighting.

2019/023

Financial Report.

The clerk reported that the annual internal financial audit had been carried out and that no recommendations or audit points were raised. The accounts have been forwarded to PJ Littlejohn (Auditors appointed by HMRC) and have been passed as a true record of the Parish Council finances for the year ending March 2019.

The year to date accounts were presented together with accounts for payment. No questions or further information was requested by the Council.

2019/024

To Consider Planning Applications received.

No planning applications have been received for consideration since the last meeting.

2019/025

Items for inclusion for discussion at the next meeting

No items, other than ones previously discussed for inclusion were put forward.

There being no further business, Chair Cllr. Chris Armstrong closed the meeting at 20:21pm

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

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

Next meeting will be held on Thursday 15th August 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Village Hall.

