

# Swanton Novers Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7.00pm

Councillors Present: Cllr. Chris Armstrong, Cllr. Jeff Smallbones Cllr. Jenny Anderson, Cllr. Gerard Eaton, Cllr. Hazel Mindham,

### **2021/155**

Apologies for absence – Cllr Shaun Doncaster, District Cllr Vincent Fitzpatrick and Cllr David Harman

### **2021/156**

To receive declarations of interest – None

### **2021/157**

Public Forum-

- Rosemary asked about an update on the village post box situation in that it is unfit for purpose due to the size of envelopes being used currently.
- Cllr Smallbones said that he had been asking about this and had found out that a new post box could be arranged but would have to be positioned on a post.
- It was felt that we did not want to lose our Victorian post box, but this seems likely as the Victorian post box has significant value and the village would have to pay the market value for the box to secure the continued ownership of it.

### **2021/158**

Reports from District Councillors – District Cllr Aquarone presented his report

- District Councillor Aquarone spoke about the condition of local roads and the trouble of the cleanliness was difficult at this time of year. The County Council would endeavour to send out a vehicle to assist in the cleaning, but this would only be achievable if a works unit vehicle is available.
- Mobile phone signals locally are very poor, more transmitters are planned especially in and around Saxthorpe but Telefonica (02) has planned a mast in Hindolveston which will improve signal strength for Telefonica customers which will improve the coverage for their customers.
- By December 31<sup>st</sup> 2025 landlines for any home or business in Britain will only continue to work if connected to the internet. This is causing a concern to residents, District Councillor Aquarone has been lobbying to Openreach and Ofcom to explain his concerns and to push back the deadline for the possible loss of their landlines.
- Councillor Fitzpatrick did not attend, and his report is attached to the minutes.

### **2021/159**

Matters arising from minutes from the meeting held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021

- a. All matters are agenda items.

### **2021/160**

- To sign as correct - The minutes from the meeting Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021 were signed as correct.

### **2021/161**

Matters arising from correspondence

- Village plaque donated to the village by the Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk is to be delivered to Swanton Novers Coffee morning commencing 17<sup>th</sup> February by Philip Curl, Deputy Lieutenant.
- It was suggested that the plaque may be commemorated at a low-key affair maybe at the Queens Platinum Jubilee as it was felt that the pandemic is far from over and a little premature to show appreciation for service to the community yet.
- Due to the Christmas break no updates currently available for the proposed village plan.
- All other correspondence has been passed on to Councillors.

### **2021/162**

#### **Social Housing update.**

CLlr Mindham reported the latest developments.

- The Swanton Novers Community Land Trust secretary Ian Watson said that the month's update was quite short due to Christmas and New Year. The only update was board member Jeff Smallbones will be acting as Treasurer for the CLT.
- Broadland Housing Association and Mole Architects had a pre-planning meeting with the NNDC Planning Officer which went well. NNDC was generally very positive about the proposed design of the properties.
- Anglian Water has advised that its treatment plant has the capacity for the new properties. DynoRod has also surveyed the sewer and believe that it is a sufficient size for the development to connect to.
- As soon as the pre-planning submission design is finalised it is intended to make this public and seek further views from the village before the planning application stage.

## 2021/163

### Planning

- Breach of Planning permission at 4 The Close – The application has now been approved but the edging to the road must be deemed to be completed before use of altered landscape can begin. Enforcement officers will need to view the current alterations and advise as required to see that the current permissions of planning are adhered to. Cllr Smallbones to liaise with Kevin Peacock in regard to the dropped kerb adjoining the public highway. He has tried to contact Mr Peacock by telephone but as yet no reply and so will email.
- Planning- Astley Estate. The 1<sup>st</sup> tranche of the Tree Houses in the woods (16 in total over time) are available to view on the local planning website.

## 2021/164

### Working groups

- **Communications** – Cllrs Mindham, Smallbones, Eaton and Armstrong to arrange meeting for the Working Group.
- **Proposed Village Plan** - No further information available currently due to the Christmas break but a plan to arrange a meeting near to Easter was discussed
- **Governance structure – Policies**, all policies must be added to the Parish Council agenda for ratification.

## 2021/165

### Financial report

- Cllr Smallbones presented the finances.
- To have the address changed for correspondence for the Parish Council to the village hall which would result in an easier process and accessibility to all future mail.
- A mobile phone for the parish clerk for public contact which can easily be transferred to councillors upon holiday or change of Clerk this will give the public a point of call if required for parish enquiries.
- The correspondence for Parish Council matters, once address is changed will be via the Village Hall.

## 2021/166

### Precept Budget 2022-23

- Cllr Smallbones presented the budget for 2022-23 parish council precept and asked if any extras or changes to the precept budget and proposal were required and a guide to these costs were discussed.
- Grants for a new defibrillator, Are these available as current one is 8 years old and warranty is only for 7 years? The defib does not require replacing until 2024-26.

- New batteries for the defibrillator are required every 2 years they were changed in 2020 so new ones will be required in 2022-23.
- A donation to the Swanton Novers Village Hall to support the village was discussed and due to reduced costs to the Parish Council this financial year this could be taken from existing funds from this year's budget.
- The upkeep of the hedges and cutting currently occurs twice yearly and it was discussed this to be increased to possibly to three times per annum.
- Zoom subscription to be continued due to the uncertainty in current time due to Covid 19.
- An affordable speed restriction sign to highlight excessive speeding through the village. A discussion on whether the speed of vehicles through the village should be reduced to 20mph as members were concerned of the danger caused by vehicles speeding through the village. Parish Clerk to research and determine costs and report at future PC meeting.
- The precept budget had been discussed on the Zoom meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> January, the discussion continued raising the point that the precept should be increased to take into consideration the current rate of inflation (currently 5.4%).
- Councillors voted on the percentage increase required for the precept budget for 2022-23 financial year ahead, Cllrs Armstrong, Smallbones, Mindham and Eaton all voted to increase the budget by 5% to allow for the expected increase in costs in the coming year ahead to carry the vote forward as a majority vote.

#### **2021/167**

##### **H.M. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee planning,**

- Cllr Armstrong reported that Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June had been saved at the village hall and that the Village Hall Committee is planning a family fun day and a beacon lighting time on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. The beacon lighting must be confirmed to the office of Bruno Peek. We will have to ensure that our beacon is registered to get a lighting time.
- Discussions continuing regards to celebrations for the Jubilee, it was suggested that the Parish Council could post updates through the village newsletter to encourage support for the celebrations and encourage attendance over the bank holiday weekend.
- Parish Clerk to research grant possibility and requirements to receive this through National Lottery, NNDC and Pageant Master.

#### **2021/168**

Items from Councillors and registered electors.

- Platinum Jubilee celebrations
- Declare intentions for councillors who will be continuing in their role, resigning or interest in becoming the chair of the Parish Council.

- Zoom meeting to be arranged to discuss policies by Cllr Anderson. Meeting to be arranged by Cllr Eaton to discuss Platinum Jubilee celebrations in the village.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Chair .....

Date.....

Clerk.....