

Swanton Novers Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 18th September

2023 at 7.30pm

Councillors Present: Cllr. Chris Armstrong, Cllr Ian Watson, Cllr. Shaun Doncaster, Cllr. Virginia Riseborough.

2023/042

Apologies for absence – Parish Councillor Gary May, Jenny Anderson, County Councillor Steffan Aquarone.

2023/043

- **To receive declarations of interest** – None

2023/044

Public Forum-

- Local parishioners were in attendance.
- Bell House- The property is currently being advertised as a holiday let through an agency along with the adjoining The Stables alongside the main house. It has been noted that excessive noise has been reported recently with booking and loud music being reported by residents as late as 04.30am. Large parties are welcome including Stag / Hen parties at the property. If this continues then it may result in contacting the agents who are letting the property to voice concerns.

2023/045

Reports from District/County Councillors -

- County Councillor Aquarone did not attend the meeting. A copy of his report was available to the Councillors and presented at the meeting.
- Nutrient Neutrality- An issue with new process which is causing concern and delays within the parish and the Community Land Trust (CLT) and the affordable housing project planned for the village. The County Councillor was aware of the planned development within the village and was very interested in the project and the delays being caused by this new process. The details and plans for the development were sent to Steffan for review to understand the delays for the proposed project.
- Planning Department desk at the NCC offices has not been available since Covid. It is frustrating for the members of the public that you do not have face to face contact with anyone that you can ask questions to, correspondence is only available via email. Councillor Hankins has said that he will bring up our enquiry at the next NCC meeting.

2023/046

Matters arising from the meeting held on Monday 17th July 2023.

- All other matters are agenda items.

2023/047

- **To sign as correct - The minutes from the Parish Council meeting held Monday 19th June 2023.**
- The Minutes were signed as correct by the Chair, Parish Councillor Chris Armstrong, and the Parish Clerk Jason Crowe.

2023/048

Matters arising from correspondence.

- **Speed Awareness Sign-** A quote for the possible purchase of a traffic awareness speed sign to be installed in the village to deter speeding traffic through Swanton Novers has been received. This is after complaints of speeding motorists has increased and two near misses have occurred regarding children riding bicycles along Church Lane and not adhering to the road signs and stopping at the junction at The Street crossroads. This has resulted in members of the public having to take evasive action and swerve away from the cyclists to avoid a collision.
- **Speed Sign Funding-** The Norfolk Highways have a funding scheme which allows Parish Councils to apply for funding towards the cost of a Speed sign so reducing the cost to the Parish Council by up to 50%. The Parish Clerk is to obtain more information and present this to the Parish Council at the next meeting.
- **Dog Waste Bin-** The application for a dog waste bin to be installed along St. Giles Road was sent to NNDC, NNDC denied permission to have this installed onto the Public Footpath sign due to the weight of the waste which would affect the stability of the post. An alternative position will need to be agreed and an approach to Astley Estate will need to be made to see if a wooden post can be positioned adjacent to the field gate at the end of St. Giles Road for the proposed new dog waste bin.
- **Fakenham Prepress-** The company have now commenced with the printing of the village newsletter. Feedback was welcomed from the Parish Councillors and public and all agreed that the service provided has been excellent and the quality of the printing has been as requested.
- All other correspondence has been passed on to Councillors.

2023/049

Defibrillator- The defibrillator that is positioned at the entrance of the village hall required new replacement electronic pads. The Parish Council have purchased these to ensure that there are a set available along with a spare set. The Parish Council have now taken on the

responsibility of the Defibrillator from the village hall and have added this to the asset list for the Parish Council.

2023/050

Affordable Housing update- Ian Watson Secretary Swanton Novers Community Land Trust

- The Swanton Novers Community Land Trust secretary Ian Watson mentioned that all statutory consultation responses to the planning application have now been received.
- Broadland Housing (the developer) is liaising with Rivers Ecology to seek a solution to nutrient neutrality at the site. Since March 2022 all new housing developments are required to demonstrate as part of the planning application that they can accommodate the nutrient load generated by the proposed development.
- The process is currently being discussed nationally and could possibly lead to an easing of the legalities surrounding the Nutrient Neutrality, if this was to occur it could ease the planning process and still lead to the possibility of building commencing in early 2024.

2023/051

Planning.

- Currently no new planning applications are present for Swanton Novers.
- The planning application for the re-naturalising of the river Stiffkey, an amendment has been made to the application that shows the closure of the existing footpath during the planned works. The length of the closure of the footpath will be for approximately one month while the work is being completed.

- **River re-naturalising diversion scheme along the stretch of the river Stiffkey north of the Fulmodeston Road, Fulmodeston (599987, 330946 to 600448, 331387)**

Section Of River Stiffkey (know As Swanton Novers Meadow) Land North East Of Fulmodeston Road Barney Common Fulmodeston

Ref. No: PF/23/0677 | Received: Thu 23 Mar 2023 | Validated: Fri 24 Mar 2023 | Status: Pending Consideration

| Received: Wed 14 Jun 2023 | Validated: Thu 15 Jun 2023 | Status: Pending Consideration

2023/052

Village Hall Electric Vehicle Charging Point (EVCP)

- The NNDC have a funding scheme where Parish Councils can apply for funding to have an Electric Vehicle Charging Point installed at a local community premises. Swanton Novers had made initial approach to find out more details about this. NNDC had offered to come and view the village hall as a possible building to install the charging point and survey the premises. Upon further research by NNDC Swanton Novers does not have the expected volume of use to meet the criteria to receive the available funding at this point. NNDC has stated that further funding will become available to rural areas at a later date that can be applied for.

2023/053

Working groups – Update:

- **Communications** – Cllr Chris Armstrong- Village Newsletter. Chris Armstrong, Hazel Mindham arranged a meeting to discuss details of content within the Newsletter going forward.
- **Governance structure – Policies, Cllr Jenny Anderson-** Policies are currently being reviewed by the Parish Council for ratification, At the next PC Meeting it is intended to approve more policies.
- **Policies-** Policies that have been voted on to be added to the Parish Council website.

2023/054

Financial report and payments for approval.

- Parish Clerk presented the finances and the status of the Parish Council accounts.

2023/055

Village Newsletter-

- **Fakenham Prepress-** Fakenham Prepress has been selected to print the village newsletter, feedback was welcomed from the Parish Councillors regarding the standard and quality of the publication. Positive comments were received of the standard of the work and quality and pricing of the publication of the village newsletter and it was agreed that this should continue.

2023/056

Items from Councillors and registered electors to be considered for inclusion on the agenda for the next Parish Council Meeting.

- Donations by Parish Council and to whom this financial year, noted that it should be a community service/ charity.
- D Day June 2024.

- Proposed new graveyard at St. Edmunds Church, Expenses, and support from Parish Council with new extension to burial site.
- Proposed meeting dates for 2024/25.
- Budget proposal for Parish Council FY 2024/25.

2023/057

- **Close Meeting**
- There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.10pm

Chair

Date.....

Clerk.....