

Swanton Novers Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 15th January

2024 at 7.30pm

SWANTON NOVERS NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 18TH MARCH 2024.

Councillors Present: Cllr. Chris Armstrong, Cllr. Gary May, Cllr. Jenny Anderson, Cllr. Virginia Riseborough.

2023/074

Apologies for absence – Parish Councillor Shaun Doncaster, Parish Councillor Ian Watson, County Councillor Steffan Aquarone, District Councillor Mike Hankins.

2023/075

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

2023/076

Public Forum-

- Local parishioners were in attendance.
- Church Lane- the condition of the road has been a concern since the consistent downpours recently. Increased amounts of mud and standing water is occurring. Parish clerk reported this to Norfolk Highways department for the next roadways inspection on January 8th, 2024, at the time of the meeting this had not been resolved and the inspection had not been completed. A large lorry has been seen accessing Church Lane and the member of the public asked whether there is a weight restriction in place for Church Lane and to whether the road is unsuitable for HGV traffic.
- 30mph sign – The 30mph sign that is positioned in the hedgerow at the crossroads of Holt Road and The Street is now visible due to the hedge now not in full leaf due to the season change. This has also been reported to the Highways dept by the Parish Clerk for attention to be resolved at the next road inspection on January 8th.
- A member of the public who is a current member of the Village Hall Committee enquired regarding support from the Parish Council to create a group of volunteers to support with the D Day 80 celebration. It was discussed whether a Parish Council donation towards the holding of an activity at the Village Hall would be a possibility. A date will need to be agreed so that volunteers can get together to discuss further the support that both parties can give to support the celebration.
- No13 The Street. The Bungalow has a wall positioned outside the entrance to the building which is unsafe. The crack in the wall is substantial and it was put that Victory Housing Trust should be contacted to discuss the issue and the possibility of a repair being made before it collapses.

- Members of the public commented to the Parish Council as to whether members had any disruption to their postal services and delays in receiving letters parcels etc from Royal Mail.
- A member of the public raised the concern of the fallen tree that was experienced recently blocking the St. Giles Road. Whether residents should be more vigilant in checking trees on their property so that preventative measures can be taken to avoid a similar incident occurring.

2023/77

Reports from District/County Councillors -

- County Councillor Aquarone and District Councillor Mike Hankins were unable to attend the meeting. A copy of his report was available to the Councillors and presented at the meeting.

2023/078

Matters arising from the meeting held on Monday 20th November 2023.

- All other matters are agenda items.

2023/079

- **To sign as correct - The minutes from the Parish Council meeting held Monday 20th November 2023.**
- The Minutes were signed as correct by the Chair, Parish Councillor Chris Armstrong, and the Parish Clerk Jason Crowe.

2023/080

Matters arising from correspondence.

- **Biodiversity Duty 2024-** Parish Councillor Ian Watson, who was not in attendance will be attending a training session ran by the Norfolk Association of Local Councils (NALC) in February regarding Biodiversity Duty and the understanding of the aims and objectives of the act.
- An action plan and policy are to be created regarding Biodiversity for March 2024 meeting. Parish Councillor Ginny Riseborough will assist Councillor Watson in the matter.
- After the recent issue with the fallen tree across the junction of St. Giles Road it was suggested that Parishioners should check any trees for damage or movement to alleviate the repetition occurring again, and to action any preventative measures to reduce the risk of this happening again.
- All other correspondence has been passed on to Councillors.

2023/081

D Day 80 June 2024- Development Group.

- Village Hall Committee to meet with the Parish Council to discuss possibilities for a plan to co-ordinate together the celebration of this day. Volunteers will be needed from both parties and members of the public to enable the activity to go ahead.
- Suggestions of showing the filming of the coverage of the D Day landing could be shown in the Village Hall, Once the meeting is arranged then suggestions can be discussed further.
- A contribution from the Parish Council towards the costs of running the function was also suggested but would need to be voted for by the Parish Council once costs are budgeted for the celebration. This will be added to the agenda at the March meeting to be discussed further.

2023/082

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

- The Swanton Novers Community Land Trust secretary Ian Watson was not in attendance to update the Parish Council on the final planning permission but Parish Councillor and CLT member Gary May said that significant progress had been made regarding the problems that were currently being faced.
- 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.

2023/083

Planning.

- Currently no new planning applications are present for Swanton Novers.

2023/084

Working groups – Update:

- **Communications** – Cllr Chris Armstrong- Village Newsletter. Chris Armstrong commented that Fakenham Prepress who print the village newsletter has been very successful and will continue to provide this service.
- **Governance structure – Policies, Cllr Jenny Anderson-** Policies are currently being reviewed by the Parish Council for ratification.
- **No new Policies to be reviewed currently.**

2023/085

Financial report and payments for approval.

- Parish Clerk presented the finances and the status of the Parish Council accounts.
- No payments are currently in need of approval.

2023/086

Precept review 2024/25.

- The Parish clerk presented the current costings year to date and proposed expenditure and donations for the Parish Council. A draft budget showing expected costs for 2024/25 was shown to the Parish Councillors and discussed and an agreed Precept for 2024/25 was to be voted for.
- A vote was taken by the Parish Councillors, and it was agreed that the Precept would rise slightly by 1% to help cover the rise in costs being experienced. A small increase was agreed but it was felt this should be kept to a minimum as parishioners are all being subjected to increased living costs. Parish Councillors who were in attendance voted on the 1% increase and a unanimous vote was passed.

2023/087

Speed awareness sign update.

- The plan to apply to North Norfolk District Council for funding to help cover the cost of a sign to be positioned within the village to help reduce the speed of drivers travelling through Swanton Novers has had to be postponed. This is due to the fact that NNDC fund of £395,000 to support local parishes through the Parish Partnership scheme has been distributed throughout the county already, the application for funding was more than double over applied for and due to the village being a less of a priority due to not being on a main road, no school within the village etc the Parish Council will have to wait for more funding to become available before it can again apply.

2023/088

Parish Council annual Litter Pick 2024.

- The Parish Council discussed the proposed dates for the annual litter pick.
- The Parish Clerk was to approach the village hall for availability, and also to approach the NNDC for the availability of the equipment to complete the litter pick.
- The Parish clerk upon consulting with both parties has agreed that the Swanton Novers annual Litter Pick will take place on Sunday 21st April.

2023/089

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

- D Day 80 June 2024.

2023/090

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

Chair

Date.....

Clerk.....