

Swanton Novers Parish Council

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

2024 at 7.30pm

SWANTON NOVERS NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 13TH MAY 2024.

Councillors Present: Cllr. Chris Armstrong, Cllr. Ian Watson, Cllr. Jenny Anderson and Cllr. Virginia Riseborough.

2023/091

Apologies for absence – County Councillor Steffan Aquarone, District Councillor Mike Hankins, Parish Councillor Gary May and Parish Councillor Shaun Doncaster.

2023/092

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

2023/093

Public Forum-

- No parishioners were in attendance.

2023/094

Reports from District/County Councillors -

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

2023/095

Matters arising from the meeting held on Monday 15th January 2024.

- 20/11/2023 Minute Ref: 2023/60, 30mph Speed sign positioned in the hedgerow of the house of Rest Harrow, The Street.
- The Hedgerow has now been cut back and the 30mph speed sign is now visible to motorists.
- All other matters are agenda items.

2023/096

- **To sign as correct - The minutes from the Parish Council meeting held Monday 15th January 2024.**
- The Minutes were signed as correct by the Chair, Parish Councillor Chris Armstrong, and the Parish Clerk Jason Crowe.

2023/097

Matters arising from correspondence.

- **Norfolk Age Uk-** Thank you letter received from the charity thanking Swanton Novers Parish Council for their donation of £100. Allowing the charity to continue supporting the local community and local projects that are planned for the area to aid the aging people in our community.
- **EAAA- East Anglian Air Ambulance-** Thank you letter received from the charity thanking Swanton Novers Parish Council for their kind donation of £100. This will allow the charity to continue to support the local community when it is needed most and saving lives in our communities.
- **Fakenham Citizen Advice Bureau-** Thank you letter received for the kind donation of £100 to the charity from the Parish Council.
- **Salvation Army (Briston Foodbank)-** Thank you letter from the charity for the kind donation which will enable the charity to purchase food to donate to the local community who need support to give their families a balanced diet and nutrition.
- All other correspondence has been passed on to Councillors.

2023/098

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.
- The size of the donation from the Parish Council along with a matching donation from the Village Hall was suggested of £150 from each party to contribute to the costs of running the celebration. There will be additional costs of Bunting, Flags and printing to be also taken into consideration. The itinerary for the weekend was discussed briefly and would be agreed at a later date.
- A contribution from the Parish Council towards the costs of running the D Day 80 weekend was voted upon. The amount as discussed earlier to be voted for was £150.00 with a contingency of an extra £50 to be made available to support the Village Hall with the costs if needed. This vote was taken by all Parish Councillors in attendance and a unanimous vote was carried by the Parish Councillors for the amounts stated.

2023/099

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

- The Swanton Novers Community Land Trust secretary Ian Watson was in attendance to update the Parish Council on the Affordable Housing project. Parish Councillor Ian Watson stated that very little progress had been made since the last meeting due to the Nutrient Neutrality policy regarding new developments.

- 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. Parish Councillor Ian Watson said the required funding and grants are secure for the development to proceed.
- Once planning is confirmed then a village meeting will be held so that parishioners can view the final design and plans for the proposed development.

2023/100

Planning.

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

2023/101

Swanton Novers annual litter pick.

- A reminder to the Parish Councillors that the annual litter pick would be held on Sunday 21st April at 2.30pm meeting at the Village Hall, all support is gratefully received, and refreshments will be available after the litter pick.

2023/102

Dog Waste Bin.

- Update on the application of the proposal of an additional bin to be positioned at the bottom of St. Giles Road.
- Lord Astley has given the Parish Council permission to position a wooden post adjacent to the public footpath sign to attach a new dog waste bin. Environmental Contracts Manager Andy Smith at NNDC has been passed the information and the Parish Council are awaiting the paperwork to set up a new contract with Serco for the purchase of the bin and the scheduled emptying (monthly) of the bin.

2023/103

Working groups – Update:

- **Communications** – Cllr Chris Armstrong- Village Newsletter. Chris Armstrong and Hazel Mindham are submitting content to Fakenham Prepress who print the village newsletter.
- **Governance structure – Policies, Cllr Jenny Anderson-** Policies are currently being reviewed by the Parish Council for ratification.

- **No new Policies to be reviewed currently.** Risk Assessments to be worked on during the summer period.
- **Biodiversity Duty Development Group-** Parish Councillors Ian Watson and Ginny Riseborough. The Parish Councillors had worked on the requirements that will be need to enhance the biodiversity within the parish and create policies and specific objectives that will meet the requirements of the Biodiversity Duty. Recommendations that were put forward and voted upon by the Parish Council were-
 - **1 – Create a village working group to develop a Biodiversity action plan containing members of the Parish Council, Village Hall, PCC and CLT representatives. Unanimous vote carried.**
 - **2- Maintenance of the Old School Village Green hedgerow. Plant Saplings to infill the current gaps in the hedging. Unanimous vote carried.**
 - **3- All contractors used by SNPC are committed to Biodiversity and the non use of chemicals for weed and pest control. Unanimous vote carried.**
 - **4- Trial the area of Old School Village Green and St. Giles Road by letting the grass grow and go to seed, this will involve no mowing of the areas until the Autumn. Information to be put into the Village Newsletter as a suggestion to parishioners who may also like to be involved with this at their properties. Unanimous vote carried.**
 - **Article to be into the Village Newsletter explaining the commitment to Biodiversity by the SNPC and explaining the reasons for the proposed changes to the upkeep of the green areas within the village. Unanimous vote carried.**

2023/104

Financial report and payments for approval.

- Parish Clerk presented the finances and the status of the Parish Council accounts.
- Authorise payments that are currently in need of approval.
- BT Contract renewal- SNPC entered into a new 2 year contract for broadband supply with a new reduced cost which will save the Parish Council £374 per annum on the current contract which had been due for renewal.

2023/105

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

- Printing facility to be made available at the Village Hall for Parishioners.
- Biodiversity policy for next meeting in May and working group.
- Phone mast and analogue signal turn off and upgrades that are required.

2023/106

- **Close Meeting**

- There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.35pm

Chair

Date.....

Clerk.....