

SWANTON MORLEY PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Swanton Morley Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 9th February 2009. The meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

Present: Mr R. Atterwill, Mr G Northall, Mr S. Westbury, Mr C. Perry, Mr B. Marsham, District Councillor Mrs K. Millbank and twelve members of the public. Also in attendance Mrs F. LeBon (clerk)

Matters Raised Under Time Allocated to the Public

- That the council should keep a careful watch on their investments

The Meeting Went Into Session.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mrs Thomas and County Councillor Mrs Floering-Blackman

2. Declarations of Interest

Mr Atterwill declared a personal interest in the report by the District Councillor

3. Minutes from Parish Council Meeting of 12th January 2009 to be accepted, initialled and signed.

Mr Northall proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting, seconded by Mr Westbury. Carried.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes of 12th January 2009.

Mr Marsham questioned whether the original plans for the development at 80 Greengate had been checked to see if the development followed the plans. Mr Atterwill replied that the plans had been checked and the houses were being built in accordance with the plans.

5. Finance

a) Accounts to approve for payment:

Mr Westbury proposed that the following be paid, seconded by Mr Perry. Carried.

Payee	Detail	Chq No	Amount
Faye LeBon	Clerk's Salary	101541	£341.03
Faye LeBon	Clerk's Expenses	101541	£55.04
Norfolk Pensions	Local Government Pension Scheme	101542	£104.90
HMRC	Clerk's PAYE	101543	£85.40
EON	Street Lighting Electricity (December)	DD	£156.42
Swanton Morley VH	Room Hire (December)	101544	£27.00
Eastern Office Equipment	Black Ink	101545	£26.99
Norfolk ALC	1 x Parish Councillor's Guide	101546	£15.50
NALC	Return of Quality Portfolio	101547	£9.67
Swanton Morley Bowls Club	Grant Funding (Purchase of Verticutter)	101548	£500.00
Swanton Morley Village Hall	Granting Funding (Heating System Improvements)	101549	£2499.67
TOTAL			£3821.62

b) Income

None reported:

c) To receive update on report by External Auditor

Mr Atterwill reported that the external auditor has concluded his report which needs to be signed off by the legal department. The auditor has apologised for the delay.

d) To agree loan agreement for £5,000 for the village hall and authorise expenditure

Mr Perry proposed that the loan be agreed and the expenditure authorised, seconded by Mr Marsham. Carried. Mr Atterwill and Mr C Hall, Chairman of the village hall management committee signed the agreement.

6. Planning

a) To consider responses for the following planning applications

i) 3PL/2009/1010/F – Mr and Mrs Brown re: Chrismatt, Town Street – Single storey side extension

Mr Atterwill proposed that there be no objections to this application, seconded by Mr Marsham. Carried.

ii) 3PL/2009/0034/F – Mr D James, 28 Greengate – Proposed alterations and extension to dwelling

Mr Marsham proposed that there be no objections to this application, seconded by Mr Westbury. Carried.

b) To consider formal response to Breckland District Council regarding the LDF Core Strategies and Development Control Policies consultation.

It was reported that Mr Atterwill and the clerk had met with Deputy Chief Executive of Breckland District Council, Tim Leader, regarding the fact that the Parish Council had not been made aware of a planning application for a twenty house development on Greengate, despite this being in the possession of Breckland District Council. Tim Leader had issued a written apology for the poor communication but no efforts had been made to reduce the Parish Council's allocation of 50 houses under the LDF.

Further to this, a parishioner had raised to the Parish Council a document, the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) located on the website of Breckland District Council. This document had not been sent to the Parish Council. Part of this document stated that the Parish Council's choice of site for extra housing was deemed 'unachievable' primarily due to objections by the Highways department of Norfolk County Council. It was agreed that stakeholders such as the Highways department should have been consulted first so 'unachievable' areas of land could have been eliminated from the Parish Council's consultation.

Furthermore, an extra 27.21 hectares of land had been released as part of a second Site Specific Consultation. A second consultation should not have been necessary as Breckland District Council had admitted it was oversubscribed as a result of the first consultation. The majority of the land in this second consultation is adjacent to the land on which the 20 housing development, which was approved by Breckland District Council on 26th January, is to stand. On further study of this planning application there is an access road though the development that comes to an abrupt halt, suggesting that further development was planned.

As a result of these actions by Breckland District Council, the Parish Council's consultation was effectively a waste of time and public money.

It was agreed that due to the lack of integrity shown by Breckland District Council that there was no confidence in the LDF process. Swanton Morley should be reclassified as a Local Service Centre for Service Provision only and with no growth and that an independent enquiry is required. A strongly worded letter needs to be sent to the Chief Executive of Breckland District Council, John Labouchere the current chairman and William Nunn. A formal letter should also be sent to local MP Keith Simpson and also to Hazel Blears, Secretary of State for the Department of Communities and Local Government.

c) To agree questionnaire for Middle Camp area regarding proposed affordable housing in this location

Mr Northall proposed that the questionnaire as drafted should be sent to all households in the middle camp area which are closest to the proposed affordable housing developments. Seconded by Mr Marsham and carried. Mr Atterwill and Mr Westbury are to arrange delivery.

As part of planning Mr Atterwill reported that Breckland District Council had turned down a planning application for angling platforms and access boardwalks on Burgh Common on the grounds that there was not sufficient parking provision. It was agreed that the Parish Council would support any appeal against the decision. It was also agreed that a meeting should be held onsite between the Parish Council, the planning department of Breckland District Council, the highways department of Norfolk County Council and also the Environment agency to further discuss the matter.

It was also reported that Breckland District Council had consulted the Parish Council on names for the new development at Lincoln House. The Parish Council agreed that the names Jasmine Walk, Cherry Mews, Lilac Mews and Magnolia Mews were rather dull and lacked imagination. The Parish Council would prefer names in keeping with the bi-centennial anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln which is being celebrated this year.

7. Grant Funding

a) To consider any applications for small grant funding

An application from Swanton Morley Bowls Club was considered for £431.50 as 50% funding for a new Scarifier and Tea Urn. Mr Northall proposed that this grant should be accepted, seconded by Mr Perry and carried.

An application from Swanton Morley Social Club was considered for £500 representing 38% funding for a wide screen television to allow the watching of live sporting events.

The meeting was suspended to allow Mr Hall to clarify that the social club is open to all people of the village. All profits over and above those needed to run the club go to the village hall. There are no trustees, only elected members that run the club.

Mr Atterwill proposed that the grant application be accepted, seconded by Mr Perry. Carried.

8. Allotments

a) To receive a report on allotment meeting held on 28th January 2009

Mr Northall reported that a meeting held on 28th January proved that there was strong demand for allotments in the village, however the LDF was holding up landowners committing to allowing their land to be used for the purpose of allotments. Two to four acres of land is currently required.

b) To agree further action required on allotment project.

It was agreed that Mr Northall and Mr Marsham are to meet with the clerk to write a formal letter to landowners about the land requirements for allotments. If no landowners will consider either leasing or selling their land to the Parish Council, then further advice is to be sought from Norfolk ALC.

9. Street Lighting

a) To receive fault reports / matters for attention

None reported

b) To receive an update on street light replacement project

Mr Atterwill reported that the final electricity transfer as part of Phase 2 of the project was being delayed because of a 16-18 week waiting time for the delivery of an overhead pole.

It was agreed to respond to Mrs Godfrey that the lighting on Ainsworth Close is sufficient however the area on the corner of Bedingfield Road does require attention, which should be rectified when the housing development on Greengate goes ahead.

10. Highways

a) To receive reports of highways faults / matters for attention

Mr Atterwill reported that a working party on 1st February had been successful in clearing a lot of vegetation along Rectory Road, however a further session is required. It was agreed that this should be done on Sunday 15th February at 9am.

It was also reported that the patching work had been done at the top of Dereham Road.

Mr Westbury reported a large pot hole on the B1147 Tuddenham Road. The clerk is to report this as well as chasing up the extra signage required on the Tuddenham Road and the progress of the Mill street widening project.

It was reported that Mrs Millbank is following up with Ray Johnson of the Asset Management Team of Breckland District Council about the poor state of the footpaths owned by Breckland District Council on Gray Drive.

b) To consider improved promotion of village public rights of way and permissive pathways

Mr Westbury reported that he was looking into ways of promoting the walks around the village, particularly by utilising the website. The clerk is to add the four millennium walks around the village to the website.

11. Churchyard & Burial Ground

a) To receive an update report from Mrs M. Thomas on progress of the Sub Committee

There was no report as Mrs Thomas had tendered her apologies. The sub committee had not met this month.

12. Youth & Playground Equipment

a) To receive an update report from Mr R. Atterwill on progress of the Sub Committee

Mr Atterwill reported that the playing fields sub committee had not met, however there was a need to top up the play bark on Gooseberry Hill when the new financial year starts.

13. Commons, Open Spaces & Environmental

a) To receive an update report on the progress of the Working Group

Mr Northall reported that the Hawk and Owl trust are considering work on Mill Common by clearing some willows. He also reported that more ditch clearance work is required but it is too wet to get the heavy machinery on the common.

14. To Agree Starting Date for Parish Council Surgery

It was agreed that this should be piloted on Saturday 21st February between 9.30am and 11am in the social club area of the village hall.

15. Correspondence

Mr Atterwill reported that he had received a letter from Sergeant Braithwaite of the Light Dragoons seeking donations in aid of 'Help the Heroes'. Mr Atterwill proposed that £50 be donated, as remaining in the donations budget, should be pledged to this cause. Seconded by Mr Marsham and carried.

Mr Atterwill also reported that Swanton Morley Village hall had sent a letter regarding village festival this year, encouraging the Parish Council to get involved in the carnival. This will be added as an agenda item for next month.

Another letter had also been received from the newly formed entertainment group, 'Estrella Productions'. A grant application form is to be sent to the group.

The clerk reported that there had been a further delay on the announcement of the Boundary Committee's findings in regard to a Unitary Council. This was originally due to be announced on 13th February.

The Meeting was Suspended

District and County Councillors Report

There was no report from the County Councillor

District Councillor Kate Millbank reported concerns with running another village consultation on the LDF as there was no guarantee that yet more site specifics would be put forward. She also reported that the award ceremony for the Pride in Breckland awards would be held on 20th March. Breckland District Council had also signed up to a 'Cleaner, Safer, Greener' charter. The Breckland Youth Council had been elected.

The following items were raised by the public:

- There was general disgust by parishioners about the way the Parish Council had been treated by the Breckland District Council over the LDF. Mr Ellis also recommended that the Parish Council write to the Local Government Ombudsman. Mr Palmer requested that the new site specific map be made public. Mr Atterwill replied that a link would be put on the website.
- Mrs Northall suggested that the Parish Council should apply for membership of the CPRE who may be able to assist with the LDF. This is to be placed as an agenda item next month.
- Mr Ellis raised concerns about the Village Hall having to request a loan from the Parish Council when the Parish Council has the money from the sale of the old hall. Mr Northall stressed that it is minuted that the new hall was always to be a separate asset from the old hall. Mr Ellis also requested that the Parish Council take on some of the expenditure of the village hall so that the VAT can be reclaimed. The clerk replied that this was not possible as the Parish Council can only reclaim VAT if it is deemed as 'furtherance of Parish Council business'.
- Mr Palmer promoted the Lincoln Festival taking part in the village starting on 12th February until the end of July.
- Mrs Eames promoted the movement of the village hall towards a 'Community Centre'. Food is now available daily and 2-course lunches are also available on Sundays and alternate Wednesdays. Mr Atterwill continued that he attended the village hall meeting on 6th February and praised the constructiveness of the meeting and the community spirit shown by both the village hall committee and the social club.

The Meeting Resumed

16. Any item to be reported for the next agenda

- The Parish Council's response to the LDF second Site Specific Consultation
- Results of the questionnaire for affordable housing.
- To discuss the Parish Council's membership of the CPRE.
- The Parish Council's participation in the village carnival.

17. To confirm the date & time of next meeting to be held on Monday 9th March 2009 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

Carried

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

_____ (Chairman) _____ Date