

## **SWANTON MORLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

A Meeting of Swanton Morley Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2009. The meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

**Present:** Mr R. Atterwill, Mr A. Fleming, Mr G Northall, Mr S. Westbury, Mr B. Marsham, Mrs M Thomas, County Councillor Mr B. Borrett. Superintendent Katy Elliott (Norfolk Police), Sergeant Gareth Woodward (Norfolk Police) and five members of the public. Also in attendance Mrs F. LeBon (clerk)

*The evening began with a minutes silence in memory of Lance Corporal David Dennis and Trooper Christopher Whiteside of the Light Dragoons who were killed in action in Afghanistan.*

### **Matters Raised Under Time Allocated to the Public**

Mr Atterwill advised that the police had been invited to discuss recent levels of vandalism in the village and the response times when crimes were reported. Superintendent Elliott advised that a new policing model had come into force in April that used 'Local Neighbourhood Teams' to police areas. Sergeant Woodward provided the Parish Council with information on the Safer Neighbourhoods Team that should address the antisocial crimes that are generally happening in the village. The police agreed to look into the delay in response time after the report of the vandalism of the Under 5's equipment and also looked to re-evaluate the time spent patrolling the village given that most antisocial behaviour occurs in the evening. The Parish Council looks forward to working with the police more closely in the future to stop the level of mindless vandalism currently occurring.

The meeting was also attended by Lorna Vyse, who in her capacity of Locality Youth Worker, advised that there was still work to be done with educating some youngsters in the village. She has also retrieved approximately £1000 from the old Youth Club that has been passed to the village hall and ring fenced for youth provision. She also advised that in a recent survey of youths in the village, the opinion was that there was very little teenage provision in the village.

- Mr Atterwill and members of the village hall management committee were commended for the organisation and participation in the village carnival.
- Mr Ellis asked whether the financial figures presented at the Annual Parish Meeting included the £20,000 ring fenced for the cricket club. The clerk replied that they did. Mr Atterwill continued that the accounts had been internally audited.

*The Meeting Went Into Session.*

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Mr Perry and Councillor Millbank.

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **3. Minutes from Parish Council Meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> June 2009 to be accepted, initialled and signed.**

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

### **4. Matters Arising from Minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> June 2009.**

The clerk advised that she had spoken with Carolyn Heydon about the role of parish tree warden. Ms Heydon enjoys the role but will only continue if there is no other parishioner to do the role, because of constraints on her time. The clerk is to find out if there are any other willing volunteers.

### **5. Finance**

#### **a) Accounts to approve for payment:**

Mr Northall questioned the high charge for pest control. The clerk replied that the contractor had been instructed to do all areas of the village that the Parish Council is responsible for.

Mr Fleming proposed that the following be authorised, seconded by Mr Marsham. Carried.

| Payee                    | Detail   | Cheque Number | Amount          |
|--------------------------|--|---------------|-----------------|
| Faye LeBon               | Clerk's Salary                                 | 101616        | £353.24         |
| Faye LeBon               | Clerk's Expenses                               | 101616        | £30.01          |
| Norfolk Pensions         | Local Government Pension Scheme                | 101617        | £118.62         |
| HMRC                     | Clerk's PAYE                                   | 101618        | £88.60          |
| EON                      | Street Lighting (June)                         | DD            | £158.46         |
| Estrellita Kids          | Fund Raising Equipment (re: grant application) | 101619        | £292.25         |
| Eastern Office Equipment | Photocopying documents for LDF meeting         | 101620        | £6.64           |
| Mr B Woolnough           | Maintenance of street furniture                | 101621        | £425.00         |
| Pest Control             | Mole control                                   | 101622        | £485.00         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>             |  |               | <b>£1957.82</b> |

## b) Income

Was reported from the following:

| Received From               | Detail   | Amount         |
|-----------------------------|--|----------------|
| Swanton Morley Village Hall | Loan Repayment   | £106.74        |
| Alliance and Leicester      | Interest (3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec to 2 <sup>nd</sup> June)   | £347.85        |
| Aldiss                      | Burial fees (Harrold)                                    | £150.00        |
| Barclays Bank               | Interest (2 <sup>nd</sup> March to 7 <sup>th</sup> June) | £2.48          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                |  | <b>£607.07</b> |

## c) To agree for F. LeBon to attend Norfolk ALC Summer Conference on 28<sup>th</sup> July and agree finance (£40)

Mr Marsham proposed that the clerk should attend this conference, seconded by Mrs Thomas and carried. Cheque number 101623 was drawn for £40 to reflect this.

## 6. Planning

The clerk gave a report on the problems being encountered resulting from plans from Breckland District Council being delayed in the 'registry department' and then not being sent out first class. This delay ultimately means that Parish Councillors have less time to consider applications.

### a) To consider responses for the following planning applications

#### i) 3PL/2009/0446/F – A McBride, Park Farm – Temporary standing of caravan

Mr Atterwill proposed that there be no objections to this application, seconded by Mrs Thomas and carried. The vote was 5:1 in favour with Mr Northall providing the objection.

#### ii) 3PL/2009/0533/CU – Mrs F Milne, Mill Bakery, Harkers Lane – Part demolition of bakery and change of use of former bakery building into 3 residential units.

Mr Atterwill reported that he had been contacted by Mr Milne who wishes to resolve the matter of access across the village green to the proposed new development and also to discuss the possibility of installing a mains water pipe across the village green. Mr Atterwill asked Mr Borrett if there had been any pre-application advice given on this application. Mr Borrett responded that if the advice was formal it would be on file, if it was not then there would be no record. Mr Marsham proposed that the Parish Council should object to the application on the basis that the matter of access across the village green had not been resolved and potential circumvention of the obligation to provide affordable housing. Seconded by Mr Westbury and carried.

*The Following Two Applications Were received Too Late to Appear on the Agenda but had to be Considered by Council to Comply with the Deadlines of Breckland District Council*

#### iii) 3PL/2009/0562/F – Mr C Atkin, Highfield, Woodgate Lane – New single storey dwelling.

There was general discussed about this application being part of the LDF site specific submissions, and also about it being outside the settlement boundary. Mr Marsham proposed that there should be no objections to this application on the provision that permission is granted under an agricultural clause. Seconded by Mr Northall.

Mr Westbury proposed that the Parish Council object to this application, seconded by Mr Fleming. There were three in favour of this proposal.

There were also three in favour of Mr Marsham's proposal but Mr Atterwill used the Chair's casting vote and the proposal was carried.

#### iv) 3PL/2009/0602/F – The Environment Agency, Burgh Common – Construction of Angling Platforms, connected boardwalks and three stand alone platforms

Mr Atterwill proposed that this application be fully supported and a letter to be forwarded to the Ward Representative to call in the application to be heard by the Development Control Committee at Breckland District Council. Seconded by Mr Westbury and carried.

**b) To receive report of planning decisions by Breckland District Council**

The clerk reported that the planning application for Mr Green, 9 Loombe Close, for a rear conservatory had been withdrawn (re: application 3PL/2009/0457/F).

**c) To receive update on LDF issues affecting Swanton Morley**

Mr Atterwill reported that he had attended two of the LDF Independent Inspection hearings and had provided evidence that Breckland District Council has not acted in accordance with its own Statement of Community Involvement. It withheld information on a 20 dwelling development, it failed to prioritise community engagement within its budget and senior management put up communicative barriers by denying us the right to speak at a full council meeting. The Inspector had requested that Mr Atterwill meet with Mr Leader, Mr Daines and Mr Spencer from Breckland District Council to find some common ground with regards to Swanton Morley's allocation of housing. Mr Leader had been dismissive of Swanton Morley's assertion that Breckland Council's communication had been poor but he did instruct Mr Spencer to send Mr Atterwill further information to help build the case for Swanton Morley. The final hearing session due to be attended by Mr Atterwill is on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July, with the results of the inspection being known in October.

**d) To receive update on correspondence from Breckland District in relation to land at Middleton Avenue**

The clerk reported that it is still likely that Broadland Housing Association will withdraw their offer to purchase the relevant areas of land from Breckland District Council, and then the Parish Council's offer will be considered.

Mr Atterwill advised that Swanton Morley Village Hall would like to put in a planning application for the extension to the hall. If the Parish Council fronts this application then only 50% of the fees will be applicable. Mr Atterwill proposed that the Parish Council front the planning application, seconded by Mr Marsham. Carried.

**7. Grant Funding**

**a) To consider any applications for small grant funding**

None received. Mr Atterwill reported that there had been good publicity in the Dereham Times as a result of the grant to Estrellita kids.

**8. To Consider Resolution to Complaints Arising from Standard of Grass Cutting**

Mr Atterwill reported that the contractor, Mr Piller, had been to see him to discuss the standard of grass cutting in the village. It became apparent that Mr Piller had been employing someone to do the burial ground and churchyard and this person had not been doing a satisfactory job. Mr Piller has taken responsibility for this and not charged the Parish Council for any work done in the village in June. Mr Piller will also personally do all areas of the village in the future to ensure this does not happen again.

**9. Allotments**

**a) To receive a report on allotment project and agree further actions**

Nothing to report

**10. Street Lighting**

**a) To receive fault reports / matters for attention**

None reported.

**b) To receive an update on street light replacement project**

The clerk is to find out from TT Jones where the test certificates are for Phase one of the street lighting project.

**11. Highways**

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

Mr Atterwill reported that patch work had been done on Primrose Square and also some resurfacing on Manns Lane and Woodgate Lane. The resurfacing work on the footpaths on Greengate had been completed. Mrs Thomas queried why the stretch between The Angel and the junction with Dereham Road had not been done. Mr Borrett is to follow up with Jason Glasspoole.

Regarding the hedge cutting on Ainsworth Close, one hedge had been deemed to have been cut back too far and a claim is being sought through Norfolk County Council.

Mr Atterwill had met with Jason Glasspoole to discuss a small area of pavement on the Hannah Road/Ward Crescent junction that is no longer used and does not lead anywhere. It was agreed that the

Parish Council should support the proposal from Norfolk County Council Highways to remove this area of pavement (Mr Westbury abstained).

### **12. Churchyard & Burial Ground**

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

Mr Atterwill and Mr Marsham are investigating the use of ferrets in the churchyard for rabbit control. Mrs Thomas has checked with May Gurney and they are the only contractor in East Anglia that have the licence for laying 'Fibredec'.

Mr Marsham is meeting with David Press from May Gurney on 22<sup>nd</sup> July to discuss the alignment of the kerbing on the new path in the Burial Ground.

### **13. Youth & Playground Equipment**

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

Mr Marsham has laid the concrete pad for the picnic bench on Gooseberry Hill. Mr Sherlock has cut the hedge at Gooseberry Hill. The clerk is to send a letter thanking him for this.

The clerk is to chase Adventure Playgrounds for a quote for Safagrass for the swings and slide areas.

### **14. Commons, Open Spaces & Environmental**

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

Nothing to report

### **15. To consider formal invitation for Light Dragoons to march through Swanton Morley**

Mr Atterwill reported that he had received a letter from Oliver Diggle advising him that there is strong support for the Light Dragoons to march through the village upon their return from Afghanistan. The Light Dragoons would like to do this but would prefer an invitation from the Parish Council. Mr Marsham proposed that the Parish Council send this invite with the Parish Council's strong support for the Light Dragoons to march through the village so that people can show their appreciation. Seconded by Mrs Thomas and carried.

### **16. To consider the adoption of a Persistent Complainant Policy and an Unacceptable Behaviour Policy**

The clerk had provided councillors with drafts of the Persistent Complaint Policy and Unacceptable Behaviour Policy. Mr Atterwill proposed these both be adopted, seconded by Mr Fleming. Carried.

### **17. To Agree June/July Edition of The Mardler**

The clerk had provided councillors with a draft edition of The Mardler. Mr Atterwill proposed that this be accepted subject to typographical errors being corrected and the replacing of the article about potential glass by the Waterfalls with an article about the appeal for DVDs for the recovering soldiers in Selly Oak hospital. Seconded by Mr Fleming and carried.

### **18. To Consider the Replacement of Swanton Morley Village Sign**

The clerk reported that Harry Stebbings will be sending a brochure about the work he does creating village signs. She also advised that there is a local representative from the 'Village Sign Society' based in Swaffham. It was agreed that this representative should be invited to attend the next meeting.

### **19. Correspondence**

It was agreed that the clerk should endeavour to send two correspondence folders around to councillors each month to make the paperwork more manageable for councillors.

Mr Atterwill reported that he had attended the Friendship Club's Dinner and Dance on 11<sup>th</sup> July. A collection had been made that evening totalling £70 for the Light Dragoons and he suggested that this could be increased by the council. Mr Northall proposed that £50 from the Section 137 budget should be sent to the Light Dragoons Charitable Trust, seconded by Mr Fleming and carried.

*The Meeting was Suspended*

### **District and County Councillors Report**

There was no report from the County Councillor (Mr Borrett had left the meeting early) or District Councillor.

The following items were raised by the public:

- Mr Ellis was disappointed that Mr Borrett had left the meeting as he wished to discuss the disgraceful state of the B1147. He also raised concerns that building work had already been started at the bakery. Mrs Eames advised that she had objected to this planning application as it will deny her privacy.

- Mrs Northall expressed concerns about two planning applications not being on the agenda. The clerk replied that they arrived from Breckland District Council too late and had to be discussed at this meeting as the next meeting would be too late to respond.
- Mrs Northall also suggested that a councillor may wish to attend the latest planning conference in Swaffham. She also reported that a very small supply of poop scoop bags had finally been received by the village shop.
- The clerk is to follow up with BT regarding the repairs of the phone box opposite Primrose Square.
- Mr Marsham raised concerns about the giant hogweed seeding from Mr Willis's land. The opinion of Norfolk Wildlife Trust is to be sought.

*The Meeting Resumed*

**21. Any item to be reported for the next agenda**

- To consider replacement of the village sign

**22. To confirm the date & time of next meeting to be held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2009 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.**

Carried

The meeting closed at 10.05pm

\_\_\_\_\_ (Chairman) \_\_\_\_\_ Date