

SWANTON MORLEY PARISH COUNCIL

An Extraordinary Meeting of Swanton Morley Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 30th November 2009. The meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

Present: Mr R. Atterwill, Mr A. Fleming, Mr G Northall, Mr B. Marsham and Mr S. Westbury. Also in attendance the clerk.

Matters Raised Under Time Allocated to the Public

Nothing Raised

The Meeting Went Into Session.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mrs Thomas.

2. Declarations of Interest

None declared

3. To Consider Response to Cemex Offer for Land at Burgh Common

The Parish Council had received an offer from Cemex to admit their adverse possession on land at Burgh Common. Advice had been sought from the NALC legal department as to whether the Parish Council would be permitted to dispose of this land and if so what the process should be. It was agreed that the Parish Council are not required to deregister the land. The clerk reported that to employ the services of the District Valuation would cost £90 per hour and it was estimated that the work would take about 4 hours. It was agreed that, despite the cost, this would be the only way to prove that the council was getting best value for the land.

Mr Westbury proposed that a valuation is requested from the District Valuation Office (at a cost of approximately £360) and councillors will meet with the prospective purchaser to discuss the situation and the disposal of the land. Seconded by Mr Atterwill and carried.

4. To Consider Response to Land Registry Regarding Land at Town Street

The clerk advised that Land Registry had given the council three options regarding the council's request to register land on Town Street. They were either to withdraw the application, negotiate with the objecting parties or to pass the matter straight to the adjudicator. Councillors still had grave concerns regarding the danger of vehicular access to this land. Mr Atterwill proposed that the matter should be passed straight to the adjudicator, seconded by Mr Fleming and carried.

5. To Discuss Tenders and Award Grass Cutting Contract for 2010

The clerk advised that she had received three sealed tenders from approved contractors for the grass cutting contract. She and the chairman had opened them that morning and the figures were shown to councillors. Mr Atterwill proposed that Norse be given the contract based upon their competitive price for the land currently under the responsibility of the council. However, £6,000 should remain in the budget for grass cutting in case the lands on Middleton Avenue become the responsibility of the Parish Council during the next financial year. Seconded by Mr Marsham and carried.

6. To Agree Parish Council Budget for 2010/2011

A draft budget had been circulated to councillors. Each proposed item was individually addressed. The grass cutting budget had been agreed under item 5.

Of the clerks expenses it was agreed to increase the payment to use the clerk's home as an office from £22 a month to £25 a month. This would be the first increase in 4 years. It was also agreed for the Parish Council to pay for the clerk to be a member of the SLCC, as the council is also likely to see a benefit from this. It was also agreed that, despite it being written into the clerk's contract, to remove mileage payments from the budget as the clerk had never claimed this as an expense. However it was agreed to pay any extraordinary mileage expenses, such as mileage to seminars, to the clerk as necessary.

Much discussion was had around the perceived multiple items for contingency. Advice had previously been received from Norfolk ALC that half the precept should be held as a contingency however it was agreed that this could not be achieved in this financial year. It was agreed that £1000 was not needed for 'general parish maintenance' as the only items that had been allocated to this item this year were the fees for land registry and the maintenance of the church clock. It was agreed that the maintenance of

the church clock should be a separate budget item. The contingency aspect from the playing fields sub committee was removed and the parish contingency agreed at £5000. The Parish Council will review its level of reserves when it plans the 2011/2012 budget and the public works loan will be paid.

It was agreed that the commons and environmental budget should now be responsible for pest control and also control of foliage such as ivy.

The capital budget was discussed with monies reallocated for a new village sign and the purchase of land at Middleton Avenue. It was agreed that it should be publicised in The Mardler that there is now very little money left unallocated in the grant scheme.

Mr Atterwill proposed that the total budgeted expenditure for 2010/2011 should be £51,287.29 and the associated precept £33,097.16. This is a precept reduction of 5.3% from the 2009/2010 financial year.

7. To Agree Precept for 2010/2011

As discussed in item 6

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

_____ (Chairman) _____ Date