

SWANTON MORLEY PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 11th December 2006. The meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

Present: Mr R. Atterwill (Chairman), Mrs. R. Northall, Mr J. Carrick, Mrs. Q Wood, Mrs M. Thomas, Mr C. Clegg, Mr C Perry and 17 members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. Declarations of Interest

- Mrs R. Northall – Personal interests as a member of Norfolk Wildlife Trust, The Ramblers Association and the Patients Participation Group
- Mr Clegg – Prejudicial Interest in the old village hall and access across the village green area.

3. Presentation by Mr David Spencer of Breckland Council on the Local Development Framework

Mr Atterwill introduced Mr David Spencer and his presentation on the Local Development Framework. Mr Spencer explained that the Local Development Framework (LDF) replaces Breckland's Local Plan and his presentation was designed to show how Swanton Morley fits into this framework.

The LDF is made up of several smaller plans. Breckland is currently working on the Core Strategy and Policies. Once this is completed then Site Specific Allocations can begin.

Mr Spencer explained the aim of the Local Development Framework is to accommodate 15,200 new homes and 6,000 new jobs in the time space of 20 years (between 2001 and 2021) in the Breckland area. Since 2001 7,400 homes have already been accounted for, and of the remaining 8,000 homes, five thousand will be situated in Thetford.

The Draft Strategy in 2005 identified Swanton Morley as a "Local Service Centre", in that there are good local amenities and space in the local school, all of which could facilitate any future development. Should Swanton Morley wish to embrace its role as a Local Service Centre, the expected expansion would be up to 100 new homes, approximately 40% of which should be designated for affordable housing. Of this figure, there have currently been 7 houses already built since 2001, there are 29 granted planning permissions for new homes and further potential for 33 homes within the settlement boundaries. This means a total of 69 homes and potential new homes has already been achieved.

Mr Spencer acknowledged that the Parish Council expressed interest in the use of Robertson Barracks, following rumours of it's decommissioning. Mr Spencer explained that as of November 2006, the MoD were insistent that the Barracks were still in use with no intention of disposal. And should this site become surplus to requirements, it would be offered to other Government Departments prior to coming onto the open market. As a result the Barracks could not be included in any of the LDF figures.

Swanton Morley has three options:

- 1) To embrace Local Service Centre Status
- 2) To allow only for local affordable housing need
- 3) To keep things as they are.

As part of the LDF, Breckland are doing a consultation in late February, early March 2007 to help decide which areas can take additional growth. This needs to be submitted to the Government by the end of 2007. Mr Spencer emphasised that this is a two way process, and Breckland intend to work closely with the Parish Council in this matter. The Parish Council would have more strength in its argument for whatever decision it takes if it has evidence from local people,

Mr Atterwill invited questions for Mr Spencer.

Mr Clegg asked that if in the Village Appraisal states that there is 'No desire for future development' should this be sufficient as evidence for local people?

Mr Spencer replied that it does, but reminded the room that Swanton Morley has all the facets of a Local Service Centre and encouraged the Parish Council to revisit the issue. If another survey arrives at the same result, then this would carry a lot of weight.

Mr Clegg continued that should a need arise, would the building envelope be revised?

Mr Spencer responded that should Swanton Morley not wish to become a Local Service Centre, then it should not. However, should Swanton Morley wish to facilitate a large scale development, then it would be considered.

Mrs Wood asked why the development at Lincoln House had not been included in the local plan.

Mr Spencer responded that this was because the development was not within the guidelines, however the LDF provided an opportunity to address this.

Mr Ellis asked why Breckland was not investing in affordable housing.

Mr Spencer replied that, whilst he was not an expert in this matter, he believed that there were legalities involved that prevented Breckland spending money made from the sale of Council Houses, on new affordable housing.

Ms Layte asked how far the Swanton Morley remit stretched.

Mr Spencer replied that there were three pockets to Swanton Morley – Woodgate, urban Swanton Morley and Middle Camp and showed the room a map of the current planning guidelines. He suggested considering the areas in between the pockets for further development, if only to discount them.

Ms Layte asked whether building in 'historic' Swanton Morley should be allowed.

Mr Spencer responded that there isn't much room at present but added that this should be investigated as most of the facilities are there.

Ms Layte pressed Mr Spencer as to what specific sites they are considering, to which Mr Spencer responded that there are no specific areas yet, only possibilities.

Mr Carrick asked Mr Spencer to explain how the figure of 33 'further potential sites within the guidelines' were calculated.

Mr Spencer responded that the Government percentage formula to the number of undeveloped garden sites was applied, even though this is controversial.

Mr Carrick continued, asking whether the Planning Committee at Breckland has any control, and who the ultimate authority is if the local people, the Parish Council and the District Council don't want the development?

Mr Spencer replied that appeals go to National Government, where Breckland loses 80% of their appeals. This is usually due to garden land being officially defined as Brown Field Sites.

Ms Heydon asked that in any block of housing, how many should be affordable?

Mr Spencer answered that currently the figure is 30%, but under the LDF it should be 40%

Mr Atterwill asked whether local landowners had put in applications for development on their land. Mr Spencer responded that they had.

Mr Atterwill continued, querying when the public would know about these applications.

Mr Spencer answered that should Swanton Morley decide that it doesn't want any growth, then that evidence would not be necessary. This will only be made public should Swanton Morley wish to grow.

Mr Atterwill queried why the LDF was originally due to be published in December 2006, but has now been delayed until 2007?

Mr Spencer replied that this was due to problems being encountered by other authorities. Two authorities had submitted their plans, only to have them rejected because they were found to be unsound, the result of which was these authorities had to redo their plans at their own expense.

Mr Atterwill argued that the delay had been due to the local elections this coming year.

Mr Spencer disagreed and pointed out that the consultation period of February/March 2007 was prior to the local elections.

Mr Clegg asked whether the Council needs to consult its Parishioners on this matter prior to the February/March consultation period.

Mr Spencer replied that it was recommended. Mattishall Parish Council, with a village of similar size and amenities, had performed this exercise and come back with a resounding objection to any development. This had been taken into account by Breckland.

Mr Northall asked whether Robertson Barracks should really be discounted, as one third of it stands empty and this would cover the housing needs of the Parish.

Mr Spencer responded that if the MoD says that the Barracks are not for sale, then it cannot be included. However this LDF period only lasts for two years. Should the MoD change its mind in the meantime then it may fall into the next period.

Mr Marsham queried whether a high profile ward representative, such as Mr Nunn, would get more beneficial treatment, as his village of North Lopham would be getting no more development.

Mr Spencer replied that Mr Carrick has a sustainable village, Mr Nunn does not.

Mr Atterwill thanked Mr Spencer for his time.

4. Minutes from Parish Council Annual Meeting of 13th November 2006 to be Accepted, Initialled and Signed.

Mrs Wood suggested the following amendments:

9a) Mrs Wood suggested that the length of time for the cottages right of access should be in perpetuity, not 99 years.

9b) It should be noted that Mrs Wood objected to paying Mr Carrick's insurance

7b) It should be noted that Mr Atterwill recommended that Mr Clegg include Hoe Road South in his report.

Mr Atterwill pointed out that item 9a formed part of a vote in favour of the proposal to give the cottage owners right of access for 99 years, therefore should not be amended.

The latter two amendments requested by Mrs Wood were made, and the minutes were signed by Mr Atterwill.

5. Matters Arising from Minutes of 13th November 2006

Mrs Northall advised that the clerk has a report from the Norfolk Wildlife Trust providing a detailed botanical survey that gave advice on how to help preserve the churchyard. She recommended that, should the Churchyard and Burial Ground Sub-Committee choose to implement these recommendations, the grass cutting contract be amended accordingly.

Mrs Northall asked whether Breckland had confirmed whether the proposed play equipment on Gooseberry Hill was to be classed as structures. Mr Atterwill responded that there had been no formal response to date.

Mr Atterwill asked the clerk whether a reply had been received from Gilbert Addison about the disputed tree preservation order. The clerk replied that to date no reply had been received.

Mrs Wood reported that she had contacted Dial-A-Bus, but they are currently in the process of updating their programmes and recommended calling them in the new year.

6. Minutes from Extraordinary Meeting of 27th November to be accepted, initialled and signed.

Mrs Northall requested that item 2 should read 'Subscriptions' and not 'Donations' in her declaration of interest. This was amended. Mrs Northall proposed these minutes be accepted, Mr Clegg seconded, all in favour. Mr Atterwill signed this set of minutes.

7. Matters Arising from Minutes of 27th November 2006

Mr Atterwill reported to the public that the budget for 2007/2008 had been set at £54,706.16 and the Precept set at £38,759.48.

8. Finance

a) Accounts to be approved for payment

Payment	Amount	Cheque No.	Comments
Clerk's Salary	£281.22	101263	
Clerk's Expenses	£61.28	101263	
Clerk's Extra Hours	£174.76	101263	21.75 hours
Mr R Allsop	£614.70	101264	Grass Cutting (October)
CAB	£50.00	101265	Annual Donation
EON	£102.57	DD	Street Lighting (Aug-Missed Payment)
EON	£102.57	DD	Street Lighting (Oct)
Total	£1,387.10		

Mrs Northall requested a letter be sent to Mrs Smith thanking her for providing her services as the Council's Internal Auditor for a number of years.

Mrs Wood asked whether all payments for the street lighting electricity had now been updated. The clerk confirmed that they had.

Mr Atterwill proposed these payments be authorised, Mr Clegg seconded. All in favour.

b) Income – £273.30 Quarterly interest on Tracker Account was reported.

9. Public Participation Session

Mrs Wood proposed the meeting be adjourned and opened to the public. Mrs Thomas seconded. All in favour.

Ms Battle provided all Councillor's with copies of the petition set up against demolition of the old village hall, expressing her opinion that this provided proof that the public objected to this course of action. She was also concerned that a 'blind eye' had been turned to the Mill Bakery over their access, whereby the four cottage owners had been made to go through a legal process.

Mr Atterwill explained that the track leading to the Mill Bakery is defined by the Highways department as 'Ancient Highway'.

Mrs Northall advised the public that the matter of the future of the Old Village Hall had been on the Council's agenda for many months and there had been no response from the public and that the sudden interest had come too late.

Ms Battle felt that the Council's agendas had not been made public enough.

Mr Atterwill replied that the agendas are placed in eight notice boards throughout the village, three clear days before the meeting is to take place. He also advised that a questionnaire had been sent to every household in the village for their views on the old village hall and car park area. Out of the whole parish, there were only 115 responses, this figure in itself questioned peoples interest in the matter. He also encouraged more people to come to the Parish meetings on a regular basis.

Ms Layte asked the Council why the old village hall couldn't be redeveloped into a house.

Mr Atterwill responded that the problem is with parking. Despite the outward appearance of the car park area, this land is actually registered as 'village green' and therefore parking on this land is illegal. The previous owners of the building, the church, applied to Breckland District Council for change of use to residential. This was denied on Highways grounds as there was nowhere to turn a vehicle and reversing either into or out of the property onto Town Street was deemed far too hazardous. After purchasing the property, the Parish Council applied once more for change of use to residential, and was again refused on highways grounds for the same reason. The building is completely landlocked and in poor condition. The hall has cost the Parish approximately £25,000 including purchase. It costs £500 per year in rates and insurance and there are also additional maintenance costs. To get the land around it deregistered, and thus allow space for car parking, would cost approximately £20,000 with no guarantee of success. He continued, stating that the problem arose when the new village hall was built and nothing was done with the old village hall.

Mr Clegg agreed that the building had been allowed to rot for the last 10-15 years.

Mr Ellis advised that the room that three people had been elected on the Council to dispose of the old village hall. They had done a feasibility study, the result of which was that it would cost in the region of £250,000 to bring the hall up to standard.

Mrs Northall added that the Community Project spent £6,000 on this feasibility study to renovate the hall. Grants would be needed to raise the required funds for renovation, but no funds could be obtained because potential funders believed that it was not feasible to sustain it.

Ms Battle asked whether the Council would consider an offer from a cash buyer?

Mr Atterwill replied that a cash buyer could not use the building for a business as there was no turning space for a vehicle to make deliveries, and also re-iterated that there was no car park for a business to use. He also stated that Mr Carrick, as previous chairman of the Parish Council, had played a major part in the correct decision to purchase the property in the first place. This meant that the Parish Council had control over the building, whereby under private ownership, the building would have most likely gone into disrepair and the Parish Council would have had no control to address this.

Ms Battle asked why the Parish Council didn't go to appeal against the denial of change of use.

Mrs Northall advised that the Parish Council had written to the Principle Planning officers at Breckland Council for their opinion on whether planning permission for change of use would be granted on a third request. A reply was received by Greg Britton who advised that change of use would not be granted unless adequate parking space could be provided.

Mrs Wood felt that the building had gone into disrepair because the Parish had not been permitted to use it.

Mr Carrick responded that a decision was made not to put any more money into the old village hall to maintain it as it could not be sustained. The village has a new asset in the new village hall. But he disagreed that the building should be demolished as it was in good order and urged the Parish Council to reconsider.

Ms Layte was asked as to whether the building could be converted into a gallery?

Mr Atterwill stressed again that there was nowhere to park. In 1967 an extension was built onto the building and the car park was registered as village green.

Mr Carrick added that this was done to put the land into custodianship of the Parish Council.

Mr Atterwill continued that the Parish Council had investigated the possibility of lifting the village green status and to date had not been able to do so. The advice from the solicitor was that to continue with deregistration, the Parish Council should budget for approximately £20,000 in legal fees and fees for a likely public inquiry.

Mrs Wood suggested that if the Parish Council has control of the land, they can allow use for village events on it. Mrs Thomas advised that a gallery is not a village event.

Mr Horstead asked what the difference is between access and parking. Mr Atterwill replied that the Parish Council are only permitted to give access across a village green, not parking.

Ms Battle responded that parking is not necessary. Mr Atterwill disagreed and stated that anyone living in a rural village requires access to a car.

Mr Ellis informed the room that when the Parish Council put in an application for change of use, representatives from the Planning Department at Breckland District Council visited the site and unanimously agreed that it would not go through.

Ms Battle advised the Parish Council that English Heritage had been contacted and wheels were in motion to prevent the demolition.

The question was asked as to whether the building could be used for something for the children of the village? Mrs Thomas responded that the B1147 is an HGV route and that children should not be expected to cross the road at this point. She also reminded the room that the issue of the old village hall has been discussed every year for many years with no decision being made. She was pleased that a decision had finally been arrived at.

Mr Ellis asked how many of the signatories were from local people. Mr Atterwill read out several names of people who had signed the petition who were not from the village or even the surrounding area.

Mr Ellis thanked the Council for finally making a decision on this matter and reminded the room that there had been too much procrastination in the past, and that it was not possible to please everybody all of the time.

Ms Battle asked how much it was going to cost the Council to have the building demolished.

Mr Atterwill replied that the Council would receive £7,000 for reclaim materials and this has been budgeted to offset against the precept.

Ms Battle recommended speaking to Guist Parish Council about the conversion of their old village school into a residence.

Mr Ellis questioned whether the Council's Emergency Plan had any contingency for a Chemical, Biological or Radiological Emergency, particularly in the critical time of 26th, 27th and 28th December. He also suggested having a list of all the names of those infirm people of the village who would need the greatest assistance in an emergency.

Mr Atterwill responded that the village Emergency Plan to date did not have these issues covered and the village would always have to rely on the Emergency Services should an attack take place.

Mrs Northall reiterated that Parish Meetings are held on the second Monday of every month.

Mrs Wood proposed the meeting be brought back into order. Mrs Thomas seconded. All in favour.

10. Planning

a) To consider the following planning applications

i) 3PL/2006/ 1640/O – Mr & Mrs R Baily, 80 Greengate – Proposed Residential Development (3 Dwellings) – Mrs Northall gave no objection but expressed regret over another garden site being lost.

Mr Carrick stated that any Councillor not liking the application should object. Mrs Northall responded that a precedent had been set, and Mr Atterwill added that the Council should show consistency.

Mr Atterwill proposed that there be no objection to this application, Mrs Wood seconded. The vote was 5:2 in favour of there being no objections.

ii) 3PL/2006/1754/F – Mr P. J. Littleton, 10 Bennett Road – Erection of Chimney – All were in favour of there being no objections to this application.

11. Old Village Hall & Car Park

Mr Clegg left the room.

a) To receive an update on demolition of the Old Village Hall.

Mr Atterwill reported that a Health and Safety report had been received by Morways. Amendments had been made and this had been sent back for approval by Morways. The electricity meter had been removed by Powergen and that EDF are going to disconnect the cables on 20th December. Mr Atterwill had spoken with Breckland District Council and requested the relevant forms required for demolition of a building. He had also contacted the Highways agency about any necessary traffic control. The unconfirmed date for commencement of work is to be 2nd January and it should take four weeks to complete.

Mrs Northall asked Mr Carrick if he had been able to arrange his insurance to clear the site. Mr Carrick replied that he had not yet been able to arrange this yet. He also regretted giving the Parish Council the name of the developer and offering to clear the site.

Mrs Wood objected to the Council paying for Mr Carrick's insurance stating that this was not best value for the village.

b) Proposal to formally cease all work on the De-registration process

Mrs Northall informed the public of the potential legal costs of £20,000 to continue with the deregistration process with no guarantee of success.

Mr Carrick stated that he was appalled that there was another offer of exchange land, which he felt was far more advantageous to the Parish, which was being discounted.

Mr Atterwill queried what Mr Carrick would do with the land should deregistration occur. Mr Carrick responded that he would offer it for sale for housing.

Mr Atterwill replied that £20,000 would be needed to deregister the land, in addition to the £25,000 already paid out on this site. The local landowner then required £45,000 to lift the covenant on his exchange land.

Mr Carrick reminded the meeting that £25,000 of this money would go to the church, and that this should be readdressed.

Mr Atterwill proposed that enough money had been spent on deregistration and the process should cease. Mrs Wood seconded. The vote was 5:1 in favour with Mr Carrick objecting.

c) To receive an update on progress regarding a right of way for the adjacent cottage owners

Mr Atterwill reported that a letter had been sent to Nicholas Hancox advising him of the Parish Council's offer to the cottage owners and asking if there was a specific type of map that should be used to mark out the access route.

Mr Clegg Re-entered the room

12. Streetlighting

a) To receive fault reports / matters for attention

Mrs Northall reported that there were faults on street lights in Bedingfield Road, Rectory Road and outside the Village Hall. The clerk is to report these to T.T. Jones.

b) To receive an update on the proposed new streetlight for Middleton Avenue

Mr Atterwill reported that he had informed WF Smith that the Parish Council no longer wished to proceed with the Deed of Easement. He had also spoken to Zoe Footer of Breckland Council and informed her that the Parish Council wished to proceed with the Wayleave Agreement and has asked EDF to send this to Breckland.

13. Highways

a) To receive reports of highways faults / matters for attention – Mrs Wood reported that the bin on Greengate required replacing. Mrs Thomas added that the dog bin on Bennett Road had also been vandalised and needed repairing.

Mrs Northall reported that the derestriction sign on Pye's Lane had been knocked over and needed to be re-sited. The clerk will report this to Highways. She also requested that the island opposite the village shops be tidied to assist those crossing from Town Street to the shops. Mr Atterwill will speak to Jason Glasspoole to get the grass cut on the island.

Mr Atterwill reported that he had spoken to Jason Glasspoole who advised that work to prevent flooding on Frog's Hall Lane and Primrose Hill was in progress. Work was to be started imminently on Rectory Road and lowering the kerbs to the village green (as part of the Disability Act). The fingerpost sign is also to be replaced outside the Papermakers Public House.

The bus stop on the village green had not been done due to the legalities of whether a bus stop can be placed on a village green.

14. Churchyard & Burial Ground

a) To receive feedback from the Church wall site meeting held on 14th November 2006

Mr Atterwill reported that all interested parties in the problem of the continuing deterioration of the church wall met on site at the church on 14th November. His advice on behalf of the Parish was that only minor repairs should occur until the road is improved. Since the meeting, Mr Carrick had written to Mr Keith with a proposal to improve his visibility when exiting his land, in conjunction with widening the road. A Structural Engineer from the Highways department has also visited the site, and concluded that the wall is not in an excessive state of disrepair and that minor repairs should be enough to maintain the wall until an agreement is made on the road.

Mr Clegg asked if there was a plan to monitor the wall. Mr Atterwill responded that there was a need for a plan, but this could be discussed in the next Churchyard and Burial Ground Sub-Committee meeting.

Mrs Northall expressed her disappointment that the plans for Disabled Access to the church had been withdrawn. Mr Carrick advised that the plans may still go ahead, and that an extension until 31st March had been granted to resubmit the application.

Mrs Northall questioned whether the requested footpath from the cottages to the church gate was discussed. Mr Atterwill replied that it was and that a survey had taken place of the potential usage of a pathway. The survey was performed on a Sunday, but unfortunately not enough people had used it for the pathway to be prioritised highly.

Mrs Northall made a plea for tact and diplomacy to be used in the recent case of kerbing being placed in the burial ground. Mrs Thomas showed concern that this kerbing was unauthorised and it would be addressed in the next churchyard and burial ground sub-committee meeting.

15. Commons, Open Spaces & Environmental

a) To receive an update report from Mr J. Carrick on progress of the HLS application.

Mr Carrick reported that he had a copy of the HLS Scheme submitted on behalf of the Parish Council, which he gave to the clerk. He had yet to be invoiced for the work but he expected it to be in the region of £500, £395 of which will be paid to the Council by Natural England should they believe that the application is of a sufficient quality. Natural England is only querying whether the adjacent landowners will permit fencing improvements to take place. Should agreement occur from the landowners, then the HLS agreement should take place on 1st February 2007.

16. Community Car

a) To receive an update on the Community Car Project

Mrs Northall reported that she had attended a meeting at Breckland on 23rd November. She provided the clerk with a handbook designed for volunteer drivers for circulation. She also reported that Norfolk Rural Community Council had sent an email advising that they may be able to assist with grants and requested that the clerk follow this up. Mrs Northall informed the room that £1,000 had been precepted for this project, and that Breckland will match fund 25% of the total cost. Mrs Northall requested that the clerk write to Diana Wyatt to confirm that the Parish Council have allocated £1,000 in the precept for 2007/2008.

Mrs Northall also reported that she had had responses from 5 people about potentially becoming a volunteer driver. She is going to make another appeal after Christmas and requested that the clerk send letters to various groups in the village in an attempt to find more drivers.

Mr Clegg queried the Red Cross Transport scheme. Mrs Wood replied that the Red Cross scheme was primarily for people with disabilities, whereas Community Car was designed for people with a more general transport need.

17. Village Emergency Plan

a) To agree date and time of a future meeting with all interested parties to discuss amendments to the plan.

Mr Clegg advised that he had instigated this agenda item after speaking with Tony Dockerill who suggested that the plan should be updated. Mr Clegg also suggested staging an exercise.

Mrs Wood requested that an invite should be extended to Mr Paul Hendley who is a retired Health and Safety Officer.

A date of 22nd January at 7.30pm at the Village Hall was agreed upon. The clerk is to also invite a representative from Breckland and also from Robertson Barracks.

18. Proposal to invite a "Link-Up" magazine representative to the January Meeting.

Mr Atterwill reported that he had been contacted by Mr Peachment, who told him that Link Up was having difficulty raising revenue. Mr Atterwill suggested that Mr Peachment attend the next meeting to give a presentation on the magazine and its future. He encouraged the Council to act now in this matter before it is too late and suggested asking for the help of neighbouring parishes.

Mr Atterwill proposed that a Link Up representative be invited to the January meeting. Mrs Thomas seconded, all in favour. The clerk is to arrange this.

19. Correspondence

Mr Atterwill reported that the BIFFA grant application had passed the East of England stage with full support and was now going for national approval in March 2007.

Mr Atterwill also reported that another letter objecting to the pedestrian crossing had been received and the clerk should acknowledge its receipt.

Mr Atterwill also advised that Norfolk County Council had requested the Parish Council raise Mr Carrick's HLS Scheme in this meeting. The clerk had spoken to NCAPTC who had informed her that providing Councillors had seen the relevant correspondence and that all Councillors were in agreement to discuss it, then a discussion could occur.

Mrs Northall disagreed with discussing the scheme in this meeting as the Parish Council were expected to voice the views of the Parishioners and insufficient time had been given to do this. She offered to raise this matter with the Rambler's group and requested the clerk put the information in the Dereham Times and Link Up.

Mrs Wood did also not want the scheme discussed at the current meeting due to queries over ownership of some of the land.

Mrs Northall proposed this be put on the agenda for January, Mrs Wood seconded, all in favour.

Mr Atterwill requested that Mr Carrick clarify the route involved and send to the clerk to be circulated.

Mr Atterwill also reported that he has an application form from the Highways department for Ancient footpath status to the Mill Bakery and will put this on circulation and requested this be put on the next agenda.

20. County / District Councillors' Reports

There was no report from the County Councillor.

Mr Carrick, as District Councillor, reported that Breckland were currently agreeing the budgets that are done six years in advance. The district rate will not rise by more than 2% per year.

There was currently no news on the fate of the Chief Executive.

The indoor bowls centre at Thetford was now opened and was being well used.

The LDF was progressing but slowly.

21. To re-arrange date for Annual Parish Meeting

Mr Atterwill reported that the previously arranged date of 9th April falls on a bank Holiday. A new date of 16th April was agreed, with the 2nd April to be booked for the usual monthly Parish Council meeting.

22. Any Item to be Reported for the next agenda

Presentation from a Link Up Representative

Mr Carrick's HLS Scheme and update for the Parish Council's Scheme.

Community Car Update

Agree Route for public footpath to the Mill Bakery

Discuss Appointment of Internal Auditor

Mr Atterwill proposed the meeting be extended and the meeting be adjourned and opened to the public. Mrs Wood seconded, all in favour

23. Public Participation Summary Session

Mrs Heydon reported that there was still a lot of water at the top of Frogs Hall Lane. Mr Atterwill replied that Highways still have some resurfacing work to do and this should address the matter. He will check with Jason Glasspoole.

Mrs Heydon also provided a contact at the NRCC for Community Car grants.

Ms Battle reported that the manholes are set too deep at Woodgate, and that the Telegraph poles on Pye's Lane look bad.

Mr Ellis requested that the village website be updated. The clerk will address this.

Mr Ellis also questioned whether the Council had budgeted for any work to be done on the village hall now the disability study had been completed. Mr Atterwill responded that this was the responsibility of the Village Hall Management Committee.

Mr Ellis replied that disabled access is very important and the Parish Council should take more responsibility.

Mr Carrick responded that the main points of the Disability Audit were that the lights and door handles were set at the incorrect height.

Mr Ellis continued by stating that in the Village Appraisal only 3% of the villagers wanted any additional expenditure by way of the precept. The Parish Council should take careful note of Parishioner's wishes.

Mr Atterwill replied, stating that for years the Parish Council didn't spend enough on its assets and that there was a lot to catch up on in terms of maintenance and replacement of the Parish's assets.

Mr Turner commented on the new traffic calming measures in Greengate, and asked whether there were any plans for measures at the other end of the village, particularly on Rectory Road and Town Street.

Mr Atterwill replied that Highways would be spoken to about any additional signage. He also advised that an amount had been precepted for, for a potential Public Works Board Loan that would provide Vehicle Activated Signs on Rectory Road. Although he stressed that it had not yet been agreed to apply for this loan. Mr Turner suggested that sharpening the junction on Rectory Road as part of any scheme outside the church may help.

Mrs Thomas stressed that Parishioners needed to report incidents of dangerous driving in the village, even if they don't result in excess damage or serious injury. The highways department are more likely to take action if an area has a high number of incidents.

Mr Northall requested that the speed restriction signs for tanks be removed as they are not in keeping with the village.

Mrs Thomas advised that there has been increased tank activity in the village as of late and that the signs are required

22) To confirm the date & time of next meeting to be held on Monday 8th January 2007 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

All in Favour.

The meeting closed at 10.05pm

_____ (Chairman) _____ Date