

## SWANTON MORLEY PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2007. The meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

**Present:** Mr C. Perry (Chair), Mr C Clegg, Mr G Northall, Mrs M Thomas and Mrs A Evans. Also in attendance were Mrs K. Millbank (District Councillor), PCSO Angela Powells, seven members of the public and Mrs F. LeBon (clerk)

### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Mr R Atterwill and Mrs J Walden

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

Mr Northall declared a personal interest in item 8aii

Mr Clegg declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 9b

### **3. Minutes from Parish Council Meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> July 2007 to be accepted, initialled and signed.**

The clerk read out a minor amendment. Mr Northall proposed these minutes be accepted, Mrs Evans seconded. There were three votes in favour and two abstentions due to non attendance at this meeting. Mr Perry signed the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

### **4. Matters Arising from Minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> July 2007**

Mr Clegg questioned how we could make all landowners know of the need for an exception site for affordable housing. The clerk advised that this had been included in reports for the Dereham Times and Link Up. Mrs Thomas suggested an item on the village website.

### **5. Minutes from Extra-ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> July 2007 to be accepted, initialled and signed.**

The clerk read out a minor amendment. Mr Northall proposed these minutes be accepted, Mrs Evans seconded. There were four votes in favour and one abstention due to non attendance at this meeting. Mr Perry signed the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

### **6. Matters Arising from Minutes of 30<sup>th</sup> July 2007**

There were none.

### **7. Finance**

a) Accounts to approve for payment:

The clerk reported that the amount listed as payable to Walkers Land Management for the removal of ivy from the church wall was no longer applicable as they had written the amount off due to an administrative mistake on their part.

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Detail</b>		<b>Amount</b>
Faye LeBon	Clerk's Salary	101333	£249.69
Faye LeBon	Clerk's Expenses	101333	£71.74
Norfolk Pensions	Local Government Pension Scheme	101334	£81.04
HMRC	Clerk's Income Tax	101335	£70.40
D Watson	Grass Cutting (to July 26 <sup>th</sup> )	101335	£681.50
RoSPA	Play Equipment Inspection	101337	£74.03
T.T. Jones	Repair of street light (Wensum Gardens) £73.50 ex VAT Repair of street light (Rectory Road) £97.06 ex VAT Quarterly Maintenance Contract £372.60 ex VAT New Light Middleton Ave plus connection £3040 ex VAT New Light Manns Lane plus connection £3450 ex VAT	101338	£8263.95
EON	Street Lighting Electricity (July)	DD	£140.34
EW Crane	Fencing churchyard	101339	£752.00
E.O.E	Parish Council Expenses	101340	£19.93
N Hancox	Fees 13/11/06 to 11/04/07	101341	£239.70
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>£10644.32</b>

b) Income

The following income was reported:

Received From	Detail	Amount
Breckland District Council	Refund of Business Rates (Old Village Hall) 06/07	£15.13
Phelps Charitable Trust	Donation for Playing Fields Project	£300.00
HH Aldiss	Ash Interment Fees (Caston)	£50.00
Co-op	Interment Fees (Harrold)	£150.00
Abbey Memorials	Fee for Ash Interment Plaque	£50.00
RPA	Grants and Subsidies	£575.90
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£1141.03</b>

## 8. Planning

### a) To consider the following planning applications

#### i) 3PL/2007/1151/F – Peartree Homes – Land off Greengate – Erection of 2 cottages, 2 bungalows with garages and associated access

Mr Clegg raised concerns about full planning applications being submitted that bear no similarity to the relevant outline plans. Mrs Thomas proposed that the Parish Council object to this application on the grounds of over development of the area and that there would not be enough space for parking as there is likely to be more than two cars per property. Mr Northall seconded. The vote was 3:2 in favour of objecting to the application.

#### ii) 3PL/2007/1191/F – Mr and Mrs D Harris, 7 Keith Road – Two storey side extension

Mr Perry proposed that there be no objections to this application, Mr Clegg seconded. There were four votes in favour with Mr Northall abstaining due to a personal interest.

### b) To receive a report from Mr C. Clegg on the progress of the Planning & Local Development Working Group

There was no report from Mr Clegg.

Mr Northall reported that he had attended a meeting to discuss the planning application at Beetley Quarry. Hoe and Worthing Parish Meeting has grave concerns about the continued expansion of the project and were disappointed that Swanton Morley Parish Council did not object to the application.

## 9. Old Village Hall & Car Park

### a) To receive an update on the sale of land

The clerk reported that the particulars had been approved for the old village hall site and Abbots had begun marketing the site via informal tender. Tenders to be received by Abbots by noon on 6<sup>th</sup> September.

*Mr Clegg left the Meeting*

### b) To receive an update on the right of way for adjacent cottage owners

The clerk reported that the cottage owners had written to Nicholas Hancox accepting the Parish Council's terms of right of way across the village green on the provision that they receive a copy of the ownership deed from land registry. The clerk had spoken to Land Registry, and whilst there is no problem with the village green application, the bulk application is being held up by the commons registration. Mrs Thomas proposed proceeding with the village green application with the acceptance of the map provided by Land Registry and leaving the commons registration to a later date. Mr Perry seconded, all in favour.

*Mr Clegg Re-entered the Meeting*

## 10. Village Hall

### a) To consider the ongoing payment of village hall insurance premiums and agree whether to pay the annual premium due in September.

Mr Perry read a report on this matter by Mr Atterwill. Mr Northall proposed that the Parish Council pay for the village hall insurance this year as it had been included in the precept but for subsequent years it should be the responsibility of the village hall management committee. The Parish Council should also pay for room hire charges as of the new financial year. Mrs Thomas seconded. There were four votes in favour with Mr Perry not voting due to his position on the Village Hall Management Committee.

### b) To agree to pay published hire charges for use of the hall by the Parish Council.

As covered in item 10a

## 11. Street Lighting

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

The clerk reported that all faults had been reported to the contractor and that most faults had been as a result of vandalism and had been reported to the police.

**b) To receive a street lighting report from Mr Atterwill**

Mr Perry read a report from Mr Atterwill updating the Council on the street lighting project and his recommendations for the removal/replacement of street lights.

**c) To consider the removal of street light 28 on Elsing Road**

Mr Clegg proposed that this light not be replaced when removed, Mr Northall seconded. All in favour.

**d) To consider the removal of street light 14 on Thomson Close**

Mrs Thomas proposed that this light not be replaced when removed, Mr Clegg seconded. All in favour.

**e) To consider results of Woodgate street lighting survey and agree whether lights are to be replaced.**

Mr Perry read out the results of the street lighting survey for the Woodgate area. Mrs Thomas proposed that the street lights in Woodgate be replaced with galvanised steel columns, Mrs Evans seconded. All in favour.

## **12. Highways**

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

Mrs Thomas reported that there were problems with the resurfacing on Hoe Road due to the use of the road by heavy farm machinery.

Mr Perry reported that Highways are going to investigate the safety of the bends on Dereham Road after the recent fatality in this area.

## **13. Churchyard & Burial Ground**

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

Mrs Thomas reported that Walker's Tree and Land Management had done a very good job with the removal of the rabbits and raising the crown on the yew tree. They have also treated the ivy and it is beginning to die back.

The PCC have asked permission to trim the area by the war graves. All were agreed that there be no objections to this.

**b) To receive update on Disabled Access Project**

Mrs Thomas reported that the steps are there however the ramp has yet to be finished. Mr Carrick had spoken with clerk and is to forward her a license for the land on which the ramp stands, which according to his solicitor should be sufficient. The Parish Council can then discuss whether this is acceptable.

**c) To agree amendments to Burial Ground regulations**

Mrs Thomas read out a list of proposed amendments to the Burial Ground amendments. A general discussion occurred as to the length of time applied to the Exclusive Right of Burial. Mrs Thomas proposed that all amendments should be accepted bar the amendment to the Exclusive Right of Burial, which should remain at 35 years. Mr Northall seconded, all in favour.

**d) To agree to fund professional tree report to enable faculty process.**

Mrs Thomas explained the problem in obtaining a faculty for tree removal in the absence of a professional report and that Walkers Tree and Land Management would provide a survey and written report for £300. Mr Perry proposed that a previous report by Diana MacMullen should be used, Mr Northall seconded. The vote was 3:2 in favour.

## **14. Youth & Playground Equipment**

**a) To receive an update report on progress of the Sub Committee.**

Mr Perry read a report by Mr Atterwill that stated as a result of the further grant funding, the contractor had been instructed to commence the work on phase 2 on 4<sup>th</sup> September. The contractor is also going to address issues raised in the RoSPA report relating to the recently installed equipment.

The clerk reported that she had spoken to Mr Carrick who agreed to deliver the materials for repairing the Gooseberry Hill fencing to Mr Perry's address. EW Crane would then be instructed to perform the repairs.

**b) To agree expenditure for replacement of play bark.**

The clerk reported that the only bark available was hard grade play bark, as opposed to the usual soft grade. The quotation for hard grade was nearly twice that of soft grade, however it should last twice as long. A discussion occurred as to whether a more permanent solution should be budgeted for next year. Mrs Thomas proposed that the hard grade play bark be ordered at a price of £393.25. Mrs Evans seconded, all in favour

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

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

Mr Northall reported that there had not been a meeting since the new Parish Council had been elected and requested the clerk write to Mr Carrick to establish whether he still wished to Chair the group.

Cemex are in the process of negotiating the sale of their land adjacent to Mill Common to the fishermen once these negotiations are complete Mr Northall and Mr Atterwill will meet the fishermen to discuss whether a stile is required.

Mr Northall also raised concerns regarding the conditions Cemex had imposed when they gave permission for the Parish Council to erect the fencing. In a letter to Mr Carrick in February 2007 it clearly states that should HLS status no longer apply then the fencing would have to be removed at the expense of the Parish Council. The Council had not been made aware of this at the time.

#### **16. Parish Emergency Plan**

##### **a) To receive an update report on progress of the Parish emergency plan.**

The clerk reported that she had spoken to Mr Carrick, and as a result of harvesting and the recent Foot and Mouth scare, he had been unable to call a meeting of the community emergency plan, but planned to call one in mid September.

#### **17. Correspondence**

Mr Northall requested that more information be requested in response to the 'Advice on Teenage Shelters' leaflet that has been received.

*The Meeting was Suspended for the District Councillor's Report and Public Participation*

#### **18. Any item to be reported for the next agenda**

- To consider donation to the CAB
- Update on Quality Council project
- Update on whether landowners have approached the Parish Council about exception sites.

#### **19. To confirm the date & time of next meeting to be held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2007 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.**

This was corrected to Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September. All in favour

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

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

### **Presentation by Angela Powells PCSO**

Angela Powells introduced herself as one of the Safer Neighbourhoods Team, a group of ten workers that will give a more visible police presence between Swanton Morley and Bawdeswell. She stressed that the main police call centre would still need to be contacted in the event of a crime, as they have the technology to cross reference crimes to find links and patterns, and a PCSO will be allocated if necessary.

### **District Councillor's Report**

Councillor Millbank congratulated the Parish Council on their work in achieving the position of runner up in the Pride of Norfolk Community Awards and also at obtaining enough grant funding to begin Phase 2 of the play equipment project. She and Mr Atterwill will be speaking about provision for teenagers in the village.

Other items of interest being discussed by Breckland are:

- The appointment of the new Chief Executive, Trevor Holden
- The East of England Plan and that Breckland has been given one of the highest grants to assist with affordable housing.
- The A47 roundabout and where the tail of the proposed Northern Bypass should join the A47.
- The possibility of a North Norfolk and South Norfolk Unitary Council

### **Public Comments**

Mrs Northall gave the history as to the Parish Council making the insurance payments for the village hall and was pleased that discussions were to occur as to the insurance payment and the room hire charges.

Mr Ellis felt that some formal acknowledgement be made to Mr Atterwill as well as Miss Woolnough for their work in the play equipment project.

He asked whether the Council considered any alternative to selling the land to the highest bidder. Mr Clegg responded that, as discussed in the previous meeting, Broadland Housing Association had been approached but would not consider the land as an exception site would be much less costly. He also stressed that the more money made from the sale of the old village hall site would go back into projects for the people of the village – not as profit for the council.

Mr Ellis also felt that a letter to Dr Kaushal about his plans for Lincoln House was hypocritical. Mr Perry responded that the letter was no longer necessary as a satisfactory response had been received by Dr Kaushal.

Mr Ellis also raised concerns that there was no tender for the street lighting project. The clerk responded that the only other contractor who could do such a large project was Cartledge, and appointing Cartledge would not be best value for the village due to their previous history.

Mr Ellis claimed that the village green was registered at Land Registry. The clerk assured him that it was not, it was only registered as a village green but no ownership was registered at land registered.

Mr Ellis still disputed the ownership of the village hall.