

SWANTON MORLEY PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Swanton Morley Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 8th December 2008. The meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

Present: Mr R. Atterwill, Mr G Northall, Mr S. Westbury, Mr C. Perry, Mr B. Marsham, County Councillor Mrs I. Floering-Blackman and ten members of the public. Also in attendance Mrs F. LeBon (clerk)

Matters Raised Under Time Allocated to the Public

- Further to a comment made about the conduct of Mr Northall in the November meeting, Mr Atterwill read a statement from the Standards Department at Breckland District Council stating that Mr Northall's statement about the cricket club had not broken the Code of Conduct.
- Mr Atterwill advised that he had reviewed the lease document for the football pitch area of the village hall and could confirm that it was signed by the Parish Council as custodian trustee but is managed by Swanton Morley Village Hall Trust.
- Mr Moulton queried the problem of fallen ivy from the Rectory. The clerk is to send a letter to Mr Hunter requesting the clearance of the ivy and also to cut the hedge.

The Meeting Went Into Session.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mrs Thomas, Mrs Millbank and Mr Palmer.

2. Declarations of Interest

Mr Northall declared a prejudicial interest in item 5a (Finance – invoices for payment)
Mr Atterwill declared a prejudicial interest in item 5a (Finance – invoices for payment)

3. Minutes from Parish Council Meeting of 10th November 2008 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 and carried.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes of 10th November 2008.

None raised

Mr Atterwill and Mr Northall Left the Room

5. Finance

a) Accounts to approve for payment:

After the clerk had read amendments to the payments on the agenda, and also advised that the Angel Bowls Club had provided a receipt for their storage unit therefore fulfilling their terms of the grant application, Mr Marsham proposed that the following be paid, seconded by Mr Westbury. Carried. The payment to EON was deferred until item 11c.

Payee	Detail	Chq No.	Amount
Faye LeBon	Clerk's Salary	101517	£339.18
Faye LeBon	Clerk's Expenses	101517	£32.82
Norfolk Pensions	Local Government Pension Scheme	101518	£104.90
HMRC	Clerk's PAYE	101519	£87.25
Swanton Morley VH	Room Hire (October)	101520	£22.50
Nfk Parish Training	2 x Councillor Training Courses	101521	£60.00
Eastern Office Equipment	Photocopying	101522	£21.75
Wensum Valley Services	Kerbing for Memorial Garden	101523	£119.56
JPs Maintenance	Grass cutting Sept/Oct	101524	£1122.12
Mrs J Andrews	Community Car Mileage	101525	£21.80
Mrs J Cook	Community Car Mileage	101526	£8.30
Mrs M Newland	Community Car Mileage	101527	£67.90
Mr G Northall	Community Car Mileage	101528	£25.70
Miss J Spauls	Community Car Mileage	101529	£22.60
Mr G Thorpe	Community Car Mileage	101530	£28.50

Mrs J walden	Community Car Mileage	101531	£14.50
S. Michlmasyr Ltd	Maintenance of Clock	101532	£164.50
Angel Bowls Club	Grant Funding for Storage Unit	101533	£500.00
TOTAL			£2763.88

Mr Atterwill and Mr Northall Re-entered the Room

b) Income

Income was reported as follows:

Received From	Detail	Amount
RPA	ELS Payment	£225.60
Breckland District Council	Community Car Payment	£94.65
TOTAL		£320.25

c) To receive update on report by External Auditor

Mr Atterwill reported that as there were no further questions raised by Mrs Walden and the external auditor is now considering his response. This is expected by the end of December. The auditor has confirmed that four hours work has already been taken up by this objection and if a public enquiry is warranted then the possible cost could be approximately £10,000.

The council has checked with its insurance company and confirmed that this cost is not covered under the council's policy. Further to this, after additional enquiries it has been determined that there is no insurance cover available for this type of unexpected expense.

6. Planning

a) To consider formal request to Breckland District Council for reduction of LDF allocated houses should planning permission be granted for application 3PL/2008/1379/O

Mr Atterwill reported that further to the Parish Council's response to Mr Harris' planning application, Breckland District Council has been non-committal in reducing the Parish Council's allocation of houses under the LDF. District Councillor Kate Millbank has been asked to look into the matter. Mr Atterwill read correspondence between himself and Mrs Millbank. It was agreed that Mr Atterwill is to pursue this matter with Mrs Millbank and Mrs Long.

b) To receive an update on potential affordable housing for Swanton Morley

Mr Atterwill reported that there had been an open afternoon on 26th November where plans had been displayed for the proposed affordable housing in the village. Questionnaires had been filled in on the evening, with the results as follows:

Number of Attendees that completed surveys: 25 (22 adults and 3 young people)

When asked whether the village was in need of affordable housing:

	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Thought there was a need in the village for affordable housing	20	80%
Thought there was a NOT need in the village for affordable housing	2	8%
Did not answer	3	12%

When asked whether the person completing the survey was interested in finding out how to apply for affordable housing, 7 people responded that they were (28%)

When asked whether the person completing the survey would support the development overall:

	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Would Support Overall	10	40%
Would NOT support Overall	10	40%
Did not answer	4	16%
Stated only Support Site 2 (4 starter homes)	1	4%

The clerk is to post this information on the website.

Further discussions occurred as to the suitability of the scheme, particularly the site on the current play area, and also the whether the level of money allocated to the village would be adequate should the scheme go ahead.

It was agreed that councillors were not in a position to make a decision about the scheme until the issue of the level of housing under the LDF has been resolved. Mr Atterwill is to speak with Ed Mumford-Smith at Broadland Housing and Andrea Long and Kate Millbank at Breckland District Council. If necessary this is to be escalated to the appropriate cabinet member at Breckland District Council.

7. Grant Funding

Mr Atterwill reported that the Under 5's Group are not going ahead with the fencing project and an update is to be received in January.

a) To consider any applications for small grant funding

None received

b) To consider large grant funding request from Swanton Morley Bowls Club

This application consisted of two parts, one for the purchase of cutting equipment and a second part of applying loam to the green. As the loam for the green was deemed as maintenance this could not be considered for grant funding. Mr Atterwill proposed that Swanton Morley Bowls Club should be granted £575.75 which reflected 50% of the grant application for the purchase of cutting equipment. Seconded by Mr Perry and carried.

c) To consider large grant application from Swanton Morley Village Hall

Further to the resubmission of the grant application for improvements to the heating system in the hall, Mr Atterwill proposed that the Parish Council grant 50% of the project total which amounted to £2499.67. seconded by Mr Perry and carried.

Mr Northall provided the village hall with information for sourcing funding for maintenance through 'Grass Root Funding'.

Mr Atterwill reported that he had attended the village hall management committee meeting and was impressed by the progress of the large grant application for the repair of the roof.

8. To consider re-positioning of Parish Council notice board

It was agreed that the official Parish Council notice board should remain on Greengate.

9. Freedom of Information Act Model Publication Scheme

a) To consider pricing schedule for Freedom of Information Act requests

All were agreed that running a petty cash account was not a preferable way of operating charges for Freedom of Information requests. Mr Westbury proposed that the nominal fees should be publicised but charges of 10p per sheet will only apply for requests that will cost in excess of £2.50. Seconded by Mr Northall and carried.

b) To consider adoption of the Freedom of Information Act model Publication Scheme

Mr Northall proposed that the model scheme be adopted, seconded by Mr Perry. Carried.

10. Allotments

a) To agree date for meeting with all parties interested in allotments

It was agreed that interested parties should be invited to attend a meeting on Wednesday 28th January 2009 at 7.30pm at the village hall.

11. Street Lighting

a) To receive fault reports / matters for attention

A day burner was reported outside Little Haze Barn. The clerk is to report this to the street lighting contractor.

b) To receive an update on street light replacement project

Mr Atterwill reported that the only light left on Phase One was the one on Woodgate. EDF cannot transfer the energy supply on this until April. TT Jones had requested that the whole bill be settled in respect of Phase One but it was agreed that the council should only pay for the work completed. With regards to Phase 2, all columns are completed except one at the bottom of Gooseberry Hill. MHB are to be instructed to come out to the village to remove all the old columns.

c) To consider street light electricity supply contract

The clerk reported that the council's street lighting electricity supply contract with EON had expired. Eon had given a renewal price of £130.92 per month for a one year contract or £135.50 per month for a two year contract (excluding VAT and Climate Change Levy). Seven companies had been contacted but were unable to quote for unmetered supplies. Mr Westbury proposed that a one year contract with EON should be accepted, seconded by Mr Marsham and carried.

12. Highways

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

Mr Atterwill reported that he had seen Jason Glasspoole from the Highways department. He had raised again the problem of the surface water on Gray Drive and also the vegetation at the Rectory. He also

requested that the bends on the B1147 Tuddenham Road be inspected with the possibility of warning signage being installed. He confirmed that the drop kerbs at the top of Thompson Close, the footpaths on Greengate and the footpaths towards the Barracks were all on the forward plan. The tree cutting on Ainsworth Close is also to be completed.

13. Churchyard & Burial Ground

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

Mr Atterwill advised that the Parish Council has received a faculty form to complete regarding work on the church wall and gates. There had also been a very positive response from people wishing to plant roses in the memorial garden.

14. Youth & Playground Equipment

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

Mr Atterwill reported that the sub committee had not met.

15. Commons, Open Spaces & Environmental

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

Mr Northall reported that there had been no working parties on Mill Common due to the wet weather. These are likely to resume in the new year.

Mr Atterwill reported that the planning application had been received for the boardwalks and platforms at Burgh Common. This is to be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

16. Mardler

a) To agree December edition of the Mardler

This is to be put on the agenda for after the budget meeting as more information needed to complete the edition will be known at this point.

b) To consider funding Mardler distribution

Mr Atterwill reported that a person had been sourced to deliver the Mardler at a nominal cost. However, it was agreed that councillors would continue to deliver the Mardler at present.

17. Correspondence

The following correspondence was reported:

- A letter from Mrs Goldsmith requesting that the Parish Council consider inclusion of £5,000 in the budget for the village hall. This is to be discussed at the budget meeting on 16th December.
- A complaint from Mrs Walden over denial of information. As this was not resolved to Mrs Walden's satisfaction this will go to a Complaints Panel on 14th January with Mr Atterwill, Mr Perry and Mr Westbury making up the panel.
- Beechwood Developments are now in a position to 'make good' the land behind the new houses on the old village hall land. Mr Marsham has contacted the developer to discuss putting in kerbing, plants and a grassed area and also some post and rail fencing.
- The appeal over gravel works at Beetley has been upheld.
- Planning Permission has been granted for the application from Mrs Milne for housing at Swanton Morley bakery.

The Meeting was Suspended

District and County Councillors Report

There was no report from the District Councillor

County Councillor Mrs Floering-Blackman reported the following:

- That a decision was expected by the Boundaries Commission on the Unitary Proposals by the end of October but this has been put back several months. She stressed that financial savings could be made by a Norfolk Unitary (including Norwich) and that Norwich City Council was not able to manage the finances of a District Council let alone a Unitary. She also raised concerns that the Districts were spending a lot of money fighting the Unitary proposals yet could not afford to fund projects such as the resurfacing of footpaths on Gray Drive.
- Nothing had been confirmed by Norfolk County Council about the possibility of a waste disposal site in the Dereham area.

The following items were raised by the public:

- Mr Hall thanked the Parish Council for monies granted to the village hall. He also advised the council that information he had received at the Affordable Housing open evening suggested that each area of land could be transferred to Broadland housing for a sum of £1. He also raised concerns that there would not be enough space where the garages currently are for housing.
- Mrs Eames suggested that the owners of the houses on Middleton Avenue could apply to purchase the play area land. She also reported that the steps on Harkers Lane were not safe. Mr Atterwill suggested that they could be removed. She thought that the work done on the website was good but raised concerns on behalf of those that do not have computers. Mr Atterwill suggested that councillors may wish to consider a 'surgery' on a Saturday morning every other month.
- Mrs Walden wished for the potential cost of £10,000 for the external audit to be minuted. She confirmed her attendance at the complaints panel meeting on 14th January and also that she had contacted Breckland District Council over the LDF. Cabinet had agreed the draft proposals and that this would be available on the website on 5th January. There would then be a six week consultation to raise any objections.

The Meeting Resumed

18. Any item to be reported for the next agenda

At the budget meeting the following are to be discussed:

- Grass cutting contract
- Finalising the Mardler.
- Burgh Common Planning Application
- Village Hall request for funding as part of the 2009/2010 budget.

19. To confirm the date & time of next meeting to be held on Monday 12th January 2009 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

Carried

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

_____ (Chairman) _____ Date