

SWANTON MORLEY PARISH COUNCIL

An extraordinary meeting of Swanton Morley Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 16th December 2008. The meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

Present: Mr R. Atterwill (Chair), Mr C. Perry, Mr G Northall, Mrs M Thomas, Mr S Westbury and Mr B Marsham. Also in attendance were three members of the public and Mrs F. LeBon (clerk)

1. Apologies for absence

None

2. Declarations of Interest

- Mr Northall declared a prejudicial interest in item 3 (Burgh Common Planning Application)
- Mr Marsham declared a prejudicial interest in item 3 (Burgh Common Planning Application)
- Mr Atterwill declared a personal interest in item 3 (Burgh Common Planning Application)
- Mr Westbury declared a personal interest in item 3 (Burgh Common Planning Application)
- Mr Perry declared a personal interest in item 3 (Burgh Common Planning Application)
- Mrs Thomas declared a personal interest in item 3 (Burgh Common Planning Application)

Mr Northall and Mr Marsham Left the Room

3. To Consider Planning Application 3PL/2008/1309/F (Construction of angling platforms and boardwalk on Burgh Common)

Mr Perry proposed that there should be no objections to this application, seconded by Mr Westbury. Carried. The clerk is to write to Breckland District Council advising them of the council's decision but also making clear that the council has the responsibility of managing this land.

Mr Northall and Mr Marsham Re-entered the Room

4. To Discuss Tenders and Award Grass Cutting Contract for 2009/2010

Five tenders were received for 2009/2010 grass cutting contract. Mr Atterwill proposed that JP's Maintenance should be contracted for the 2009/2010 grass cutting season, seconded by Mr Northall and carried. Further to this, Mr Atterwill proposed that JP's Maintenance should be offered the contract for two years subject to the quality of work being adequate and the prices being held but with a break clause for both parties after the first year. Seconded by Mrs Thomas and carried. The council is to budget for a maximum of 18 cuts in this financial year.

5. To Consider Request for £5,000 Financial Assistance for the Running of the Village Hall in 2009/2010

Council had received a letter from Mrs P Goldsmith, secretary of the Village Hall Management Committee requesting £5,000 be included in the Parish Council's budget for 2009/2010 for utilisation by the village hall for running costs.

Discussions occurred as to whether precept money should be used to fund the village hall, whether enough financial information had been provided to make a decision or indeed whether the council was in a financial position to help as a result of the cost of the pending auditor's report.

Mr Westbury proposed that the Parish Council decline the village hall's request at present but advise them that the council may be in a position to consider some limited funding in the future subject to more detailed financial information being submitted to justify the request. Seconded by Mr Marsham and carried.

6. To Agree Parish Council Budget for 2009/2010

The clerk reported that the expenditure for 2009/2010 should be £50,598.83, and with predicted income for this year the total budget should be £47,872.06. Mrs Thomas proposed these figures be accepted, seconded by Mr Perry and carried.

7. To Agree Precept for 2009/2010

Mrs Thomas proposed that the precept should be set at £34,949.00 seconded by Mr Perry. Carried.

8. To Agree December edition of The Mardler

With final budget and precept figures agreed for publication in the Mardler, Mr Northall proposed that the Mardler be agreed as distributed, seconded by Mr Westbury. Carried.

The Meeting Was Suspended

Public Participation Summary

The following points were raised under Public Participation

- That the Parish Council should have requested further financial information from the village hall prior to the meeting. Mr Atterwill responded that he had requested more detail on the accounts at the village hall management committee meeting and was told that this was not possible.
- That it was felt that the village would support increased taxation to make payment to the village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

_____ (Chairman) _____ Date