

SWANTON MORLEY PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Swanton Morley Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 14th July 2008. The meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

Present: Mr R. Atterwill, Mr G. Northall, Mr C. Perry, Mrs L Vyse and nine members of the public.
Also in attendance Mrs F. LeBon (clerk)

Matters Raised Under Time Allocated to the Public

- Mrs Northall questioned whether the field in the planning application (to be discussed under item 6ai) is beyond the building guidelines and whether a garden would effectively become a brown field site and thus extend the boundary. Mr Atterwill replied that it is outside of the current settlement boundary and a garden may well naturally extend the boundary.
- Mrs Northall queried the way that the council co-opts new members. Mr Atterwill responded that potential candidates must express their interest to the council in writing prior to being considered.
- Mrs Walden queried why the amount listed as payable for fencing was greater than previously reported. Mr Atterwill responded that extra fencing was ordered after a safety issue was raised after children building dens were making gaps in the leylandii trees allowing smaller children to crawl through. In addition to this the original contractor employed to do the work reneged on his tender price so the work was given to the second least expensive contractor whose work was known to be satisfactory.
- A query was raised as to the reporting of the council's finances. Mr Atterwill responded that there was a mistake in the finance in the Annual Report and agreed that the accurate figures could be distributed via the Mardler when the external audit is completed.
- Flooding opposite Darbys was raised. Mr Atterwill responded that this had been escalated to the Highways Department.
- The poor condition of the footpath between Lincoln House and The Angel was raised. Mr Atterwill advised that this was on the forward plan at Norfolk County Council to be repaired next financial year.
- Recognition was given to Mr Atterwill and Mr Marsham for tidying the recycling compound area.

The Meeting Went Into Session.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mrs Thomas and Mrs Millbank. The clerk is to write to Mrs Floering-Blackman requesting her attendance at future meetings and enclose copies of correspondence that Norfolk County Council needs to address.

2. Declarations of Interest

Mr Perry declared a personal interest in the LDF.

Mrs Vyse declared a prejudicial interest in the LDF.

3. Minutes from Parish Council Meeting of 9th June 2008 to be accepted, initialled and signed.

Mr Northall proposed these be accepted, seconded by Mrs Vyse Carried. Mr Atterwill signed the minutes as a true representation of the meeting.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes of 9th June 2008

None.

5. Finance

a) Accounts to approve for payment:

Mr Northall proposed that the following accounts be approved for payment, seconded by Mrs Vyse. Carried. The payment to EW Crane as reported on the agenda was deferred next meeting and an invoice is received:

Payee	Detail	Cheque Number	Amount
Faye LeBon	Clerk's Salary	101465	£332.03
Faye LeBon	Clerk's Expenses	101465	£39.74
Norfolk Pensions	Local Government Pension Scheme	101466	£102.39
HMRC	Clerk's PAYE	101467	£83.20

Eastern Office Equipment	Copying of Mardler	101468	£60.00
SMVH	Room Hire (April, May, June)	101469	£36.00
JPs Maintenance	Grass Cutting (June)	101470	£630.00
Staples	Paper and Stamps	101471	£15.79
EON	Street Lighting Electricity (June)	DD	£140.58
TOTAL			£1439.73

b) Income

Income from the following was reported:

Received From	Detail	Amount
Bretts	Memorial Fee (Leonard)	£50.00
Littleproud Funeral Directors	Ash Interment Fees (Leonard and Knights)	£100.00
Alliance and Leicester	Credit Interest (6 monthly to 4 th July)	£2995.13
TOTAL		£3145.13

It was clarified that the interest from the Alliance and Leicester account was not to be withdrawn.

6. Planning

a) To consider responses for the following planning applications

i) 3PL/2008/0940/CU – Mr P Matthew, Red House Farm, Woodgate – Change of use of field to garden.

Mr Atterwill proposed that the council object to this application on the grounds that a garden will effectively extend the settlement boundary. Seconded by Mr Perry. Carried

ii) 3PL/2008/0973/F – Mr and Mrs N Mower re: Lynhurst, Norwich Road – Proposed alterations and extension to bungalow including new detached garage and vehicular access

Mr Atterwill proposed that there be no objections to this application, seconded by Mrs Vyse. Carried.

iii) 3PL/2008/0973/F – J Carrick re: Park Farm – Siting of four mobile homes on existing camp site

Mr Atterwill proposed that there be no objections to this application, seconded by Mr Perry. Carried.

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

The clerk reported that the District Valuation on the land on Middleton Avenue had been done and negotiations were happening between Broadland Housing Association and Breckland District Council. When an agreement has been reached, architects plans will be drawn up and forwarded to the Parish Council and the public consultation will begin.

c) To discuss and agree response to Breckland Council on Site Specific Allocations under the LDF

Mr Atterwill reported that the council now had official copies of the land put forward by landowners for proposed development under the LDF. He advocated that a map should be sent to all households in the village along with the Parish Council's recommendation, and that a public meeting should be called in September.

Mr Northall stressed the protocol about declaring interests in this subject and emphasised that this could also be an opportunity for reducing planning boundaries in certain places.

Mr Perry stressed that if a large area of land is selected, then Breckland District Council must honour their agreement of only allowing 50 houses on the land. The clerk is to obtain clarification from Breckland District Council as to whether they would restrict development to 50 houses if a larger area of land is selected, and what Breckland District Council's recommended number of houses per hectare of land is.

The meeting was suspended to hear the opinions of the public

The following points were raised by the public:

- Site 007 had good access to amenities and could take further development if required.
- Concerns that the site selected could be politically motivated by Breckland District Council.
- That Breckland District Council had not done enough investigations into whether the sewerage systems could cope with extra development.
- That area 007 was not good agricultural land.
- That if one site is chosen then the Parish Council could be accused of favouring one landowner and one developer.
- That the development will not stop at 50 houses.
- That a greater number of smaller developments would be favoured instead of one large one.
- That there is still land on Greengate inside the planning boundary that would accommodate 50 houses. Mr Northall stated that this land originally had outline permission for seven houses

The meeting went back into session

Mr Northall proposed that sites 006 and 007 be put forward to the village for recommendation, seconded by Mrs Vyse.

Mr Perry proposed an amendment that only 007 be put forward, seconded by Mr Atterwill. This was carried using the Chair's casting vote. Mrs Vyse and Mr Northall were against this proposal. A personal interest was recorded in this item.

Mr Atterwill reported that he had spoken to the developers on the old village hall site and as the houses are in the process of being built, then the council must agree on the wording of the commemorative stone. It was agreed that 'This was the site of the National School 1852- 2007' should be accepted (date to be clarified).

The clerk is to write to Breckland District Council and advise them that the name of the development on the Baily land is to be called 'Wade Court' following the wishes of Mrs Baily.

7. Grant Funding

a) To receive an update on application requests

There were two small grant applications to be considered.

Mr Perry proposed that the grant application from The Angel Bowls Club for £471.49 for a brushcutter and hedge trimming equipment should be accepted, seconded by Mrs Vyse. Carried.

Mr Atterwill proposed that the grant application from the Village Hall for £500 for some youth football goal posts should be accepted, seconded by Mrs Vyse. Carried.

b) To consider grant application from Swanton Morley Under 5's Group

Mr Atterwill proposed that the grant for £886.25 to improve the fencing around the children's outdoor play area be accepted.

Mr Perry proposed an amendment that only 50% of the project be granted under the rules of the large grant scheme, seconded by Mrs Vyse. Carried. The amount granted was £793.13 which was 50% of the project total which was £1586.25.

8. Allotments

a) To receive an update on parishioner responses for potential allotments and agree further action

Mr Northall reported that the search for some appropriate land was still ongoing. The clerk reported that there had been further interest in the use of an allotment via the Mardler, and that there was a grant scheme run by the Big Lottery Fund for local food projects such as allotments.

9. Street Lighting

a) To receive fault reports / matters for attention

Mrs Thomas had advised the clerk that the electric supply had not been changed over on the street light outside her home. Mr Atterwill reported that he had left a message for TT Jones to contact him as there were still a few street lights where the supply had not been changed over and the contractors had not done any work on this project in the last week.

b) To receive an update on street light replacement project

Mr Atterwill reported that he had walked round the village with MHB services to discuss the project and that he anticipates that the contractor will start by the end of the month. EDF Energy requires payment prior to starting work and this money is to be transferred from the Alliance and Leicester account.

10. Highways

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

Mr Atterwill reported that Highways will be removing all bar every third tree on Ainsworth Close. The clerk is to write to residents to ensure that they have no objections to this decision.

Patch repairs are starting on the Tuddenham Road but the pot holes remain on Primrose Square. The two drainage problems on Town Street have been reported.

11. To receive a report on co-option of new councillor/s

The clerk advised that there had yet been no response to the advert for vacancies on the council.

12. To agree presentation arrangements of Quality Council certificate

It was agreed that the clerk should arrange for the Quality Council certificate to be presented by a representative of NCAPTC during the next meeting.

13. Churchyard & Burial Ground

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

In the absence of Mrs Thomas, Mr Atterwill reported that the memorial garden is to be edged week commencing 21st July. Lux traffic control are to be consulted about controlling traffic for the removal of the high part of the wall, but a faculty will need to be sought prior to starting this work. The removal and placing in storage of the West Gate is also being considered. The height of the current pillars could then be reduced as they may be unstable, and then when the Mill Street widening project is completed then the pillars could be rebuilt and the West Gate returned. This depends on the result of the Mill Street widening feasibility study. The tree surgeon has removed the rotten part of the tree in the Rump grave and advice is being sought on waste disposal in the church. It was also agreed not to proceed with cleaning of graves. The grass cutter has been asked for a price to brushcut the nettles at the bottom of the churchyard on a six monthly basis.

b) To agree to use vouchers won in EDP Pride of Norfolk 2007 to purchase a rose for the memorial garden and some spring bulbs.

It was agreed that a rose should be purchased in memory of Mr Broady.

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 met, primarily to discuss the potential of an all weather sports pitch. Mr Sherlock had been to Brancaster where a similar project had recently been completed and taken pictures for the sub committee. The best surfacing for multisports found to date was TexPlay II for which a quote has been given. Quotes are needed for the floodlighting.

b) To receive a report on the Cemex Grant

Mr Atterwill reported that an email had been received from Cemex to confirm that all paperwork was in order and that the grant cheque would be issued shortly.

c) To receive a report on the fencing at Gooseberry Hill

Mr Atterwill reported that the fencing had been completed and that the grass cutting contract needs to be looked at to incorporate work to keep the nettles back. .

15. Commons, Open Spaces & Environmental

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

No further work had been done on Mill Common. The clerk is to write to Mr Carrick to ask if he can cut back the vegetation on Burgh Common in time for the boardwalks to be installed. £500 had been provided in grant funding from the Environment Agency that can be allocated for this type of maintenance.

Mrs Vyse reported that Green Lane is becoming overgrown. The clerk is to report to Norfolk County Council.

b) To agree to a new gate on entrance to Mill Common

Mr Northall proposed that this gate be purchased, seconded by Mr Atterwill. Carried.

16. Village Hall

a) To receive a report on the progress of the village hall

Mr Perry reported that he and Mr Atterwill had stood down from the village hall management committee and a new committee was in place. Mr Atterwill advised that he was not willing to continue as the Parish Council representative for the village hall and the position remains vacant. Mr Perry reiterated the statement that should the village hall want help they should approach the Parish Council.

17. To consider a replacement Notice Board for Manns Lane

The clerk reported that the cheapest replacement notice board found was £299 for the board and a further £99 for the posts. Mr Northall proposed that the notice board should be replaced subject to the possibility of an insurance claim being investigated, seconded by Mr Perry. Carried.

18. Correspondence

The clerk reported that Dereham Town Council were working towards a strategy for green spaces and wildlife, but is to clarify whether this just covers Dereham or the surrounding villages.

Mrs Vyse commented on Breckland District Council's plans to create a Youth Council and stressed that this group should be consulted on matters and emphasised that young people often had better access to grants.

The Meeting was Suspended

There were no reports from the District or County Councillors

The following items were raised by the public:

- That the consultation website does not ask for Parish Council opinions on unitary status.

- Why the council had granted money to Dereham Wanderers. Mr Atterwill responded that the money was granted to the village hall for goal posts to be used by all football groups including Dereham Wanderers.
- That there is a lot of stone debris on Hannah Road and also on the S Bends leaving the village. The clerk is to report to Norfolk County Council.
- That the street light is still on permanently on Lincoln Close. Mr Atterwill responded that this street light was problematic and requires TT Jones and EDF Energy to be on site at the same time to correct.
- That the car park and land on which the village hall stands is owned by the Parish Council. Mr Atterwill corrected that after taking legal advice and advice from the charities commission, the Parish Council is only the custodian trustee and has no legal ownership.
- Who owned the notice boards? Mr Atterwill responded that the Parish Council are responsible for maintaining them. The clerk is to put in the Mardler whom to contact should parishioners want items in the notice boards.
- Mrs Walden asked where the playing fields sub committee meeting was held. Mr Atterwill responded that it had reconvened at the Gooseberry Hill playing field.
- Mrs Northall asked whether the Parish Council would take notice of any public opinions relating to the LDF. Mr Atterwill responded that it would be a democratic decision.

The Meeting Resumed

19. Any item to be reported for the next agenda

To confirm wording of LDF consultation

To have a standing agenda item 'To consider any applications for small grant funding'

20. To confirm the date & time of next meeting to be held on Monday 11th August 2008 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

Carried

The meeting closed at 10.15pm

_____ (Chairman) _____ Date