

SWANTON MORLEY PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Swanton Morley Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 12th November 2007. The meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

Present: Mr R. Atterwill (Chair), Mr C. Perry, Mr G Northall and Mrs J Walden. Also in attendance were one member of the public and Mrs F. LeBon (clerk)

The following items were raised under Public Participation

- Mr Atterwill reported that regretfully Mr Clegg had tendered his resignation. The clerk is to write to him thanking him for his service.
- That Highways need to clear the pavement at the front of the Bowling Green.
- That fly-tipping is an increasing problem due to the lack of a local waste centre.
- That speeding traffic remains a problem on Rectory Road. Mr Atterwill responded that the new Vehicle Activated Signs were due to be installed later in the week, and then they would require connection by EDF Energy.
- Mrs Walden declared a prejudicial interest in item 9b, and advised that the deeds have been signed by the cottage owners and all is required is a signature from the witness.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mrs Thomas, Mrs Floering-Blackman and Mrs Millbank.

2. Declarations of Interest

Mr Atterwill declared a personal interest in item 8a

Mrs Walden declared a personal interest in item 9a, and also a prejudicial interest in item 9b.

Mr Perry declared a personal interest in item 8a.

3. Minutes from Parish Council Meeting of 8th October 2007 to be accepted, initialled and signed.

After an amendment clarifying that Mrs Walden did not attend the meeting of the village hall management trustees on Thursday 4th October, Mr Northall proposed that these minutes be accepted, Mr Perry seconded. All in favour. Mr Atterwill signed the minutes as a true and accurate record of this meeting.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes of 8th October 2007

Mr Northall was now unsure as to whether the piece of land over the river, owned by the Parish Council, was registered as common land and part of Burgh Common. The clerk is to try to find the file on Burgh Common that is now closed and held at County Hall.

The clerk is to send Mr Atterwill a report on the EDP Pride of Norfolk judging day, so that it can be put together with Mr Perry's report of the time at the Barracks and placed in the presentation display with the plaque.

5. To Agree to Begin Co-option Process to fill Council Vacancy

Mr Atterwill reported that Breckland District Council had received no response for an election. Co-option of a new Councillor therefore needs to be advertised in the notice boards, Dereham Times and Link Up.

6. Finance

a) Accounts to approve for payment:

Mr Northall proposed that the following payments be authorised, seconded by Mr Perry. All in favour

Payee	Detail	Cheque No	Amount
Faye LeBon	Clerk's Salary	101371	£249.69
Faye LeBon	Clerk's Expenses	101371	£48.28
Norfolk Pensions	Local Government Pension Scheme	101372	£81.04
HMRC	Clerk's Income Tax	101373	£70.40
Eastern Office Equip.	Parish Council Expenses	101374	£2.99
Mrs Thomas	Refund for Hire of Turf Cutter	101375	£52.88
Adventure Playgrounds	Play Boards, Springies and Installation of Roundabout	101376	£6265.10
G.L. Jones	Purchase of Roundabout	101377	£5375.63
T.T.Jones	Replacement of 30 columns and 3 Lanterns	101378	£14981.25
Allianz Cornhill	Insurance for Phase 2 Equipment	101379	£135.04

D Watson	Grass Cutting (last of season)	101380	£799.00
EON	Street Lighting Electricity (August)	DD	£140.34
TOTAL			£28201.64

b) Income

The following income was reported:

Received From	Detail	Amount
Anglia Memorials	Memorial for Wade	£100.00
TOTAL		£100.00

c) To consider the opening of a file with Hood Vores and Allwood for general legal advice

Mr Atterwill explained the logic of opening a file in the name of the Parish Council for general legal advice with Hood Vores and Allwood, stressing that all decisions to take advice should be passed by the Council first. Mr Atterwill proposed that this file be opened, Mr Northall seconded. All in favour.

7. Planning

a) To consider the following planning applications

i) 3PL/2007/1726/F Mr and Mrs C Hathaway, Tidlarcot, Greengate – Side extension to dwelling

Mrs Walden proposed that there be no objections to this application, seconded by Mr Perry. All in favour.

ii) 3PL/2007/1508/F Carrick and Son, Park Farm – Ablutions Block for Camp Site at Hunters Hall

Mrs Walden proposed that there be no objections to this application, seconded by Mr Perry. All in favour.

iii) 3BT/2007/0010/BT Robertson Barracks – Installation of Telecoms Equipment at Nicholson Avenue

Mrs Walden proposed that there be no objections to this application, seconded by Mr Northall. All in favour.

b) To consider request for road naming next to 80 Greengate

Further to a request from Mrs Bailey of 80 Greengate, Mr Atterwill proposed that the Parish Council support the road naming of the development next to 80 Greengate as Wade Close. Mrs Walden seconded, all in favour. The clerk is to inform Mrs Bailey of the Parish Council's decision.

Mr Northall reminded the room of the planning training arranged by NCAPTC to be held at Scarning Village Hall on 13th November. He also raised concerns about the style of recent developments being out of keeping with the village, and reminded the room that if the Parish Council were to allow development in one area with a single developer, then the developer would have to put something back into the village under a s106 agreement. This is unlikely to happen with several small scale developments scattered around the village.

Mr Atterwill took the opportunity to correct details of Mr Clegg's resignation letter with respect to responses in the village appraisal. He will write to Mr Clegg informing him of these misrepresentations.

8. Village Hall

a) To receive an update report on the management of the village hall

Mr Perry reported that a new cleaner had been hired but unfortunately the treasurer had resigned. However, the books had been brought completely up to date. There is a need to create a building development plan in order to ensure full compliance with current legislation and quotations will be sought to carry out urgent remedial works. The Charities Commission had been contacted requesting information on what happens if the Trust changes.

The firework evening was very successful raising £2900.

Mr Northall requested that the clerk send Mr Willis a letter of acknowledgement in response to his comments about the village hall.

9. Old Village Hall & Car Park

a) To receive an update on sale of land

Mr Atterwill reported that the purchaser is pushing very hard for an early completion.

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

All information required by the Council was covered by Mrs Walden under Public Participation.

10. Street Lighting

a) To receive fault reports / matters for attention

The clerk is to report to the street lighting contractor that there are inoperative lights at the bottom of Rectory Road and also outside number 17 Beddingfield Road.

A discussion occurred as to the feasibility of suggestions in the latest circular by the CPRE.

b) To receive an update on street lighting project

Mr Atterwill reported that thirty replacement streetlights had now been installed and a connection date was awaited from EDF energy. The clerk is to send a letter to Mr Ellis stating that his points in his recent correspondence have been noted.

11. Highways

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

The clerk is to report the following to Highways:

- Ponding in the footpath outside the school. In addition to this, now the footpath between the village hall and the school has been skirted it has revealed very poor quality paving.
- The 'Road Narrow' triangle near the church is flashing.
- The pathways on Ainsworth Close and Rectory Road require sweeping as the excess leaves are making the paths slippery.

12. Quality Council

a) To receive an update on the Quality Council Project

The clerk reported that with the resignation of Mr Clegg the Council no longer hold an electoral mandate of 80% elected members and thus the quality council status is now no longer possible. However, work with the Mardler and the village hall information point will still continue.

13. Churchyard & Burial Ground

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

Mr Atterwill reported that the ground for the memorial garden had been prepared, but some tanalised timber is required to edge it. He proposed that this be purchased at a cost of £50 plus VAT. Mr Northall seconded, all in favour.

Vegetation left from previous working parties required clearing from the churchyard but original thoughts of burning the branches had had to be discounted because of the location. Mr Atterwill proposed hiring a tree chipper at a cost of £60 + VAT, and then placing the chippings under the yew to prevent weed growth. Mr Perry seconded, all in favour. Nettles are also to be strimmed at the bottom of the churchyard.

Mr Atterwill reported that Treecare had responded, holding their tendered quotation to remove the sycamores in the churchyard. A discussion occurred as to whether the sycamores in the Rump tomb should be removed. Mr Atterwill proposed that the six weed sycamores in the churchyard should be removed but a site meeting will take place on 17th November with the PCC to discuss the removal of the trees from the tomb. Mr Perry seconded, all in favour. The cost of the tree removal is to be taken from the church wall contingency budget as several trees are causing instability in the wall.

Mr Northall raised concerns about the archdeacon noticing unstable memorials in the churchyard. The clerk is to ensure this is placed on the agenda for the next Burial Ground committee meeting to ensure that there is a proper inspection by this committee.

Mr Atterwill reported that the licence that Mr Carrick suggested for the land on which the disabled access stands is not adequate as it is not a permanent agreement.

14. Youth & Playground Equipment

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

Mr Atterwill reported that the sub committee had met on 6th November. They have approximately £1600 left from grant monies with which they would like to install some kickboards. Mr Carrick has been invoiced for the fencing materials that the Parish Council had previously paid for, and that money would be placed in next year's budget for fencing repairs and improving the fencing at the far end of the field as there is a possibility that children may get hurt on the barbed wire.

Mr Perry suggested that the council go out to tender on a 3m high fence to replace the original and also high fence the far end of the field and a volunteer group will make the original fencing safe for the time being.

Mr Atterwill also reported that the sub committee had agreed to cut the vegetation down on the front of the field so that any potential trouble makers could be more visible, and that discussions were had about expanding the car park. A date of 2nd April had been provisionally booked for an opening ceremony for the Gooseberry Hill playing field and discussions occurred about purchasing a monolith on which a plaque could be placed recognising the grant bodies. A working party also needed to be arranged to prune the trees on the village green.

b) To agree emergency repair of picnic bench on village green

Due to vandalism occurring shortly after it was installed, it was agreed that an emergency repair should be arranged for the picnic bench at a cost of £96.93 + VAT.

15. Commons, Open Spaces & Environmental

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

Mr Northall reported that a working party had met on 10th November and the growth surrounding the ditch at Mill common had been partially cleared. More work on ditch clearing was then to be done to allow the cattle to drink fresh water from the ditch when they return to the common.

b) To consider plans from the Environment Agency for Burgh Common Restoration Project

Mr Northall proposed that the plans from the Environment Agency be accepted, and that English Nature apply for planning permission for the boardwalks. Mr Atterwill seconded, all in favour.

c) To agree future maintenance of proposed board walks at Burgh Common

Mr Northall proposed that the Parish Council accept responsibility for future maintenance of the board walks. Mr Perry seconded, all in favour.

16. Parish Property

a) To agree replacement of bins on Gooseberry Hill and Ainsworth Close

Mr Atterwill proposed that the bins on Gooseberry Hill and Ainsworth Close be replaced. Mr Northall seconded, all in favour.

b) To agree replacement of notice board on Manns Lane

It was agreed that the clerk is to speak with Norfolk Glass to see if they can replace the damaged Perspex.

17. Correspondence

It was agreed that a letter should be sent to both Hunters Hall and Bylaugh Hall requesting that any directions to the respective halls being placed in the village by users of the hall be removed after the event.

The clerk reported that she had received a request to display posters in the notice boards for a car washing business. It was agreed that these posters be displayed for a period of one month.

There was no report from the County or District Councillors, nor was there any further Public Participation

18. Any item to be reported for the next agenda

None reported

19. To Agree Date and Time of Meeting to Agree 2008/2009 Precept

It was agreed to call a meeting on Tuesday 4th December at the village hall at 7.30pm to agree the 2008/2009 Precept

20. To confirm the date & time of next meeting to be held on Monday 10th December 2007 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

All in favour

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

_____ (Chairman) _____ Date