

SWANTON MORLEY PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Swanton Morley Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 8th October 2007. The meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

Present: Mr R. Atterwill (Chair), Mr C. Perry, Mr C Clegg, Mr G Northall, Mrs M Thomas and Mrs J Walden. Also in attendance were Mrs K. Millbank (District Councillor), Mrs I. Floering-Blackman (County Councillor), three members of the public and Mrs F. LeBon (clerk)

The following items were raised under Public Participation

- That Avril Evans had tendered her resignation from the council and that a vacancy on the council had been advertised.
- The Pride of Norfolk Community award was shown and suggestions for its display to the village discussed.
- The ownership of Harkers Lane. The clerk is to report the problem of nettles to Norfolk County Council.

1. Apologies for absence

None

2. Declarations of Interest

Mr Atterwill declared a personal interest in item 5d

Mrs Walden declared a personal interest in items 5d and 7a, and also a prejudicial interest in item 7c.

Mr Northall declared a prejudicial interest in item 5a.

Mr Clegg declared a prejudicial interest in item 7c.

Mr Perry declared a personal interest in item 5d.

3. Minutes from Parish Council Meeting of 10th September 2007 to be accepted, initialled and signed.

Mr Clegg proposed that these minutes be accepted, Mrs Walden seconded. All in favour. Mr Atterwill signed the minutes as a true and accurate record of this meeting.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes of 10th September 2007

Mr Clegg requested a copy of the information on affordable housing from Breckland.

Mr Northall Left the Room

5. Finance

a) Accounts to approve for payment:

Mrs Walden proposed that the following payments be authorised, seconded by Mrs Thomas. All in favour

Payee	Detail	Cheque No	Amount
Faye LeBon	Clerk's Salary	101354	£249.69
Faye LeBon	Clerk's Expenses	101354	£52.98
Norfolk Pensions	Local Government Pension Scheme	101355	£81.04
HMRC	Clerk's Income Tax	101356	£70.40
Eastern Office Equip.	Parish Council Expenses	101357	£63.69
NPTP	3 x Initial Training Courses	101358	£60.00
TMA Bark	Bark for Village Green and Gooseberry Hill	101359	£462.07
Ivan Webster	Notice Board for Burial Ground	101360	£470.00
Mr R. Godfrey	Community Car	101361	£8.78
Mr N O'Brien	Community Car	101362	£26.46
Mrs M Newland	Community Car	101363	£7.90
Mr G Northall	Community Car	101364	£16.50
Mr G Thorpe	Community Car	101365	£4.06
Ms J Spauls	Community Car	101366	£1.70
Mrs A Sadler	Community Car Expenses	101367	£7.00
D Watson Contracting	Grass cutting to 28/09	101368	£1421.75
Adventure Playgrounds	Supply and Install Lavenham Multiplay	101369	£7343.75
Adventure Playgrounds	Supply and Install Safagrass	101370	£3102.00
EON	Street Lighting Electricity (August)	DD	£140.34

TOTAL			£13590.11

Mr Northall Re-entered the Room

b) Income

The following income was reported:

Received From	Detail	Amount
Breckland District Council	Second Precept Payment	£19,379.74
Breckland District Council	Community Car Payment	£36.10
Beechwood Developments	Non Refundable Deposit re Old Village Hall land	£500.00
TOTAL		£19,915.84

c) To receive a report on clearing error with the Council's bank accounts

The clerk reported that there had been a clearing error by the bank, with an erroneous debit of £63,865.61 taken out of the Community Account under cheque number 101349 as opposed to £6,865.61. This error was picked up by the Parish Council in time for the cheque to be stopped and a CHAPS payment made to the Public Works Loan Board for the correct amount. The Parish Council has been assured that there will be no interest lost on the Tracker Account and no charges made on the Community Account as a result of this error.

d) To consider a request from the village hall trust for a six month interest free loan.

Mr Perry reported that the request for the loan was being withdrawn due to the location of a share certificate that would relieve the immediate cash flow difficulties from the village hall trust. However he felt it important that the financial figures of the hall were shared. To run the hall costs approximately £16,000 per year. Income from regular hirers is approximately £7,500 with the shortfall being made up by fundraising. Expenditure required to bring the hall up to an adequate standard has been calculated at £41,250, of which £1,600 has been deemed as urgent due to inadequate safety features.

Mr Atterwill advised that four management trustees had a meeting on Thursday 4th October to discuss the long term management of the village hall. Mrs Walden did not attend this meeting. Everyone in attendance at that meeting was in agreement that the future of the hall would be better served if the Parish Council took over the ownership and management. This item will be raised at the next full Village Hall Management Committee in November. Should this be the wish of the full committee then this will be an agenda item for the Parish Council to discuss next month.

Questions were asked as to the feasibility of various aspects of the Parish Council running the hall, but it was agreed to discuss this as a formal agenda item next month if required.

6. Planning

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

Mr Clegg reported that although the group had not met, he had spoken with David Spencer from Breckland District Council resulting in concerns about the feedback from the Parish Council to Breckland about the village's status as a service centre. He urged caution about the clarity of comments to Breckland. The clerk read the comments forwarded to David Spencer and also the comments made by the Ward Representative about the matter and felt this was a clear reflection of the Council's decision. Mr Atterwill read the statistic from the village appraisal stating that 55% of Parishioners would support single or small scale (less than ten) development.

The clerk is to write to David Spencer clarifying the Parish Council's decision and Mr Clegg requested to see the letter prior to sending.

b) To consider disbanding the Planning & Local Development Working Group

Mr Atterwill felt that the group had not achieved its original aim, that a public consultation had not occurred with the village and that Breckland was already making decisions on Swanton Morley's position in the LDF. Mr Clegg was in agreement.

Mr Northall felt that Mr Clegg had had a difficult task as the planning department at Breckland often fail to listen to the Parish Council.

It was agreed to disband the group.

Mr Atterwill reported that he had attended the Development Control meeting at Breckland regarding the application by Dr Kaushal to amend the S106 agreement attached to the proposed high dependency units. The decision by the committee was that the amendment to the s106 was denied and a new application must be submitted.

7. Old Village Hall & Car Park

a) To receive an update on sale of land

Mr Atterwill reported that the previous purchaser had been forced to withdraw from the sale due to having funding withdrawn from his bank after uncertainty in the financial markets. The next highest bidder was still interested in the land and the Parish Council had received £500 as a non refundable deposit from this purchaser. It was anticipated that the sale should go through by the end of November.

b) To agree a procedure for distribution of old village hall funds

It was agreed that as soon as the sale goes through for the hall, the village is to be told what funds are available for capital projects and that project authors should be invited to put forward their plans for consideration for funding. There should be no timescale on when the funds should be spent as this would restrict people.

Mr Clegg and Mrs Walden left the Room

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

The Meeting Was Suspended to Allow Mrs Andrews to Speak

Mrs Andrews advised that the only reason that the deed had not been signed by the cottage owners is that the map on the deed differed from the map received from land registry. Parking on the 'nib' of land that was currently unregistered was not an issue.

The Meeting Resumed

It was agreed that the clerk should instruct Nicholas Hancox to use the map as defined by land registry, with the Right of Way marked. The council is empowered to designate this route because it is a 'private' right of way being granted by a private owner (parish council) and the cottage owners. This is not a 'public' right of way.

Mr Clegg and Mrs Walden Re-entered the Meeting

8. 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 top of Bedingfield Road and also on Wensum Gardens.

b) To receive an update on street lighting project

Mr Atterwill reported that TT Jones had installed the first sixteen columns, starting at middle camp and the Bedingfield Estate. EDF then have to do the energy transfer. Norfolk County Council is waiting for a response from EDF on the VAS for middle camp.

9. Highways

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

The clerk reported that Norfolk County Council was currently denying responsibility for the repair of the traffic bollard on the triangle opposite Darbys. The clerk is to escalate to Jason Glasspoole.

Mr Atterwill reported that Norfolk County Council had requested that the Parish Council comment on the extension of the 30mph speed limit past the houses on Woodgate Land. Mr Atterwill proposed that the council should be in favour of this extension, Mrs Walden seconded, all in favour.

10. Quality Council

a) To receive an update on the Quality Council Project

The clerk reported that the CiLCA portfolio had been submitted and there was an estimated six weeks wait for the results. There had been a good response to The Mardler and a good response from Breckland District Council publishing an article on their website regarding the village winning the Pride of Norfolk award. Pictures have been sent to Breckland in hope that this article will be published in the next Breckland Voice.

11. Notice Boards

a) To establish key holders for all Parish Council notice boards

Mrs Thomas reported that there were originally seven keys for the notice boards. Now the Parish Council held two keys for all notice boards, bar the official Parish Council notice board where only the

clerk held a key. The village hall also held a key for all notice boards bar the official Parish Council board and the board on Rectory Road

b) To consider lock changes and establish new key holders

It was agreed that lock changes would not be required and that a key should be cut for the Rectory Road board for the village hall management committee. This was on the understanding that all parties respected all notices on the boards and that notices for past events were removed on a timely basis.

12. Churchyard & Burial Ground

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

Mrs Thomas reported that the committee met on 17th September where it was reported that Mr Bone had resigned from the group. A working party had been established and they had cleared the ivy from the church wall and removed the old iron railings and also strimmed the ground. The turf had also been cut from Burial Ground in preparation for the memorial garden. The ground is to be left for the frost to break up the soil and then relatives and friends are to be invited to purchase a rose in memorial of their loved ones in the spring.

b) To agree on necessary requirements and funding to obtain a faculty for tree felling in churchyard

Mrs Thomas reported that the weed sycamores are becoming dangerous and the trees cut previously are now beginning to shoot. Mr Atterwill proposed that Tree Care should be instructed to cut down all the weed sycamores and the stumps ground down. Mr Perry seconded, all in favour.

13. Youth & Playground Equipment

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

Mr Atterwill reported that Adventure Playgrounds had installed the Lavenham multiplay equipment but had forgotten to order the springy toys and the play boards. Work should be started on these on the 10th October, but the cheque for the Safagrass will not be released to them until the work has been done. He also reported that the play bark for the village green and Gooseberry Hill had been delivered.

b) To consider instigating preliminary investigations for the transfer of play area land on Middleton Avenue from Breckland District Council to the Parish Council.

Clerk read the response from Breckland District Council after complaints had been received about the state of the play area on Middleton Avenue. Breckland District Council suggested a transfer of this land to the Parish Council as they have no plans for it.

Mr Atterwill proposed that the Parish Council reject Breckland's offer of the transfer of land due to the logistics of putting play equipment on the land. Mrs Thomas seconded, all in favour.

14. Commons, Open Spaces & Environmental

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

Mr Northall stressed that the council should be taking a lead on environmental issues in the village, providing venues for roadshows promoting 'green' issues and also considering wind turbines and solar technology.

The working group had met on 7th October to review the common lands. He reported that that the entrance to Mill Common had become overgrown but funds from Natural England from the HLS scheme will help with accessibility. All such HLS funding must be applied for by the Parish Clerk. The four cattle are due to be removed from the land in October, as per the HLS management plan. The ditch required clearing and volunteers are required for working parties on 10th and 17th November.

A response is awaited from the Rivers Authority as to whether funding will be available to construct a disabled access for anglers.

Access to CL165 (Little Common) will be addressed after the issues with Mill and Burgh commons.

15. Correspondence

Mr Northall referred to the survey from Norfolk Wildlife Trust to identify large trees (those that two adults cannot stretch their arms around) and suggested that this information should be passed onto the tree warden.

Mr Atterwill reminded Councillors that the precept must be in by 12th December so they should now be considering items for inclusion in the 2008/2009 budget.

The Meeting was Suspended

County Councillors Report

Mrs Floering-Blackman was pleased to see that the pedestrian crossing was now operative. She stressed that large farm vehicles must take care at the Town Street / Elsing Road junction so as to prevent damage to street signs.

District Councillors Report

Mrs Millbank felt that the idea of the plaque for the Pride of Norfolk award was a good one. She reported that there will be a civic ceremony for the returning Light Dragoons on 19th November, marching from the Cherry Tree to the Territorial Army Hall.

Items Raised Under Public Participation

- The ownership of the road running up to the bakery and whether this should be registered as ancient highway.
- Harkers Lane being classified as 'Town Street'. Mrs Millbank is to raise this to Breckland District Council.
- There were no other areas of Common Land, only a small piece of land that the Parish Council actually owns.

The Meeting Resumed

16. Any item to be reported for the next agenda

Decision from village hall management committee in relation to management of the hall.

17. To confirm the date & time of next meeting to be held on Monday 12th November 2007 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

All in favour

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

_____ (Chairman) _____ Date