

Swanton Novers Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 22nd July

2024 at 7.30pm

SWANTON NOVERS NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 16th September 2024.

Councillors Present: Cllr. Chris Armstrong, Cllr. Gary May, Cllr. Jenny Anderson, Cllr Shaun Doncaster, and Cllr. Virginia Riseborough.

2024/031

Apologies for absence – County Councillor Steffan Aquarone, District Councillor Mike Hankins.

2024/032

- **To receive declarations of interest** – None

2024/033

Public Forum-

- Local parishioners were in attendance.
- Members of the public raised the comment regarding the continued issue of flooding that keeps occurring within the village. The flooding seems to start along The Street and continues flow along the road to which it then flows down St. Giles Road and then accumulates outside the entrance to The Old Rectory. Concerns were raised regarding the severity of the volume of water that has not been able to flow away and therefore causing an issue for cars being unable to drive down the road due to the depth of water.
- There is a culvert that is in place that flows from the drain on St. Giles Road and flows out from the road and comes out at the bottom of the play park. The issue of the flooding has already been reported to NNDC and to Anglian Water (AW) previously, AW have attended the village and have started to investigate why the issue is occurring. The large volume of water which is due to the excessive rain has highlighted the issue, standing water creating a large puddle of water is not dispersing quickly enough and is being investigated.
- Old Bell (Holt Road) again a drainage issue due to the excessive volume of rain received has created a large puddle of water that is not dispersing and the drainage ditches that have been cleared of debris need to be readdressed again to allow the water to flow away and not leave the roadway covered by standing water.
- Speeding- It was commented that there has been a marked increase in speeding within the village, mainly drivers using the village as a cut through from the main road and courier drivers ignoring the speed signs, it was asked if there is any action being taken?

2024/034

Reports from District/County Councillors -

- District Councillor Mike Hankins did not attend the meeting. There were no reports available as these had been issued at the June Parish Council Meeting.

2024/035

Matters arising from the meeting held on Monday 17th June 2024.

- All other matters are agenda items.

2024/036

- **To sign as correct - The minutes from the Parish Council meeting held Monday 17th June 2024.**
- The Minutes were signed as correct by the Chair, Parish Councillor Chris Armstrong, and the Parish Clerk Jason Crowe.

2024/037

Matters arising from correspondence.

- **Swanton Road Junction with B1354-** The length of the grass at the junction has been commented on that this is now at a length where it is impossible to see oncoming traffic approaching from the right. Although the Parish Council does understand the reasoning behind the grass has been left to grow to allow biodiversity within the Parish, it is noted that the safety of the public must come first, and the grass should be cut back to allow the view of the road and oncoming traffic must take precedence.
- The Parish Clerk is to contact Astley estate to see when the intention of the trimming of the grass is scheduled to make sure the safety of the public is put first, and the view is improved.
- It was also noted that further correspondence had been received regarding the view of the traffic being impaired around the bend at the Gallowhill Lane/ Hempit Triangle due to the length of the grass on the banking.
- The Parish Clerk is to add this to the email to Astley Estate also regarding the intention of the trimming of the grass.
- There has been correspondence and verbal information given to the Chair regarding the no mow till September initiative. Councillor Armstrong put it to the PC that we had to listen to parishioners concerns regarding this and proposed that we acknowledge this in the Newsletter. She also suggested that verges can be cut and the village green also. This was voted on and all agreed.
- All other correspondence has been passed on to Councillors.

2024/038

The Parish Partnership 2024/25- Local Highway improvements funding.

- Norfolk County Council have launched the latest funding scheme regarding support to Parishes for 2024/25 in applications for support with improvements in their Parish. This can include ways to tackle speeding including Speed Awareness Mobile Signs (SAMS). As per the comments made by the public at this meeting it was stated that the Parish Council were already aware of the increase in speeding drivers in the village and are actively looking to get funding from NCC to aid the purchase of a mobile speed awareness camera to deter speeding within the village.
- A vote was taken by the Parish Councillors as to whether it would be deemed necessary to apply for funding for such a device, a unanimous vote by all Parish Councillors was carried that an application should be submitted to the NCC for funding for this.

2024/039

Dog Waste Bin – St. Giles Road update.

- The new Dog Waste Bin that was applied for with North Norfolk District Council has now arrived and will be installed shortly at the bottom of St. Giles Road. A wooden post will need to be installed to allow the installation of the bin and this will be completed shortly and then NNDC will be contacted to set up the contracted emptying of the waste to be completed by SERCO wastage company.

2024/040

Affordable Housing update- Gary May- Swanton Novers Community Land Trust

- Gary May was able to attend the meeting to update the Parish Council on the Affordable Housing project. Parish Councillor Gary May stated that very little progress had been made since the last meeting due to the Nutrient Neutrality policy regarding the new developments and hopefully an update will be provided at the next Parish Council Meeting in September.

2024/041

Planning.

- Currently no new planning applications are present for Swanton Novers.

2024/042

St. Giles Road – Flooding/Drainage

- The increased amount of rainfall that has occurred during the early part of the year has resulted in excessive amounts of water flowing down the roads and especially in the village and accumulating along St. Giles Road and has caused increased volumes of water outside the entrance to The Old Rectory. This was also raised in the Public Forum this evening by concerned residents.

- A complaint has already been logged with NNDC and an attendance by the authority would be actioned within 6 weeks of this. At the time of the Parish Council meeting, it was believed that the visit had already taken place. The Parish clerk was to contact NNDC to confirm this and to discover the actions that were to be taken to rectify the problem.

2024/043

Working groups – Update:

- **Communications** – Cllr Chris Armstrong- Village Newsletter. Chris Armstrong and Hazel Mindham are submitting content to Fakenham Prepress who print the village newsletter. It was asked by Parish Councillor Chairperson Chris Armstrong whether any parties around the table would be able to assist in the collection of the Parish Newsletter occasionally.
- **Governance structure – Policies, Cllr Jenny Anderson-** Policies are currently being reviewed by the Parish Council for ratification. Biodiversity Policy to be reviewed over the summer period. Risk Assessments to be worked on during the summer period.
- **Biodiversity Duty Development Group-** Parish Councillor Ginny Riseborough. The Parish Councillors are working on the requirements that will be needed to create the biodiversity policy within the parish and objectives that will meet the requirements of the Biodiversity Duty. Parish Councillor Ginny Riseborough is to send out the draft copy of the Biodiversity Policy to all Parish Councillors to review and so this can be discussed at a future Parish Council meeting.

2024/044

Financial report and payments for approval.

- Parish Clerk presented the finances and the status of the Parish Council accounts.
- Authorise payments that are currently in need of approval.
- **Agar Audit 2024-** The paperwork has been completed and the paperwork has been audited and checked. The Parish Council chairperson to sign the audited accounts with the Parish Clerk. The dates of the Public Examination period to be posted publicly and on the Parish Council website. These dates must be for a period of 30 working days (Mon-Fri) and must include the first working days of July 2024.
- Auditor of the Parish Council accounts Mr M. Walsh completed the audit but wanted to note that suggestions for the Parish Council to be made aware of that costs should be monitored closely as the current precept amount received was very close to the expenditure that was used by the Parish Council. The current rate of increase in the application for the precept was not sufficient if costs continued to increase so all costs/ donations would have to be reviewed to ensure the financial stability remains for the Parish.

2024/045

Items from Councillors and registered electors to be considered for inclusion on the agenda for the next Parish Council Meeting.

- Parish Partnership application 2024/25
- Biodiversity policy for PC meeting in September and working group.
- Village Bench
- Roadside verge cutting within the Parish
- Potholes.

2024/046

- **Close Meeting**
- There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Chair

Date.....

Clerk.....