

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF SWANTON ABBOTT HELD ON 27th. JULY 2021 at 7.00p.m. in the VILLAGE HALL, SWANTON ABBOTT.

PRESENT –Cllrs. Haden (Chair), C Belsham, R. Gee, G Green, R Talbot & M. Vaughan, the Clerk G Kimmerling & 9 members of the public. NCC & NNDC Cllr. Penfold will attend later.

Open session for members of the public to speak.

Cllr. Gee explained that hand sanitiser and face masks were available and the doors and windows were open to mitigate against Covid 19. The Clerk recorded all those present.

The Parish Council was asked what it intended to do about the pub closure. It should take it forward and keep it as an asset to the Community.

4 years ago the PC had the opportunity to explore development in the village. It is hoped that the PC will make a judgement on any future development on behalf of the whole village as new families are needed to help the school and keep the village viable. Cllr. Haden replied saying the PC had listened to both sides and decided that the proposed development was too big. It was much bigger than the one shown to the public during the consultation.

	AGENDA	<i>Action</i>
21.42	<p>a. <u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Cllr. Brown – on holiday b. <u>DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.</u> None c. <u>TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MAY 18TH. 2021</u> Resolution. Proposed by Cllr. Belsham, seconded by Cllr. Talbot & agreed by the Parish Council to accept the Minutes of the meeting held on May 18th. 2021 as a true record. These were then signed by the Chairman. d. <u>CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS HELD ON ZOOM:- SEPTEMBER 8 2020; NOVEMBER 10 2020; JANUARY 1 2021; MARCH 9 2021 & APRIL 6 2021.</u> The Chairman will sign these at the end of the meeting.</p>	
21.43	<p><u>CLERK'S REPORT AND UPDATE ON ITEMS FROM THE MINUTES</u> a. The Clerk reported that it is not possible for the Parish Council to have a bank card as there has to be two signatures. b. The date for the public examination of the accounts has now passed and no-one asked to view them. c. A letter was sent to Victory Housing regarding concern at the sale of No. 17 The Poplars but there had been no response. Cllr. Gee explained that it was too costly to improve older Council houses and these were therefore sold and the money used to buy new properties.</p>	
21.49	<p><i>Cllr. Penfold could not attend until later so it was agreed to bring forward Agenda item 21.49.</i> <u>TO CONSIDER THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECENT CLOSING OF THE JOLLY FARMERS PUB.</u> Cllr. Haden explained that the pub had closed with no notice. He had tried to contact the landlord several times and eventually received an e-mail from Mr. Christman who referred him to the pub's Facebook page and asked him to respect his privacy. The pub is registered as an Asset of Community Value which means:- local groups have the first chance to purchase if the pub is up for sale; there are no conditions on the property while it is still owned by the landlord; NNDC Planning will decide on any request for Change of Use; the landlord cannot use the downstairs area for private use but can use the kitchen. An e-mail had been received from Eastlaw at NNDC saying the landlord had confirmed that the pub is currently closed for an</p>	

	<p>unspecified period of time but had not yet made the decision to close permanently. The pub will remain on the Council's list of ACV's until they receive written confirmation of permanent closure.</p> <p>Cllr. Haden asked how long the pub could be closed for 'temporarily' and felt the landlord should be made aware of public feeling. 17 letters/e-mails supporting a pub in the village had been received. The Clerk read out a precis of these:-</p> <p>The opening hours have gradually decreased and it was not welcoming, loss of the pub makes the village less attractive to buyers and erodes community spirit; many people have indicated they would use the pub if it was open regular pub hours and was welcoming with better products on offer; it is the irreplaceable loss of a facility which, if retained, promoted and professionally run, would be a great asset to all residents; the PC had previously said it was up to the landlord to open as he saw fit but the circumstances have radically changed as more residents want new ownership than those prepared to support the current incumbents. The PC needs to inform and receive feedback from residents who may not be aware of the background; the Jolly Farmers was a vibrant pub before the current landlords who have driven off the customer base, Darts teams & Pool teams, the village needs this pub to stay open.</p> <p>Cllr. Belsham did not think the PC could do a lot a present. She said the key word is 'Public House' and would expect the landlord to be welcoming and keep the pub open. It held good events when the landlord first came to the village but there has been a shift in attitude over time. The PC should pull together to keep the pub.</p> <p>Cllr. Talbot agreed that the village needs a pub and doesn't understand what has happened. The landlord needs to be made aware of public feelings. He asked if there was a way forward – putting in a manager or buying the pub. The PC needs to talk to the landlord.</p> <p>Cllr. Gee agreed with these comments. Central Government has given grants up to £30,000 to keep businesses open. How long should we live in limbo?</p> <p>Cllr. Green felt the PC needed to come up with a way to work with the landlord.</p> <p>Cllr. Vaughan said he had been supporting the pub to try to keep it open but felt the landlord was unlikely to co-operate with the PC.</p> <p>Cllr. Haden suggested summarising the letters, e-mails and public views, sending this to the landlord and inviting him to a meeting with the councillors. Cllr. Penfold could be asked to assist. This was agreed and it was stated that the Parish Council is 100% committed to keeping the pub in the village.</p>	
21.45	<p>APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON VARIOUS BODIES.</p> <p>The following roles had been agreed by the councillors before the meeting:-</p> <p>Cllr. Haden:- IT, Website, Defibrillator, Newsletter</p> <p>Cllr. Talbot:- Tree planting scheme, Speedwatch</p> <p>Cllr. Vaughan:- Drainage, SNAP, Village Improvement</p> <p>Cllr. Belsham:- Highways, Rights-of-Way, Dog Bins</p> <p>Cllr. Gee:- Broadband, Mobile phones, Bottle Bank, Village Hall</p> <p>Cllr. Brown:- Older Generation initiatives, Planning, The Revels, Internal Auditor</p> <p>Cllr. Green:- Younger Generation initiatives, Village events co-ordinator, Green issues.</p> <p>No-one has taken on the phone box so this will be advertised for members of the public to take on. The Clerk will take responsibility in the meantime.</p>	

21.46	<p><u>FINANCES</u></p> <p>a) <u>TO CONSIDER THE PRESENT FINANCIAL POSITION</u> The Clerk had produced up-to date accounts. £30 had been refunded from overpayment to Mrs. Howlett for checking the Play Park; £150 had been received for adverts in the Abbott and 11p interest had been accrued.</p> <p>b) <u>TO CONSIDER AND RESOLVE WHETHER TO APPROVE OUTSTANDING INVOICES FOR PAYMENT.</u></p> <p>Resolution. Proposed by Cllr. Gee seconded by Cllr. Belsham and approved by the Parish Council to pay the following invoices. The following payments were paid on-line before the meeting:-</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Community Action Norfolk</td> <td>Insurance</td> <td>£235.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Deborah Haden</td> <td>s137 for wild flower seeds</td> <td>£ 50.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wesleyan Chapel</td> <td>Hire of Hall</td> <td>£ 10.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SR Print & Design</td> <td>Newsletter</td> <td>£158.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GM Window Cleaning</td> <td>Bus shelter windows</td> <td>£ 30.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mrs R H Leggett</td> <td>Consultancy for Village Plan</td> <td>£912.60</td> </tr> </table> <p>The following payments were authorised to be paid on-line:-</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>G Kimmerling</td> <td>Clerk's salary</td> <td>£328.66</td> </tr> <tr> <td>G Kimmerling</td> <td>Clerk's expenses</td> <td>£ 20.08</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NNDC</td> <td>Emptying Doggie Bins (VAT £109.20)</td> <td>£655.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nick Hindle Stonemasons Plaque</td> <td>(vat £87.00)</td> <td>£ 522.00</td> </tr> </table>	Community Action Norfolk	Insurance	£235.40	Deborah Haden	s137 for wild flower seeds	£ 50.00	Wesleyan Chapel	Hire of Hall	£ 10.00	SR Print & Design	Newsletter	£158.00	GM Window Cleaning	Bus shelter windows	£ 30.00	Mrs R H Leggett	Consultancy for Village Plan	£912.60	G Kimmerling	Clerk's salary	£328.66	G Kimmerling	Clerk's expenses	£ 20.08	NNDC	Emptying Doggie Bins (VAT £109.20)	£655.20	Nick Hindle Stonemasons Plaque	(vat £87.00)	£ 522.00	
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21.47	<p><u>PLANNING</u></p> <p>a) <u>TO CONSIDER ANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS.</u> PF/21/1481Horton, Long Common Lane. Demolition of existing rear kitchen and front entrance porch and erection of side storey rear and side extensions and front porch. This was approved by the Parish Council before the meeting.</p> <p>b) <u>TO NOTIFY OF ANY PLANNING DECISIONS BY NNDC</u> None.</p> <p>c) <u>TO CONSIDER ANY OTHER PLANNING ISSUES</u></p> <p>1. <u>UPDATE ON EXCEPTION HOUSING SITE FOR SWANTON ABBOTT</u> Cllr. Haden explained that the Community Housing Enabler from NNDC, Anna Clarke, had approached the PC regarding Exception Housing in the village. The policy states that it can be for a maximum of 10 properties for people on a local needs list. He stressed that this was totally different from the previous scheme. There are three criteria:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) There must be a landlord willing to sell with a suitable site. There are potentially 2 sites in the village. 2) There must be a Housing Association involved. One has expressed interest 3) The community must support the scheme. <p>The situation regarding the previous proposed development had been explained to Ms Clarke. She had also been asked to consider a Village Green and the possible re-location of the Play Park in any scheme. The village could have greater control of any development via a Community Land Trust.</p> <p>2. <u>TO CONSIDER AND AGREE A COMMUNITY CONSULTATION PROCESS.</u> Anna Clarke would set up a consultation in the Village Hall and would provide a questionnaire to reach out to the community. NCC & NNDC Cllr. Penfold arrives. Cllr. Gee felt this should be in from September as people could be on holiday.</p> <p>Resolution. Proposed by Cllr. Haden, seconded by Cllr. Roland and agreed by the Parish Council to facilitate a Public Consultation on Exception Housing.</p>	<p>Cllr Haden</p> <p>Page 278</p>																														

21.44	<p><u>NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT AND NORTH NORFOLK DISTRICT REPORT</u></p> <p>Cllr Penfold mentioned the North Walsham West proposed development which includes 1800 houses and a link road from the Cromer Road to the industrial estate. The initial consultation is finished and NNDC are awaiting feedback. The plans include a primary school, doctor's surgery & green spaces etc. NNDC has an Environmental Charter online with plans to be zero carbon across all NNDC offices etc. by 2030.</p> <p>Cllr. Penfold was elected to NCC in May and attended the meeting on June 7th. re the Norwich NDR link road continuation. This was a heated meeting as the route passes through triple SSI areas and mature woodlands. He voted against it but the proposal was voted through convincingly. £40m will come from NCC & £160m from Central Government but NCC need to cut £40m from their next budget so other areas will suffer.</p> <p>The old Council offices in North Walsham are not being sold and will be back In community use.</p> <p>Cllr. Haden said he was very surprised that the culvert in the Aylsham Road is privately owned. The PC will contact adjoining land-owners and Cllr. Penfold agreed to take this further after this.</p> <p>Cllr. Talbot asked if there is a timeline for the North Walsham development. It is in the Local Plan but will not happen soon.</p> <p>Cllr. Belsham mentioned the disruptive roadworks around Norwich has meant people have had to go through the city centre. The A47 was closed in different areas on various days without warning. She will e-mail these concerns to Highways. Cllr. Penfold said local councillors had also asked for more warning of road closures.</p>	
21.48	<p><u>HIGHWAYS AND DRAINAGE</u></p> <p>a) <u>UPDATE ON DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PLAN</u></p> <p>.1. <u>OWNERSHIP OF CULVERT</u>. Covered under 21.44</p> <p>b) <u>UPDATE ON HIGHWAYS WORK IN THE STREET</u>.</p> <p>A month ago a lot of work was carried out in The Street and Highways are coming back to level off the road from the Aylsham Road junction to Holly House on 10th/11th August. They will change the camber of the road so that water flows into the new gullies.</p> <p>c) <u>UPDATE ON ANGLIAN WATER RELATED ISSUES</u></p> <p>There was a meeting on 29th. June to discuss the problems including unflushables in the system. Various actions were agreed and a new pump is being trialled.</p> <p>Cllr. Vaughan mentioned that the hole in The Street is getting worse.</p>	
21.50	<p><u>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</u></p> <p>a) <u>UPDATE ON THE REVELS</u>.</p> <p>Cllr. Talbot gave a report. The day will begin at 9a.m. with a craft event at the Village Hall until noon. Stalls cost £10. There will be a cake stall and refreshments in the Hall and Debi Haden welcomes donations of cakes etc. Beating the Bounds walk from the village sign will begin at 10.30. The route is approx. 6 miles and route maps will be available. There is a 'bring a pic-nic' on the field opposite to the common from 12 noon with a beer tent, face-painting & ice-cream. The Revellers from Swanton Abbott will play their debut concert here from 4 to 6p.m. and it is hoped a food outlet will be available. The Jolly Farmers will be open during the afternoon and evening and their car park will be available. Any profit will be held for future Revels events. Volunteers are needed to help with clearing up at both venues. There will be more details in the Newsletter. Gazeboes are needed for the craft event.</p>	

	<p>Cllr. Belsham noted that the landlord has agreed to take part in the Revels and open the Jolly Farmers that day. She wondered how people would react to that and suggested the landlord may just want to get rid of his beer. <i>A member of the public said they felt that the landlord had treated everybody in the village very badly and would therefore not support this event.</i> Cllr. Belsham said she may still have a personal licence and would be prepared to run a beer tent on the day. It was felt that people could boycott this event so this Information will be given to the Revels committee. b&c) <u>VILLAGE ENGAGEMENT TEAM AND YOUTH INITIATIVES.</u> Cllr. Green was welcomed onto the Parish Council. His aim is to co-ordinate community events and publicise these, possibly via a Google calendar. He is a music teacher and wants to reach out to the young people in the village and get them involved. There is a lack in Norfolk to access to cultural events so a community mini bus is a possibility.</p>	<p>Cllrs. Haden/ Talbot</p>
21.51	<p><u>COMMUNICATIONS</u> a. <u>BROADBAND AND MOBILE PHONE UPDATE.</u> Cllr. Gee is pursuing a solution with EE to offer a better mobile signal. Long Common Lane was recently closed for Openreach to implement fibre services to Scottow. There are two new Ultrafast Broadband schemes called Project Gigabit being rolled out giving fibre to premises. The schemes will be managed by local authorities across the country. The public reviews are underway to mid September and the Procurement stage starts next year until mid 2022. Following the contract award, work to deliver Ultrafast Broadband will take several years. A supplier named UPP has £1b funding to deploy full fibre to 1m premises in eastern England in rural locations with Norfolk being one of the first. We also have another scheme, Openreach Rural Build covering 115,000 premises (35%of all Norfolk properties)The rest will be covered by BBfn or Project Gigabit. BT are pushing Broadband providers to offer full-fibre services to all their customers. b. <u>UPDATE ON THE ABBOTT</u> The next issue will be out in the first weekend of August.</p>	
21.52	<p><u>FOOTPATHS AND GREEN ISSUES</u> a) <u>UPDATE ON TREE PLANTING SCHEME</u> This will start in October and about 4000 trees will be planted in various locations in the village. A large area has been cleared on the common land. The Forestry Commission will mastermind the planting but volunteers are needed to help. b) <u>UPDATE ON SPEEDWATCH</u> This is happening once a week in Long Common Lane and the Aylsham Road and 4 or 5 people are caught speeding each time. The school has Informed parents about the Speedwatch scheme. More volunteers are needed.</p>	<p>Page 280</p>

21.53	<p>ON-GOING ISSUES <u>TO REPORT AND RESOLVE, WHERE POSSIBLE, ON-GOING COMMUNITY ISSUES.</u></p> <p>a. <u>VILLAGE PLAN UPDATE</u> This has been completed and a final report produced by an independent person. It will be available as a digital download on the Website and also on the Community Hub. The Clerk to provide 30 paper copies initially. A summary of recommendations has also been produced which will be used by the PC to update it's Action Plan and made available as a living document on Google Docs for the Parish Council to use.</p> <p>b. <u>VILLAGE SIGN UPDATE</u> The plaque for the base of the Village sign has arrived. Cllr. Brown will sand and oil the sign which will then need a new post. Funds will be precepted for each year towards a new Village sign.</p> <p>c. <u>VILLAGE WEBSITE UPDATE</u> Cllr. Haden will send the Lo-Fi site map link to Councillors again.</p> <p>d. <u>TO AGREE ON THE NEW DOG BIN FOR THE VILLAGE HALL SITE</u> The 56 litre bin from the Bin Shop costing £223.79 +VAT had been approved. Resolution. Proposed by Cllr. Talbot, seconded by Cllr. Gee and agreed by the council to purchase this bin in red. The existing bin will be moved to the top of the footpath by the school.</p> <p>e. <u>TO CONSIDER IF IP SWEEPERS SHOULD BE USED AGAIN.</u> Cllr. Vaughan said Highways had already been using a sweeper in the village. He felt it should not be done again until after all the leaves had fallen so in February or March. It will be on the Agenda for January. 2 Quotes had been received for improving the footpath from the Village hall to Footpath Cottages:- £2250 & £2500 +£500 VAT. The Parish Council had not precepted for this work and it was felt it was too expensive. Cllr. Vaughan suggested the vegetation could just be scrapped off. Cllr. Vaughan also reported an overgrown hedge by The Poplars near The Street.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Brown</p> <p>Cllr Haden</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Jan agenda</p>
21.54	<p>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED</p> <p>a. <u>TO REPORT ON CORRESPONDANCE RECEIVED.</u> E-mail stating that many footpaths were unusable. These have now been Cleared. E-mail asking why members of the public do not have the opportunity to speak at the end of the meeting. This is discretionary but there will be the chance to speak when time allows. E-mail re the development in North Walsham outlining possible impacts on Swanton Abbott and asking for the Parish Council's submitted comments. Clerk's and Councils Direct 136</p> <p>b. <u>DEFIBRILLATOR COURSE.</u> 5 people have expressed an interest in this course so far. 10 to 12 are needed to make it viable. Cllr. Vaughan was concerned that the Parish Councillors have been called liars in an e-mail. Cllr. Belsham thought the PC was very transparent but some things are confidential. Cllr. Gee felt the PC should challenge these accusations otherwise people might think they were true. Cllr. Talbot said the Co-option was all above board and legal; matters could be made worse and the PC needed to move on. Cllr. Haden said the PC needed to rebut the accusations.</p>	<p>Page 281</p>

The meeting closed at 9.00p.m. The next meeting is on September 14th .

Members of the public were invited to speak.

There is a suggestion that the country could go cashless. The mobile signal here is not good and there were concerns of what might happen in a power cut.

Cllr. Gee responded that in a power cut an old fashioned phone should be plugged into the jack-point enabling an active phone connection. (These phones can be purchased for around £10 on Amazon)

There had been a problem with a medical emergency in the middle of the night when the medics couldn't get through on a mobile number.

999 uses a GPS signal so this is always available.

Is the site for housing in the Aylsham Road large enough for a village green and play area? Yes it would be.