

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF SWANTON ABBOT HELD ON
14th. NOVEMBER 2017 at 7.00p.m. IN THE VILLAGE HALL, SWANTON ABBOTT

PRESENT – Cllrs. C Belsham (Chair), R Gee, S. Taylor, S. Underwood, M. Vaughan,
C. Haden & S. Howlett, the Clerk, G. Kimmerling, NCC Cllr. John Timewell, NNDC
Cllr. Glyn Williams & 26 members of the public.

Open session for members of the public to speak.

Members of the public were limited to 3 minutes.

Various people spoke on the village vote.

- 1) It was hoped the Parish Council would take on board the 'No' result although it was very close. In a democracy, this should sway the governing body. If the council voted the other way, the councillors should resign.
- 2) The Parish Council, as the elected body, should consider the best interests of the village. 48.9% gave support to the proposal. Many people believed that a sympathetic development was OK. There is talk of a much larger development. Believes there is sufficient support from the village.
- 3) Always said there was no need for a vote. Should now support the Parish Council and move forward as a village.
- 4) People were frightened to vote no as they believed if they didn't support the proposal, they would get a much bigger one. Many people said there was no need for a new village hall. Was the developer going to swap one village hall for another? People were confused.

Mr. Gilbey was asked to comment on behalf of the Village Hall Committee. He explained that the existing village hall site would be used for 3-4 affordable houses and this site would cover part of the cost of a new hall.

- 5) The land-owner has said that he would cover the costs of building a new village hall. The present site would be for houses for rent.
 - 6) There is no information on what will happen on the present village hall site. NNDC Cllr. Williams said there is a recognised need for affordable housing. The plans for the present village hall site has always been included in the original plan. The vote is about the principle of a development, the details would always come later.
 - 7) Results of the vote demonstrated support for the scheme. I agree with all the info from the supporters & some statements from 'the complete picture' info. The 'no' camp say that 'sympathetic development of land is acceptable but to change a greenfield to a housing estate is not.' If the 'no' voters agree with this then 66% of residents voted in favour. By supporting the scheme it will remove uncertainty & let NNDC decide. A 'yes' vote will take the scheme to the next stage with control, a 'no' vote could allow full development with no benefits.
 - 8). Were the garages in The Poplars sold to the developer? *No.*
 - 9). The infrastructure is not in place to support 4 houses on the present Village Hall site.
- Cllr. Vaughan said the pumping station has been upgraded and now can hold double the capacity.
- 10) If houses are built on the field will they be on main drains? There are problems in The Poplars and the drains have to be rodded weekly. *This is a problem for Anglia Water.*

NNDC Cllr. Williams said any drainage issues would be looked at as part of the Planning process – if it can't be resolved, the plans won't get through.

The Parish Council are taking part in the democratic process. The vote was based on a parish poll, it was not a referendum and is not binding. It resulted in a 50/50 split. The current proposal offers lots of community benefit. Under section

106 a developer must include some benefit such as affordable housing, money for schools, roads etc. However, the scheme in North Walsham has no affordable housing as the developer refused to build this but the scheme is still going ahead. The developers are winning on appeal.

NNDC will know in a few months if this site could be built on under the call for sites.

NCC Cllr. Timewell said Norfolk County Council is not involved in planning but any application would go to them for Highways to consider.

	AGENDA	<i>Action</i>
17.52	<p>a. <u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> None.</p> <p>b. <u>DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA</u> Item 17.57. Village Vote on the proposed development on land off Long Common Lane. Cllr. Gee on Village Hall Committee.</p> <p>c. <u>TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON OCTOBER 17th. 2017</u> Resolution. Proposed by Cllr. Taylor & agreed by the Parish Council to accept the Minutes of the meeting held on October 17th. as a true record. These were signed by the Chairman.</p>	
17.53	<p><u>CLERK'S REPORT AND UPDATE ON ITEMS FROM THE MINUTES</u> a) Speedwatch. The Clerk asked if any members of the public would be willing to take part in Speedwatch. Dr. Day & Mr. Gilbey volunteered. The Clerk will inform the co-ordinator.</p>	
17.54	<p><u>NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT.</u> NCC Cllr. Timewell said the county is sorting out next years' budget. There is a move to go back to the cabinet system. He is buying a Sam2 machine for all communities to use so this could be available to Swanton Abbott – contact Mr. Winnett at Highways. Cllr. Belsham said two new posts are needed in Long Common Lane for our Sam2 machine. Clerk to e-mail Cllr. Timewell by Friday.</p> <p><u>NORTH NORFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT.</u> NNDC Cllr. Williams said the Police have admitted that they got it wrong with the problems caused by Travellers in Cromer earlier in the year. There are new systems in place to prevent this happening again. NNDC are in discussions with the Police regarding cuts to the Police force including the loss of all PCSOs. North Norfolk is a very safe place to live and resources are being sucked out of the area to where they are needed more. If we lose the PCSO's, we lose local information so we need to keep a local Police force.</p> <p><u>POLICE REPORT</u> No report</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Page 160</p>

17.55	<p>FINANCES</p> <p>a) <u>To consider present financial position.</u> The Clerk had provided up-to date accounts. £1575.00 had been received from NNDC for the Sam2 machine grant. The cheque for this has not been presented yet.</p> <p>b) <u>To consider and resolve whether to approve outstanding invoices for payment.</u></p> <p>Resolution. Proposed by Cllr. Howlett & approved by the Parish Council to pay the following invoices:- The following cheques were dated 14/11/2017 & signed by Cllrs.Vaughan & Gee</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Chq. no 100891</td> <td>payable to G Kimmerling for Clerk's salary</td> <td>£ 234.67</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" 100892</td> <td>" G Kimmerling Clerk's expenses</td> <td>£ 31.30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" 100893</td> <td>" SR Print & design – Vote papers</td> <td>£ 80.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" 100894</td> <td>" SA Village Hall for hire of hall-vote</td> <td>£ 32.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" 100895</td> <td>" Wesleyan Chapel electricity Defibrillator</td> <td>£20.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" 100896</td> <td>" URM/UK/Ltd – bottle bank</td> <td>£ 10.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>(VAT £1.80)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>" 100897</td> <td>" Mrs. P Adams – officiating at vote</td> <td>£ 131.70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" 100898</td> <td>" BGM Services – annual maintenance</td> <td>£815.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" 100899</td> <td>" C Belsham – padlocks for Sam2</td> <td>£ 8.97</td> </tr> </table>	Chq. no 100891	payable to G Kimmerling for Clerk's salary	£ 234.67	" 100892	" G Kimmerling Clerk's expenses	£ 31.30	" 100893	" SR Print & design – Vote papers	£ 80.00	" 100894	" SA Village Hall for hire of hall-vote	£ 32.00	" 100895	" Wesleyan Chapel electricity Defibrillator	£20.00	" 100896	" URM/UK/Ltd – bottle bank	£ 10.80		(VAT £1.80)		" 100897	" Mrs. P Adams – officiating at vote	£ 131.70	" 100898	" BGM Services – annual maintenance	£815.00	" 100899	" C Belsham – padlocks for Sam2	£ 8.97	
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17.56	<p>PLANNING</p> <p>a.) <u>To consider any planning applications received.</u> –None.</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> – None.</p>	
17.57	<p><u>VILLAGE VOTE ON THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ON LAND OFF LONG COMMON LANE.</u></p> <p><i>The Clerk reported that some members of the Parish Council had received abusive, intimidating and threatening comments from members of the public. Such behaviour will not be tolerated and any future incidents, whether verbal, on e-mail or Facebook would be reported to the Police.</i></p> <p><i>Because of this behaviour, the Parish Council vote will be made as a paper vote.</i></p> <p>a) <u>To report the results of the Village Vote.</u></p> <p>The Clerk read out the following statement from the acting returning officer:- I, Patsy Adams, acting as Returning Officer for the Swanton Abbott Village Vote, declare the following result:-</p> <p>Total votes 246 Spoilt votes 3 Yes votes 121 No votes 122</p> <p>The Clerk read out a letter of support from a lady who could not vote and a letter from Swanton Abbott County Primary School reiterating their view in 2016 that 'more housing would be good for the village and the school, but access needs to be considered'. This view still stands at present.</p>	

	<p>The Chair read out a statement explaining that the results of the vote show that the village is split down the middle, which puts the Parish Council in a difficult position. The Parish Council had informed the land-owner and developer of the results of the vote. Since then the land-owner has said that if the Parish Council votes No, he will withdraw all offers of land to the parish. The developer has said that if the Parish Council votes No, he will go down The 'call for sites' route for a housing development only.</p> <p>If the Parish Council votes Yes, any development would include the offer of land for the village.</p> <p>A planning application will be made to NNDC.</p> <p>The Parish Council are voting In Principle on the development and the vote is not binding. They must consider what is in the best interests of the village.</p> <p>a) <u>To vote on whether the Parish Council is, in principle, in favour or against the proposed development on land off Long Common Lane.</u></p> <p>Cllr. Gee could not vote as she is on the Village Hall Committee.</p> <p>Each Councillor cast their vote.</p> <p>The Clerk read these and the result was :- 3 votes for the proposal and 3 votes against.</p> <p>The Chair declined to use her casting vote.</p> <p>This result will be passed on to the land-owner and developer.</p>	Chair
17.58	<p><u>HIGHWAY ISSUES</u></p> <p>Cllr. Vaughan said that the previous Highways engineer was going to do a Survey of the whole of The Street. The man-hole cover by The Poplars has not been repaired. The Clerk will e-mail this information to NCC Cllr. Timewell</p>	Clerk
17.59	<p><u>PLAY PARK</u></p> <p>a) <u>To consider if any further work needs to be carried out on the Play Park during the winter.</u></p> <p>Cllr Gee had inspected the Play Park and did not think there was any urgent work required.</p> <p>The trees have been cut back by the electricity wires. Norse will be asked to quote to cut these back further. Cllr. Vaughan & the Clerk will also check to see if any further work needs doing.</p> <p>Cllr. Belsham & the Clerk will check that Mrs. Schofield is still happy to Check the Play Park weekly.</p> <p>The Clerk will get a third quote to update and replace some of the equipment.</p>	<p>Clerk/ Cllr. Vaughan</p> <p>Clerk/ Cllr. Belsham</p>
17.60	<p><u>ON-GOING ISSUES</u></p> <p>Cllr. Taylor said there was a problem with loose dogs attacking other dogs on land near the school. The Police had been informed. There were other incidents where 7 loose dogs had caused problems. The Clerk will pass this information on.</p>	Clerk
17.61	<p><u>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED</u></p> <p>Clerks & Councils Direct issue 114</p>	
	<p>Cllr. Vaughan thanked the people who attended the wreath laying service at the church. It would be nice to have more people there next year.</p> <p>The next meeting will be on December 12th. to discuss the Precept Meeting closed at 8.10p.m.</p>	Page 162