

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF SWANTON ABBOTT
HELD ON OCTOBER 24th. 2016 IN THE WESLEYAN CHAPEL,
SWANTON ABBOTT AT 6.30 p.m

PRESENT – Cllrs. Belsham (Chair), M. Vaughan, S. Taylor, R. Gee, S. Underwood, C. Haden, the Clerk, G. Kimmerling, NCC Cllr. Timewell, NNDC Cllr. Williams, & 37 members of the public.

Cllr. Belsham welcomed everyone to the meeting. She explained that members of the public would be invited to speak after the Parish Councillor members had made their comments.

16.46	<p>a) <u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> None.</p> <p>b) <u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA</u> Cllr. Gee – Member of the Village Hall Committee Cllr. Underwood – lives close to the proposed development.</p>	
16.47	<p><u>RESPONSE TO THE PUBLIC COMMUNITY SURVEY ON THE PROPOSAL FOR A VILLAGE GREEN, VILLAGE HALL AND HOUSING OFF LONG COMMON LANE.</u></p> <p>To feedback the results of the Survey forms and to agree the Parish Council Response.</p> <p>Cllr. Belsham read out the Survey results which had been processed by 3 officers in the Democratic Services at NNDC.</p> <p>There were 151 responses – 3 were duplicates against, 2 were duplicates for & 2 were written by the same person. These were not included with the results. Of the 146 certified responses :- 96 against, 35 in favour, 15 neither for or against.</p> <p>Cllr. Belsham then gave her response. (Copy included in the minutes folder)</p> <p>The Clerk read out information on ‘The Call For Sites’ from NNDC for the new Local Plan.</p> <p>NNDC Cllr. Williams added that sites can still be put forward for this and that the Parish Council needed to keep an eye on possible future planning applications but that sites for affordable housing are needed in the area. He said the survey had given a clear indication of how people felt.</p> <p>Cllr. Haden said that the Parish Council had been acting independently. It had put the proposal from the developers on the table for everyone to view. He felt some of the issues raised in the survey could be addressed and was concerned that a future development could happen and there would be no village green or hall and more houses on the site.</p> <p>Cllr. Underwood said she had joined the Parish Council to help the village. Her son was moving away from Swanton Abbott as he could not afford to buy in the village. She understood both sides of the argument and was considering the residents wishes in her response.</p> <p>Cllr. Gee said the Village Hall Committee was struggling to hold events due to the size of the hall, lack of parking and no-where for children to play outside. They had recently lost some regular bookings because of this, even though the hall was cheaper. They also could not cater for disabled people.</p> <p>Cllr. Vaughan agreed with his fellow Councillors</p> <p>Cllr. Taylor said she didn’t live in the center of the village so was less</p>	<p>Page 128</p>

affected by the proposal. She was concerned with increased traffic as she felt the junctions along Long Common Lane were dangerous and could not cope with increased traffic.

Cllr. Belsham explained that she had joined the Parish Council to help improve life in the village. She said it had been important for all residents to have their say regarding the development. She understood peoples' concerns regarding sewerage and flooding and the Parish Council had met with Highways to point out the problems and a meeting would be arranged with Highways, Anglian Water, NCC Cllr. Timewell & NNDC Cllr. Williams to try to find solutions. The Parish Council does not have any powers to provide sewerage or drainage, only to maintain ditches & ponds.

The meeting was closed to allow members of the public to speak.

Various comments were made:-

The Parish Council were thanked for their work

Would there be another survey – No

Did not believe that the problems with surface water would be improved.

Badersfield has affordable housing.

The NNDC Exception Housing policy limits affordable housing to the local community.

The Village Hall has no disabled access or disabled toilets & has recently lost Buxton Girl Guides group as there is no outside area. The committee want a village hall to be a benefit to the village for the next 30 to 40 years. The current policy is for 25 houses to one hectare (2 ½ acres) The site is over 3 acres so there was concern that more houses could be built.

There is no infrastructure in the village for future development.

The survey could be used for a new Village Plan to be drawn up.

There had been mis-information about the present village hall. The facilities are not good enough. If improvements are to be made it is hoped that residents will support the hall in the future and help raise funds.

61% of the village did not respond to the survey.

The meeting was closed to the public and returned to the agenda.

Cllr. Belsham thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

The Parish Councillors were asked for their response to the survey. Cllr.

Gee was not allowed to vote. They all agreed to respect the majority decision of the survey and to oppose the development. The Clerk will inform the land owner & the developer.

Mrs. Vaughan pointed out that Cllr. Vaughan had spent many hours with various bodies trying to solve the surface water problems in the village.

BT Payphone Removal Consultation. The Parish Council agreed that the payphone is no longer used in the village but would like to consider the 'Adopt a Kiosk' scheme. The Clerk will inform BT.

Play Park – it was agreed by the Parish Council to get the maintenance team to distribute the bark onto the Play Park . The Clerk to arrange a date.

The meeting closed at 7.20p.m.

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