



## SWATON PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, January 19th, 2016 at 7.45pm in the Community Hut, Swaton.**

#### **PUBLIC FORUM, 7.30pm.**

Two members of the public addressed the council on various issues including: Maintenance of fence adjacent to park; sending details of faulty street lights via web site does work; Footpath across the field not yet been sprayed out and stile at the Pepper's Lane end has collapsed; West End – vehicles driving over the verges to get past parked vehicles has created a mud bath.

The Chairman thanked all for attending and opened the meeting at 7.50pm.

**PRESENT:** Cllrs A Deptford, (Chairman), A Dunlop, C Richardson, A Wilson and the Clerk, Mrs S McIntyre.

Two members of the public were present.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Cllr Mrs E Penketh. Her apology and reason was accepted.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/DISPENSATIONS.** Block exemption granted by the Clerk for matters in connection with the Swaton Play area.
3. **SIGNING OF THE MINUTES** - Clerks' Notes from the meeting of November 17th that these be accepted as Minutes.  
All agreed, the Resolution was passed, the Chairman signed the Minutes.

4. **COUNTY/DISTRICT/POLICE MATTERS.** Neither C/Cllr Young nor any Police representative was present. D/Cllr Mrs K Cook was not present but had submitted a report:-  
"Congratulations on the extremely impressive Annual Litter Picking report from Henk and his team!  
The Garden Waste Charge will be increasing from £25 to £30 in 2016/17  
I attended the County Council Budget Consultation Event in Sleaford. I urge everyone to keep a close eye on developments as County Council will have to make £40 million of cuts during 2016/17. The County Council budget will be set on 19th February 2016 – see County Council website for details.  
I attended the Performance and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting on 18th January which looked at the District Council's General Fund Target Budget 2016/17. The Panel recommended that the Target Budget be approved for consultation and that council tax be increased by 1.99% in 2016/17.  
We are still waiting to set a date for Anglian Water to attend the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting at the District Council regarding flooding and sewerage issues."

- Highways concerns were noted. The Chairman has met with LCC representatives. Environment Agency work is being currently being carried out along the road towards the A52. A road closure notice for LCC maintenance work to be carried out between mid-February and the end of March was noted.

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5. **PLAY AREA UPDATE.** Block Dispensation.  
A grant from Tesco has been applied for, other grants can't be completed until after a new consultation and new costs. Cllr Wilson is organising a working group of interested people of all ages and a 'Consultation Morning' in the Hut in the near future. He is updating the original quotes and revising some of the specifications. It seems that the removal of the power pole is underway and quotes are being obtained for some tree work.
6. **FLOODING ISSUES.** Cllr Richardson updated the meeting from a report published earlier this month. He explained some of the listed options and the costs involved. This report had been circulated around the village. Cllr Richardson will keep members informed of any developments.
7. **NEWSLETTER.** The Chairman explained that the Church had agreed to print the newsletter.
8. **SPEEDING ISSUES.** The Chairman explained that Cllr Mrs Penketh was looking at setting up a Community Speedwatch scheme to use the hand held speed gun.
9. **GRASS CUTTING.** The Chairman had contacted LCC and spoken to the current contractor about the grass cutting for 2016. Some verges to the North End are to be added to the areas to be cut. He had circulated an e mail explaining costs etc to all Councillors.  
It was proposed by Cllr Richardson and seconded by Cllr Wilson that the Chairman contact LCC and continue his negotiations about an increased grant. Also that he confirms a verbal quote from the Contractor, and if confirmed, then the work for 2016 is agreed. All agreed, the Resolution was passed.
10. **EMERGENCY PLAN.** The Chairman said that Mr Penketh and Mr Arnold were progressing with a new Emergency Plan and a final draft is nearly complete. This will be checked by an Emergency Plan representative before final submission. The Hut committee are looking at funding for the purchase of an emergency generator with sufficient power to support the Hut should the need arise.
11. **FINANCE –**
  - **Monthly report** from RFO. It was proposed by Cllr Dunlop and seconded by Cllr Wilson, that the report be accepted. All agreed, the resolution was passed.
  - **Budget 2016/17.** The draft budget was agreed by all present. This will mean a total of £2500 to be requested from NKDC as the village precept. Despite the NKDC contribution being reduced by more than 40%, the cost to a Band D property in Swaton will actually decrease by 0.52%, To £37.86. (£38.06 last year).
  - **Signing of Cheques and approval of BACS payments.**  
The following additional BACS payments were proposed by Cllr Wilson and seconded by Cllr Richardson and resolved.

Mrs S McIntyre	Expenses Nov/Dec	£23.00
Henk	Half year Litter collection	£37.50ibs
Electricians	Wiring Defibrillator	£193.96

The Chairman explained that the electrician's invoice for the Defibrillator will be shared equally between the PC, the Church, the Hut Committee and the Village Fund.

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- **Audit changes.** The 2015/16 financial year will see the end of the current external audit. The Clerk explained some of the implications for “smaller councils” (under £25k). There will be more emphasis on publishing financial details on the web site. Although exempt from external audit, it seems that a small annual charge will still be made to cover potential enquiries to the auditor from parishioners.
12. **CLERK’S REPORT AND UPDATES.** Details of consultation events.
- **SE Lincs Local Plan.** Details circulated, Swaton notified as an adjacent parish.
  - **Electoral review on Lincs.** Draft recommendations received. Consultation until Feb 8<sup>th</sup>. LCC reducing their councillors from 77 to 70, with one councillor per ward.
  - **HM Queen’s 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations.** Details of events are starting to be circulated.
13. **TRAINING.**
- LALC Training dates – any seminars etc of interest. LALC has asked that all Councillors to book via their Clerk and not directly to LALC.
  - LALC Training scheme – cost £50 to cover all training costs for 2016/17 except lunch fees for all day courses. It was resolved to join the scheme for the coming year.
14. **PLANNING:**
- 15/1134/FUL. Change of use bakery/deli and café and siting of chiller unit (retrospective) Thorpe Latimer. Permission granted. Noted.
  - Erection of two storey side extension - 1 School Cottages High Street Swaton Sleaford Lincolnshire NG34 0JP. The Council had no objections to the Plan.
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15. **LALC.** Latest LALC County Circular received. This had been circulated and was noted.
16. **URGENT MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION.** Any urgent matters which have occurred after the agenda was published – these can be discussed but no resolution can be made. The situation about some overhanging hedges was noted.
- Overgrown Beech hedge – owner to be consulted.
17. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Tuesday March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016.**

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.47pm.