



## SWATON PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, March 15th, 2016 at 7.45pm in the Community Hut, Swaton.**

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

An old wire bin has been removed. Pot holes –West End – some have been repaired. Children playing football around the ‘bus shelter late one Saturday night – the police attended, spoke to those involved, and are monitoring. There was some minor damage to the shelter – repairs are in hand.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.35pm.

**PRESENT:** Cllrs A Deptford, (Chairman), A Dunlop, C Richardson, Mrs E Penketh, A Wilson (7.43pm) and the Clerk, Mrs S McIntyre.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Cllr Wilson may be late.
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 January 19th that these be accepted as Minutes. Cllr Mrs Penketh seconded that these be approved as a true record. All agreed, the Resolution was passed, the Chairman signed the Minutes.
4. **COUNTY/DISTRICT/POLICE MATTERS.** No representative was present. D/Cllr Mrs Cook submitted a report as follows:

#### **Lincs County Council Budget**

County Councillors have put their share of the council tax up from April by 1.95% and have added an extra 2% adult care levy introduced by the Government. This is a total increase of 3.95%

Following the £7.8m additional one off funding from Government, there will be no reduction in road gritting, public transport subsidies and no closures of any children's centres, for two years.

#### **District Council Budget**

Direct government funding for councils such as North Kesteven will be cut to zero within four years, so the authority is looking to build up its financial resilience to ensure the continued delivery of a high level of services.

Members approved an increase of 3.41% in the District Council’s share of the Council Tax charge at the end of February. Although NKDC collects Council Tax, it ultimately takes only 9% of the overall bill.

#### **Anglian Water meeting**

Anglian Water attended a Panel meeting at NKDC but they were not able to answer the questions I had given them about Swaton (or many other questions that they had been sent in advance and put to them by other villages in NKDC). In particular, they didn’t know about planned maintenance scheduled for sewers in Swaton. They are supposed to be getting back to Members with answers and I believe we will be asking them to attend another Panel meeting.

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### Digital Hubs

There is interest in helping people to get online or improve their digital skills at community level, and a joint initiative between West Lindsey, City of Lincoln and North Kesteven councils is helping communities to support their residents to achieve this. Lynda Clark from West Lindsey District Council will be giving a presentation at the Tally Ho pub in Aswarby on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 19:00 as she would like us to work together to set up digital hubs in Osbournby Ward. Stephen Brookes, Lincs Broadband Programme Manager, will also be attending to discuss progress of the current project (Phase 2) and other technologies that will be used to cover the remaining areas including the satellite option.

It will be another “cluster meeting” with the various Parish Councils/Meetings in Osbournby Ward following the successful one last year about Neighbourhood Planning

5. **PLAY AREA UPDATE.** Block Dispensation.

The electric pole and overhead wires are now down. Cllr Mrs Penketh has met with tree surgeons and discussed tree work and costs. A conifer hedge on an adjoining neighbour’s land could potentially cause problems for the play area. It was agreed to discuss the matter with the landowner initially. The Vice Chairman researched the appropriate legislation.

The design and choice of equipment has been amended following the public open day.

Various contractors for equipment and surfacing have been approached.

A successful Tesco grant application will result in a minimum of £8000 which would cover the cost of the zip wire.

Other grant applications are being prepared. There is some interest in forming a committee, the Chairman said this would be necessary for the future management and maintenance.

6. **SPEEDING ISSUES.** Cllr Mrs Penketh has contacted various people and agencies, but there is little interest. A Community Speedwatch group may provide information for the Police, but there are insufficient police resources to investigate and pursue this.

7. **GRASS CUTTING.** The Chairman met with the contractor who agreed to cut the additional grass for a nominal sum. The grant from LCC may not be awarded in future years so additional future expenditure may have to be budgeted for. Councillors resolved to approve the additional sum for the contractor.

8. **EMERGENCY PLAN.** The Chairman said the working group had submitted a revised plan in February – then the requirements were changed slightly, so it was resubmitted. The WG will meet with the Emergency Plan experts and possibly a mock incident will be staged to test the plan.

Recent heavy rains increased to water levels and the road was flooded, but some bank clearance work has improved the water flow and no properties were affected. Residents who qualify for sand bags will be reminded through the newsletter to maintain their own supply as new ones are not issued for every occasion.

9. **BROADBAND** – Superfast coverage in the village not consistent. Some residents at the north end of the village do not have superfast broadband. Cllr Mrs Penketh found that they were connected to a ‘slow’ cabinet some distance from the village. The current programme does not allow for moving them. She will continue with her enquiries.

10. **FINANCE** –

- **Monthly report** from RFO. It was proposed by Cllr Dunlop and seconded by Cllr Deptford, that the report be accepted. All agreed, the resolution was passed.
- **Signing of Cheques and approval of BACS payments.**

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The following additional BACS payments were proposed by Cllr Wilson and seconded by Cllr Richardson and resolved.

Mrs S McIntyre	Expenses Mar/April	£23.00
LALC Subs (due 1/4/16)	Annual subs.	£87.57
LALC Training (1/4/16)	Annual Training subs	£50.00

- **Audit changes.** The decision as to whether to ‘opt in’ or ‘out’ of the new audit procedures is due by the end of March. It was resolved to ‘opt in’ and submit to an auditor appointed centrally rather than appoint our own.
- **Grants available to ‘smaller councils’.** At this stage the financial implications of complying with the ‘Transparency’ regulations are not fully known, so not applying at this stage.
- **LALC subs and Training scheme.** Resolved as at point 2 above.
- **Internal Auditor for 2016/7.** It was proposed by Cllr Wilson and seconded by Cllr Mrs Penketh that Mr Kerby be appointed as the Internal Auditor for 2016/7 if he is agreeable. All agreed, the Resolution was passed.

### 11. CLERK’S REPORT AND UPDATES.

- Clerk’s annual staff appraisal. 2015/6. The Vice Chairman went through the completed staff appraisal. This was accepted by the Clerk and the Councillors and signed.
- Electoral Roll – copies of current register of electors had been received and were distributed.
- Best Kept Village and Small Town competition – no interest for 2016.
- NKDC – Offering tree surveying and maintenance services. Cllr Mrs Penketh made enquiries as to the extent of this service.
- Environmental Awards – details circulated.
- Lincs Fire and rescue consultation – details circulated.
- Consultation – Lincs Street Works Permit scheme. Circulated - comments to the meeting please.
- Information re Community Emergency Wardens – circulated.
- Anglia Water’s Pollution prevention team – circulated.
- NK Outreach team 2016 mobile activity information sheets –n possible relevant to Swaton Vintage Day.
- Street Lighting – Changes. E mail received re changes to LCC street lighting. Lighting in Swaton is NKDC ‘footway’ lighting.
- National Grid – Viking Link. Swaton does not appear to be directly affected by this.

### 12. TRAINING.

- Training dates in latest County Circular. Cllr Deptford and the Clerk possibly interested in ‘Planning/Neighbourhood Planning’ at Carlton Scroop on May 24<sup>th</sup> – some clarification as to content and format needed.
- Funding and Information event Feb 9<sup>th</sup> – Cllr Mrs Penketh attended.

13. **LALC.** Latest LALC County Circular received. This had been circulated and was noted.

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### 14. PLANNING:

- Large ‘shed’ recently installed along High Street. This had been erected ahead of the building line and has been visited by the Planning Inspector. Planning permission is required and the owner has been informed.
- 16/0172/OUT. Erection of dwelling (outline) – land adj to the Old PO, West End. It was resolved that the Council has no objections to this, but will ask that, when full plans are submitted, the access into and out of the property and the visibility splay are looked at.
- 15/1531/HOUS. Amended plans. Erection of two storey side extension - 1 School Cottages High Street Swaton Sleaford Lincolnshire NG34 0JP. ‘No comments’ had been returned to NKDC planning.
- 16/0200/HOUS Alterations to porch and erection of a first floor extension – The Old School, High Street. Comments from a member of the public had been received and were noted. After discussion, the councillors resolved that ‘No Objections’ be returned to NKDC planning.

15. **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.

### 16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**MEETING – Tuesday May 17<sup>th</sup> 2016. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 7.30PM  
FOLLOWED BY ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISH COUNCIL AT 8PM OR SOONER.**

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.12pm