

SWATON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, November 17th, 2015 at 7.45pm in the Community Hut, Swaton.

PUBLIC FORUM, 7.30pm. 9 members of the public were present. Matters discussed were; Mud on the road in certain places and collapsed banks. Plastic pipes being burnt close to the road. Trees requested near one of the new benches. Recreation Park - concerns about possible changes to original design/layout and asked about future public consultation.

The Chairman thanked all for attending and opened the meeting at 7.56pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs A Deptford, (Chairman), C Richardson, Mrs E Penketh, A Wilson, D/Cllr K Cook, and the Clerk, Mrs S McIntyre.

One member of the public was present.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Cllr A Dunlop. His 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 September 15th, 2015, – accepting as Minutes. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Penketh, and seconded by Cllr Wilson that these be accepted as Minutes.
All agreed, the Resolution was passed, the Chairman signed the Minutes.
4. **COUNTY/DISTRICT/POLICE MATTERS.** D/Cllr K Cook spoke about the draft Local Plan – consultation ends Nov 25th. She noted that the fast broadband is getting closer to the village. Wiring was being installed at the time of this meeting.
 - Neighbourhood Planning meeting Wed 18th November. D/Cllr Mrs Cook encouraged councillors to consider a Neighbourhood plan – Cllr Deptford and possibly Cllr Mrs Penketh is attending this meeting.
5. **PLAY AREA UPDATE.** Block Dispensation.
 - Branch Trimming. Cllr Mrs Penketh said some inspections had taken place and one quote received.
 - LCC no longer has funding for dropping the kerb.
 - Overhead power lines. Cllr Mrs Penketh said she had discovered that the landowner can apply to Western Power to have these removed/repositioned and drafted a letter to be sent to the Crown Agents. It was agreed that the Clerk should send this as soon as possible.
 - There was further discussion about a grant application, revising the drawings and the previous quote. It was agreed that something ought to be in place for next season as the village needed to see some progress.
 - Working Group – the Chairman suggested that a working group be put together involving members of the public and young people.
 - Aim: The Chairman said that the aim of this group should be to prepare a grant application before the meeting on January 19th 2016.

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6. **FLOODING ISSUES.** It was noted that a hole dug for irrigation use was still there. A bank slip which was fenced – but the fencing has fallen into the adjacent ditch. In Bank Road some slippage is still there.
Cllr Richardson said that as of the end of this year the Flood Wardens will be disbanded. Contacts for flooding and for other village emergencies will be as per an Emergency Plan. Cllr Richardson said that although work started some time ago on a village Emergency Plan, it was not lodged so there are no contact details for Swaton. However, the Plan requirements have recently been simplified so all Plans would need re-submitting.
It was agreed to approach members of the previous E.P. group, try and discover what is needed for the current Plan and to prepare one as soon as possible.
7. **NEWSLETTER.** Cllr Mrs Penketh said that there had been some discussions with the Hut Committee and some quotes had been obtained. There was some discussion about the PC purchasing a printer and/or involving local groups and the Church.
Cllr Mrs Penketh said she would continue these enquiries.
8. **BENCHES.** These have now been installed as the various permissions from the Utilities and Highways had been obtained.
9. **SPEEDING ISSUES.** Cllr Mrs Penketh provided the results of a recent Archer survey. She said she would be registering with Community Speedwatch. After this a volunteer group needs to be formed to watch for and record details of speeding motorists.
10. **LOCAL PLAN ENGAGEMENT.** The Chairman and Clerk attended a briefing session. Consultation sessions have been held. Other Councillors had attended sessions.
11. **FINANCE –**
- **Monthly report** from RFO. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Penketh and seconded by Cllr Wilson, that the report be accepted. All agreed, the resolution was passed.
 - **Budget 2016/17** – draft had been circulated. There was some discussion about reserves and contingencies. It was resolved to maintain the requested Precept at £2,500 – the same as last year as NKDC would be withdrawing the direct grant either 2016/7 or the following year. The completed budget will be circulated for formal approval in the January meeting.
 - **Election costs** – PC share for May elections, £632.58 – to note.
 - **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.
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| Mrs S McIntyre | Expenses Sept/Oct | £23.00 |
| Continental Landscapes | Grass cutting | £103.56 |
| NKDC | Election expenses | £632.58 |
12. **CLERK'S REPORT AND UPDATES.**
- **C.A.B.** Update on merger with Boston CAB and request for donation. No donation agreed.
 - **Litter, leaves etc.** Some clearing has been carried out.
 - **DCLG Open and Accountable Local Government Guide 2014.** Link to document received. This was noted.
 - **Equality and Diversity Policy.** It was agreed this document was still fit for purpose.
 - **Broadband cabinets.** Cabling being installed at the time of this meeting.
 - **Improving mobile signals** – e mails from FMB Community network.

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- **Cracking Down on Fraud** – poster received.
 - **Dial a Ride** – Free Christmas services, poster received.
13. **TRAINING.**
- Planning/Neighbourhood plans – Wed Sept 30th: EP and AW
14. **PLANNING:**
- 15/0956/HOUS. Erection of 2 storey side extension, Eau Farm Cottage, Main Street. Permission granted.
15. **LALC.**
- Election to NALC for representative for smaller councils – no interest.
 - LALC membership fee scale for 2016/17 received – no increase for Swaton parish.
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.
17. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Tuesday January 19th, 2016.**

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.35pm.

Next Meeting:

Emergency Planning. Grass cutting – retain contractor for next season? Additional grass cutting North End.

Roadside verges and other promised Highways work.

Speeding issues.