

## MEETING OF SWANTON MORLEY PARISH COUNCIL

### MEETING MINUTES

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 AT 7.30PM

### SWANTON MORLEY VILLAGE HALL

**Councillors Present:** Mr R. Atterwill (Chairman), Mrs B O'Dowd (Vice Chair), Mrs A Walker-Fraser, Mr D Turner, Mr R Almond, Mr J. Rodrigues, Mr J Philips, Mr J Venworth.

**Also in attendance:** 2 members of the public

#### **Matters Raised Under Time Allocated to the Public**

A member of the public raised a query regarding Breckland Council's Local Plan as he had previously worked as surveyor for Ordnance Survey, taking archaeological surveys and has been on parish councils before. He found it difficult that there would be benefits to the local parishioners as a result of the pieces of land put forward for development. Mr Atterwill responded that the pieces of land put forward for development will be the subject of another consultation at the end of April, with a duration of approximately 6 weeks. Mr Atterwill explained the process for deciding on these pieces and work that the planning officers will do, to determine if they are developable or deliverable.

Another member of the public raised a query regarding highways and complained about the disgusting situation regarding potholes. He feels they should be repaired properly, not quick fixes. Mr Atterwill did a survey last year, took photos of all the potholes and potential potholes. Highways repaired 10% of those. It was reported that the general problem at the Z bends needs to be repaired.

#### **There was no County Councillor Present**

Apologies from Richard Duffield, no report or apology from county councillor Bill Borrett

#### **District Council report**

District Councillor Atterwill reported that Breckland Council will increase council tax by £4.95 for a band D property. There was scrutiny on the budget. There has been an inspiring Communities Fund announced which is based on achieving health outcomes. More information will follow in March or April. The Local plan review ends on Feb 19<sup>th</sup>, Breckland will then consider feedback and finalise.

#### ***The Meeting Went into Session***

##### **1. To Accept Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Kelly Pickard and Councillor Duffield, accepted by Council

##### **2. To Receive Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Turner & Councillor Venworth declared an interest in item 9c Allotments

##### **3. Minutes from the Parish Council Meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> January 202 to be Accepted, Initialled and Signed**

**Councillor Almond proposed that the minutes are accepted seconded by Councillor Turner and carried**

## Financial Year 2023/2024

### 4. Matters Arising from Minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 (For Exchange of Information Only)

None were raised

### 5. Minutes from the Parish Council budget meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 to be Accepted, Initialled, and Signed

Councillor Almond proposed that the minutes are accepted seconded by Councillor Venworth and carried

### 6. Matter arising from the Minutes of 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 (For Exchange of Information Only)

None were raised

## 7. Finance

### a) Accounts to Approve for Payment:

Payee	Detail	Payment Method	Total Amount Payable	Of Which VAT Reclaimable
Staff remuneration	PAYE Month 10	Bacs	£3635.18	
N Power	Electricity	Direct Debit	£257.64	£10.52
S2 Computers	IT Support	Direct debit	£173.05	£36.03
BT	Telephone	Direct debit	£118.39	
Resident	Hardship fund	BACS	£75.00	
Felthorpe Nursery	Jubilee Tree	BACS	£26.40	£4.40
Norwich Office Supplies	Ink/Paper	BACS	£80.82	£13.47
		<b>Total</b>	<b>£4366.48</b>	<b>£64.42</b>

Councillor Atterwill proposed that the payments are made seconded by Councillor , seconded by Councillor Rodrigues and carried

### b) Income to be reported

Income Received from	Details	Amount
HMRC	VAT Reclaim	£2315.22
Tenancies	Allotment holders	£1394.00
		£3709.22

Councillor Atterwill reported that the letters will go out to state that increase will be effective from Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2025.

## 8. Land and Planning

### a. To consider responses to Breckland District Council for any planning applications

None received

### b. To Receive Report on Planning Decisions by Breckland District Council

None received.

**c. To agree the Parish Council response to the Local Plan review consultation**

Councillor Venworth proposed to retain the settlement boundary seconded by Councillor Turner and carried.

Swanton Morley is a service Centre Village with a boundary. No comments from the Parish Council. Site Assessment.

Councillor Venworth proposed to add comments regarding the risk of flooding and the impact on flood plains also to query the weighting of the colour coding, seconded by Councillor Almond and carried

Local Plan Development Options. (These are the alternative scenarios).

Councillor Atterwill reported that at the meeting of 05/02/24, the alternative scenarios were reviewed. It was noted that the development of 2000 dwellings at Robertson Barracks will go ahead, after due process. Councillor Atterwill had circulated document Swanton Morley Amendment.pdf, which is the proposed response to the Local Plan Development Options.

Response to the Scenarios:

Scenario A: Does not include Barracks 80/20 split

Scenario B: Does not include Barracks 50/50 split

Scenario C: Includes Barracks 80/20 split, but unrealistic and not sustainable.

Scenario D: Includes Barracks 50/50 split, large amount of housing dispersed in villages, versus the market towns.

Scenario E: Does not include Barracks. Nothing in towns but large amount in villages, including villages with boundaries. Too much for the villages.

Scenario F: As E but with barracks, again too much in smaller villages.

SMPC have reviewed the scenarios but, after careful consideration, have decided to put forward the Swanton Morley Amendment document.

Councillor Almond proposed that the Swanton Morley amendment document is put forward seconded by Councillor Venworth and carried

Design guide:

Councillor Walker-Fraser proposed that the the content is noted and the Parish Council have no comments seconded by Councillor Rodrigues and carried

**9. To Consider Matters for Attention for the Following Parish Assets:**

**a) Churchyard at All Saints' Church**

**b) Swanton Morley Burial Ground**

A working party to prune rose bushes, tidy up will be arranged for the Spring.

- i) To receive an update on the wayleave for the water supply to the Burial Ground  
The Clerk is still working with the solicitors to finalise this

**c) Swanton Morley Allotments**

Councillor Turner reported that the site is still dormant, two pipes are split despite water being off since before Christmas. All pipes soldered and need to be changed to compression fittings.

The Clerk will contact the plumber to address the issue of the pipes around end of March

**d) Swanton Morley Open Spaces (Gooseberry Hill, Village Green and Davidson Park)**

- i) To receive an update concerning the work to be carried out to the Village Green trees

## Financial Year 2023/2024

Councillor Venworth reported that he has met with the coordinator of charity funding in Norwich and will be applying for further funding for the site.

Councillor Venworth reported that the prices for the extension to ability swing is £16,700 + VAT. A quote has been received to move the Nest swing and safety surfacing - £5,600 + VAT. Mr Atterwill reported that the trees on the Village Green will be trimmed this week.

### **e) Swanton Morley Common Lands**

The site is still too water logged to carry out any remedial work at Burgh Common.

### **f) Streetlights**

Councillor Atterwill reported that the new numbers are now on the columns that the Parish Council have adopted. The Council now have 101 street lights.

The Clerk will forward the updated sheet to Councillor Venworth.

### **g) Village Paths**

i. To receive an update on the surfacing required on Harkers Lane near the School

Councillor Atterwill met with a contractor who looked at the surfacing required outside the cottages to provide a quote for repair to the lane.

Previously the Local landowner had agreed to contribute to the cost.

The contractor also, looked at the village hall car park. This will be reviewed in March, in the meantime a working party is needed to do temporary repairs to car park.

### **h) Noticeboards**

Councillor Venworth had circulated his report ahead of the meeting, nothing further to report

## 10. Highways

Councillor Atterwill reported that he is to meet with the Clerk do a full survey of the Village and log any defects to Norfolk County Council

**a) To Receive Reports of Highways Faults / Matters for Attention**

**b) To receive an update on the Community Speedwatch scheme**

Councillor Turner reported that the Clerk had sent out an email with two prospective dates.

Two more volunteers have been recruited.

It is felt that the Parish Council need to keep the momentum up and do the speedwatch to retain the right to do it. It was noted that there must be at least 12 sessions per year.

There was a discussion on positioning of SAM signs. Councillor Atterwill suggested that one sign is positioned on Norwich Road following reports from residents.

**c) To receive an update concerning the flooding report for Woodgate**

The Clerk had sent the latest correspondence from the Assistant Flood Risk Officer dated 12/01/2024. The Clerk will continue to chase up the report and any updates.

**d) To discuss the trees on Greengate**

A quotation had been received to reduce the crowns of 21 trees encroaching towards the gardens of the properties on Ainsworth Close cutting back from approximately 6 to 4 m also raise the crowns of the trees over the footpath to give 2.5 m clearance for £5958 + VAT.

It was agreed that the Clerk would seek further quotations.

**11. Correspondence (For Exchange of Information Only)**

None received

*The meeting was then suspended for further time allocated to the public*

A member of the public reported that the privet hedge on Ainsworth Close is overgrown, the house is empty and up for sale, so this will be a long process to reach the owner to request action.

Councillor Atterwill will speak to Breckland Officers responsible.

It was reported that there is also an empty house on Farrow Close with overgrown garden. Councillor Atterwill will also report this to Breckland Council.

**12. Any Item to be Reported for the Next Agenda**

Harker Lane – resurfacing

Trees on Ainsworth Close

**13. To Confirm the Date & Time of the next Meeting of the Parish Council to be held on Monday 11th March 2024 at Swanton Morley Village Hall at 7.30pm.**

The meeting closed at 21:00

Approved by \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_