

Swardeston Parish Council
Minutes of the December 2016 Parish Council Meeting
at the village hall, Swardeston On Thursday 8th December 2016 at 7.30PM
Meeting 12/2016

Present:

Ian Francis

Geoff Loades

David Rice

Justin Barber

Simon Pithers

Derek Barber

Cllr Legg

Cllr Foulger

Carole Jowett – Clerk

1 member of the public attended

1

To consider apologies for absence

Mrs Brown had sent her apologies.

2

To receive declaration of interests in items on agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

3

Resolution to adjourn the meeting for public participation, District & County Councillor reports and Safer Neighbourhood Team

Cllr Legg reported that Jenkinson properties had applied to build 5 houses in Bracon Ash although the development at Bobbins Way had not yet been started. The Swardeston site was likely to be expensive to develop and it was unlikely that Jenkinson Properties would develop it. Discussion took place about land banking and developers using tactics to their advantage. The 5-year land supply had not yet been achieved but may be by the spring. The measures to establish the 5-year land supply were unclear but there was a need to push for approved plans to be delivered. Information was held by the district council but had not been analysed yet.

Concerns were expressed about which developers may purchase the land at Bobbins Way as different developers have different standards.

Cllr Foulger reported that the devolution deal was not going ahead in Norfolk and Suffolk but 2 of the district council in Norfolk and the whole of Suffolk were seeking a separate deal.

He explained that the county council grit 2000 miles of roads and the Highways Agency grit main roads. All A and B roads and some C roads were gritted with a new formula being used this year.

The grit bin on Main Road had recently been filled.

PCSO SOre was unable to attend the meeting but had sent an update that there had been no reported crimes or calls to the police about noise nuisance or anti-social behaviour in the past month.

4	To confirm minutes and review matters arising from 10th November 2016 meeting The minutes from 10th November 2016 meeting were agreed reviewed and several amendments were made and the minutes were then agreed and signed as amended. The clerk advised that the highways engineer had updated that the technician would jet the drain under the gullies. The broken 30mph sign had been re-reported the number from Norfolk County council website was ENQ900045635. - still outstanding the clerk would chase for an update. It was suggested that the latest call for sites maps should be printed and posted in the noticeboard however this could cause unnecessary concern as they had simply been put forward for consideration. A question was asked as to why highways had objected to the planning application for 52 houses in Bracon Ash since it was the same road as in Swardston. Cllr Foulger explained that the developer had tried to get this changed by having all the houses facing into the development and to look at the introduction of a 30mph speed limit. But the road did not meet the criteria for a change in the speed limit. Additionally pedestrian access was not possible as there was no point at which a footpath could be connected to existing paths from Bracon Ash to Mulbarton, which were not wide enough and could not be widened. The clerk will find the report from highways and make it available to read. Mr (D) Barber suggested putting a link on the website to the call for sites maps and documents. Mr (D) Barber reported that Helen Sibley had told him that there were no longer any highways rangers despite the highways department saying that they were coming to the area, the clerk would clarify this with the county council. Mr (D) Barber reported that Matt Davies (Norwich Fringe) was to contact the housing developer after walking the common with Helen Sibley. Mr Davies would do bullet points from the meeting and both Matt and helen had been cooperative and the owners were supportive of the proposals although had not attended. Mr (D) Barber had not repaired the grit bin as he had suggested by making a steel lid as it would be difficult to do and expensive a compromise would be found for the coming winter.	CJ CJ CJ CJ
5	To review the play area safety check and agree any action Mr Pithers had circulated a report of the inspection of the play area. The multi climber required 2 new pegs as there was movement in it. He said that the high level piece that had been involved in a recent incident could be removed but the issue was that parental supervision was required when using this. It was agreed not to remove this. The toddler and junior swing seats were corroded and replacement should be	

	considered. This work and the repair of the matting could be done in the spring. Bolts loosen in summer and tighten in winter due to the wooden construction so these would be checked every couple of months. It was agreed to adjourn this item to the December meeting.	
6	To discuss and agree a response to the boundary review Mr Francis reported that East Carleton & Ketteringham Parish Council had considered his suggestion that the 2 parish councils should be grouped with Mulbarton to create one “super ward” with 3 councillors better able to represent everyone. He had circulated a paper to the parish councillors and they agreed the counter proposal was an excellent idea. Mr Loades suggested removing individually named members and include the words commonality of infrastructure to make the districts councillors’ work easier. The clerk would email the response before the closing date of the consultation.	IF CJ
7	To consider the proposition of a covenant on the new homes at Sonneys Loke The developer of the new homes had spoken to Mr Pithers and Mr Biddle and had expressed a wish to sell the houses in a good environment and had suggested that a covenant be put on each house so that a payment of £50 - £100 be paid each year to the parish council for maintenance of the part of the common around the development. Concerns were expressed about the amount and the sustainability of such a covenant and it was suggested that an incremental increase to the amount could be built in. There were concerns raised about the feasibility of this arrangement as the owners nor the district council maintained that area and it was noted that it had taken a year to get the district council and the Norwich Fringe to agree to cut some grass back. It was stated that too much focus was put on wildlife and there was a need to consider people as well. Mr (D) Barber said that as the volunteers were not allowed to use power tools a contractor properly insured could and once some clearance had been done Helen Sibley had agreed to return and advise what else would be needed. It was suggested that a covenant payer may expect a higher standard of maintenance than could be delivered. The Queen Mother’s wood was not maintained and income would need to be generated to maintain the common. A question was raised as to whether the common should be maintained or left to nature although there were no grazing rights which would help to keep growth in check as used to be the case. South Norfolk Council was investigating offloading management of commons and open spaces to parish councils but it appeared that it had not considered the legalities and bye-laws.	

	Mr Loades suggested that the precept be increased by £2 per year as the common was for the benefit of all Swardeston residents. Mr (D) Barber was to meet with a contractor to look at what he could achieve with one day's work and would if the developer would help to fund this, potential donations could be sought from Swardeston Live or Mr Barber said he would fund it. The Queen Mother's wood needed to be maintained annually and Mr Loades suggested adding the cost to the precept. Putting a covenant on the new houses could cause issues for the parish council in the future. In the past The Norwich Fringe and South Norfolk Council had been adverse to any work being done without their presence but had relaxed this due to conflicting commitments. Mr (D) Barber has a group of 10 volunteers in place who could do work without power tools and would do whatever they could. The developer would use machinery. Money could be raised through coffee mornings and other fundraising events but would not give these funds to the parish council. If a group was to be formed the parish council could give a grant from the precept to help funding. It was agreed it would be easier to raise funds through the precept and/or fund raising events than to impose a covenant. Mr Pithers would explain the decision to the developer in a positive way. Mr (D) Barber reported that the tree warden scheme was no longer part of South Norfolk Council but it facilitated meetings and storage for collection of trees. There were 80 tree wardens who are insured through the scheme and any volunteers working with them were also insured. Mr Edwards the previous tree warden had resigned and Mr Barber suggested 2 tree wardens should be appointed which was agreed. The developer would fund the first tranche of work and Mr Loades proposed that from 1st April 2017 an amount of £500 should be paid to a "friends of" group yet to be formed. Mr (J) Barber seconded the proposal and this was agreed. Mr Francis suggested a meeting should take place outside of the parish council meeting to discuss the group and then to consider how the group was getting on and set a structure for it.	SP
8	To consider the formation of a friends of Swardeston Common Group This item was adjourned to the January meeting.	
9	To discuss and agree the arrangements for the annual parish meeting This item was adjourned to the January meeting.	
10	Finance 10.1 To review and agree financial statement to 8th December 2016	

	The accounts were reviewed and agreed. 10.2 To review and agree draft budget The budget was discussed and changes to the draft budget agreed with the addition of a sum of £500 to be added for maintenance of the common as agreed. The clerk was asked to do illustrations of the effect on the precept of an increase of 10%, 15% and 20% in preparation for the next meeting. 10.3 To agree invoices for payment in accordance with budget <table><tr><td>Chq no 606</td><td>£84.63</td><td>C Jowett</td><td>Clerk's salary</td></tr><tr><td>Chq no 607</td><td>£56.40</td><td>HMRC</td><td>PAYE</td></tr><tr><td>Chq no 608</td><td>£18.00</td><td>C Jowett</td><td>Postage</td></tr><tr><td>Chq no 609</td><td>£120.00</td><td>swardeston village hall</td><td>Room hire</td></tr></table> The payments were agreed and the cheques signed.	Chq no 606	£84.63	C Jowett	Clerk's salary	Chq no 607	£56.40	HMRC	PAYE	Chq no 608	£18.00	C Jowett	Postage	Chq no 609	£120.00	swardeston village hall	Room hire	
Chq no 606	£84.63	C Jowett	Clerk's salary															
Chq no 607	£56.40	HMRC	PAYE															
Chq no 608	£18.00	C Jowett	Postage															
Chq no 609	£120.00	swardeston village hall	Room hire															
11	To consider correspondence received There were no items of correspondence for consideration.																	
12	To confirm and agree agenda items for the next meeting to be held on Thursday 12th January 2017 commencing 19:30 at Swardeston Village Hall The items adjourned from this meeting were: To consider the formation of a friends of Swardeston Common Group To discuss and agree the arrangements for the annual parish meeting To consider and agree budget requirements for 2017-18 To consider and set the precept for 2017-18 The meeting closed at 21:15																	
Signed: Mr I Francis Chairman to Swardeston Parish Council																		