

Swardeston Parish Council
Minutes of the January 2016 Parish Council Meeting
at the village hall, Swardeston On Thursday 14th January 2016 at 7.30PM
Meeting 1/2016

Present:

Ian Francis

Geoff Loades

Liz Brown

Derek Barber

Stephen Huntley

Simon Pithers

David Rice

District Councillor Nigel Legg

Carole Jowett -clerk

0 members of the public attended

1	To consider apologies for absence Cllr Foulger had sent his apologies.	
2	To receive declaration of interests in items on agenda No interests were declared.	
3	Resolution to adjourn the meeting for public participation and District/County Councillor reports District Councillor Update Cllr Legg reported that discussions were being held on devolution of power and to take advantage of this Norfolk, Suffolk and part of Cambridgeshire were looking at the amalgamation of local authorities. It would potentially create a third tier of local government and the media were putting a positive spin on the subject. He explained that the South Norfolk Clinical Commissioning Group were £6m in the red so were therefore reducing services, IVF, second cataract operations and hearing aids had all been stopped. The chief executive had left and there had been a number of locums had been brought in to manage the service. It seemed that they were cutting services at a level below where scrutiny would become involved. Mr Rice said that South Norfolk Council seemed to be letting the requirement to have 30% of affordable homes in developments recently. Whilst they had been included in the original plans that had been approved they were later claiming that the plans were not affordable. Cllr Legg said that there had been a couple recently but the developers had to prove through costings and good reason why this was the case. The government would rather see some affordable housing and had to accept that sometimes 30% could not be achieved. Cllr Legg reported that an application for 60 homes in Bracon Ash on land adjacent to the B1113 and the village hall was likely to be submitted although only 20 homes had been required in the local plan. The lack of a 5-year land supply was likely to be used to try to secure permission for this application.	
4	To confirm minutes and review matters arising from 10th December 2015 meeting The minutes of the November meeting were agreed as follows: The date at the top of the minutes was amended to 10 th December 2015	

	A sentence in the 3rd paragraph in item 3 was amended to say The British Heart Foundation (BHF) charity can enable a machine to be provided and there would be a £200 cost for connection. In the first paragraph of item 4 "Public health" was replaced by "South Norfolk Clinical Commissioning group". The minutes were then signed. Mr Francis reported that he had spoken to Production Bureau before Christmas about the possibility of a defibrillator being located on their building in Main Road. The owner was very helpful and was happy to have a defibrillator on the Mulbarton side of the front door. He had also offered a meeting room for use by the parish council for its meetings. There is a weak mobile phone signal in the area although this was not a requirement for the defibrillator. Mr Francis suggested that he put the British Heart Foundation in touch with Production bureau so they could liaise directly on this issue. It was raised that The Dog was a listed building and planning permission could be required. Mrs Brown said she still had the cheque, as the application had not yet been made due to the Christmas break but said that the full amount would be requested and the cheque might not be required if successful. It was agreed the defibrillator should be included on the next agenda. A contractor for the playing field had not been found due to the Christmas break, this would be dealt with before the next meeting.	
5	To discuss and agree a working party to cut the hedge adjacent to the play area It was suggested that an article be included in the February newsletter asking for volunteers to help weed in between the plants and to cut the hedge to a uniform size. It was then suggested that the community payback scheme recently sent round by the clerk could be used to do the work. Mr Huntley agreed to contact Norfolk and Suffolk Community Rehabilitation Company to explore the possibility of using them to do the work on and around the hedge.	SH
6	To agree action on traffic management in Intwood Lane A response from the highways officer had been received that day and did not address the other issues raised and no other options had been considered as requested in the original letter. Cllr Foulger had sent an update in his absence confirming that he had discussed the 30 mph matter exhaustively in both a meeting at County Hall and again on the telephone with officers in the Highways Department and they were adamant that Highways Agency regulations would not permit this proposal in this location. He also said that the ruling had no regard to cost although the highways officer did refer to the cost of such a scheme.	
7	Finance 7.1 To review and agree financial statement to 14th January 2016 The clerk had circulated the accounts and these were agreed. 7.2 To consider and agree budget requirements for 2016-17 The draft budget was reviewed and in the absence of a formal quote from Norse for additional grass cuts at the play area it was agreed to increase the budget for this to £1000.00; no other changes were made. 7.3 To consider and set the precept for 2016-17 The clerk had sent the illustrations of the options for the precept prior to the meeting. These were reviewed and after discussion it was agreed that the	

7	Finance 7.1 To review and agree financial statement to 14th January 2016 The clerk had circulated the accounts and these were agreed. 7.2 To consider and agree budget requirements for 2016-17 The draft budget was reviewed and in the absence of a formal quote from Norse for additional grass cuts at the pay area it was agreed to increase the budget for this to £1000.00; no other changes were made. 7.3 To consider and set the precept for 2016-17 The clerk had sent the illustrations of the options for the precept prior to the meeting. These were reviewed and after discussion it was agreed that the precept should be raised by 2% for the coming year, this would be £207.00 less than the budget requirement although it included a provision of £250.00 for contingency for unexpected items so a 2% increase would meet budgeted expenditure. Mr Loades asked if any provision should be made for the pond drainage issues and that an amount of £300.00 would be need to jet clear the drains. This was discussed and it was agreed that the pond was privately owned and did not form part of the common as had been made clear by the owner. The clerk would ask highways to deal with this issue with the owner as necessary. It was agreed that this was a county council and landowner issue not a parish council problem. The clerk would report this to highways. The precept request was agreed at £4727.00 with a £167.00 grant from South Norfolk Council giving a total funding request of £4894.00, the chairman signed the precept request form. 7.4 To agree invoices for payment in accordance with budget <table><tr><td>Chq no 560</td><td>£83.64</td><td>C Jowett</td><td>Clerks salary</td></tr><tr><td>Chq no 561</td><td>£56.00</td><td>HMRC</td><td>PAYE</td></tr><tr><td>Chq no 562</td><td>£82.70</td><td>C Jowett</td><td>Printer ink & postage</td></tr></table> The payments were agreed and the cheques signed.	Chq no 560	£83.64	C Jowett	Clerks salary	Chq no 561	£56.00	HMRC	PAYE	Chq no 562	£82.70	C Jowett	Printer ink & postage	CJ
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10	To consider correspondence received The clerks and councils direct newsletter had been received. The owner of The Dog had contacted the parish council thanking it for support and inviting members to visit to see the changes that had been made. The clerk would contact the owner and ask for some dates and times for a visit by those councillors wishing to attend. PCSO attended the meeting and reported that there had been no crimes or reports to the police about noise nuisance or anti-social behaviour since the last meeting. He said that his inspector would like to attend the February meeting if possible.													
11	To confirm and agree agenda items for the next meeting to be held on Thursday													