

Swardeston Parish Council
Minutes of the March 2016 Parish Council Meeting
at the village hall, Swardeston On Thursday 10th March 2016 at 7.30PM
Meeting 3/2016

Present:

Geoff Loades	David Rice	Liz Brown
Simon Pithers	Derek Barber	Ian Francis

District Councillor Nigel Legg
District & County Councillor Colin Foulger
Carole Jowett – Clerk
2 members of the public attended

1	To consider apologies for absence There were no 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 and District/County Councillor reports District Councillor Update Cllr Legg reported that there would be an increase in council tax for the next financial year. The district council was considering the devolution announcement made in the budget. County Councillor Update The county council would also be increasing the precept for 2016-17 but no fire stations or recycling sites would close although opening hours for the recycling centres would reduce in the summer months from 09:00 until 18:00 to 09:00 to 17:00. Cllr Foulger reported that the county council was also involved in devolution. Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire including Peterborough were in discussions. Any arrangement would not replace county councils but some service areas could merge.	
4	To confirm minutes and review matters arising from 11th February 2016 Amendments were made to the minutes. The last sentence of item 3 was amended to read It was agreed that the clerk would about planning permission being needed. The clerk would report Swardeston House to planning enforcement for the manège that had recently been developed. Sentence 7 in item 4 was amended to read Mr Pithers said that items that were not resolved were not carried forward... The minutes were agreed and signed subject to the amendments. Mr Pithers had met with the owner of Hospital Farm who was amenable to using his tractor and other machinery to clear the ponds but permission would be needed from the owners. Mr Barber suggested Matthew Davies should be consulted, as the management plan should cover this activity. The flooding from the pond at the bottom of the common had been chased with the	

	highways department. South Norfolk Council had responded and stated that it was not its responsibility. Mr Thomas had incurred a cost of £480.00 to clear the issue and Mr Loades asked the parish council to agree to make a contribution towards the cost, the cricket club had paid half. The flooding was a recurring problem and responsibility needed to be established but it was not the parish council's responsibility but the landowner or highways. It was considered that the flooding was a direct result of the development at Chestnut Close. Mr Loades asked Cllr Foulger which authority could be approached to establish where the water was coming from. Cllr Foulger said that the water was coming from the pond and asked if he could meet with one or two parish councillors on site to look at the problem. Cllr Legg said it would also be advisable to meet officers on site at the same time and to consider the weather forecast and wait for the next heavy rain. Mr Loades proposed that the parish council contributes £120.00 to Mr Thomas; this was seconded by Mrs Brown and agreed. The clerk would write to Mr Thomas and explain there would be no further contributions from the parish council. Safer Neighbourhood Team PCSO Sore reported that there had been no reported crimes between 10th February 2016 and 10th March 2016.	
5	To discuss and agree comments on planning applications Mr Barber offered to print plans off in A3 for meetings in future. 5.1 2016/0285 Location: Swardeston House, Main Road Swardeston Proposal: Single storey extension & internal alterations The application was reviewed. It was considered that the style did not match the dwelling but it would not be seen and agreed no comments would be submitted. 5.2 2016/0398 Location: Land At Sonney Loke The Common Swardeston Proposal: Variation of condition 2 following planning permission 2012/1435 - Change of circumstance to the proposed vehicular access to the site, minor changes to the proposed sittings of the permitted dwellings and minor amendments to design/appearance to plot 1 - house type 4 Mr Pithers had spoken to the developer who had explained the previous plans had been put together hastily and if the layout were changed it would improve the aesthetics of the site. The plans were reviewed and it was agreed no comments would be submitted. 5.4 2016/0399 Location: Land At Sonney Loke The Common Swardeston Proposal: The development of a short section of access track to facilitate four proposed dwellings permitted by South Norfolk Council Ref no. 2012/1435/F The plans were reviewed and it was agreed no comments would be submitted.	
6	To consider the future membership of Norfolk ALC Mr Francis and Mr Rice had attended a meeting called by 3 South Norfolk representatives on the Norfolk ALC board. Concerns had been expressed at the meeting about the financial viability of the association particularly a pension fund deficit which member councils could be held liable for.	

	It was agreed that membership would not be reviewed and that the parish council would terminate current membership with immediate effect. The clerk was asked to contact the association and resign.	CJ
7	To discuss and agree action on footpath obstruction by hedges and/or wheelie bins Mr Barber said that there were overgrown hedges in Gowthorpe Lane, and Intwood Lane. There were several more on the west side of Main Road which were encroaching into the pavement particularly around the bus stop. The parish council agreed that the clerk should write to householders to ask them to trim the hedges. Mr Barber would provide a list of the addresses involved with the particular issues and the clerk would send letters to occupiers. It was also noted that bins were regularly blocking the path, this would be included as an item in the next newsletter.	
8	To discuss and agree any actions to provide a defibrillator in Main Road Mrs Brown reported that the grant deadline was missed so no help would be received to fund a defibrillator. Mrs Brown agreed to find out what the full cost would be for further consideration. Mr Loades would look in to how GPS could be used in conjunction with the machine.	LB GL
9	To consider and agree the quote for work to repair the play area A quote had been received from Action Play and Leisure to do the work in the RoSPA report and it was £1420.00 exclusive of VAT. Options were discussed and Mr Barber suggested that Colorcote could be asked to repaint the bars and it was agreed that Mr Barber would obtain a quote and seek authorisation from parish councillors before the next meeting. The bolts could probably be bought from Action Play and Leisure and fixed by volunteers.	DB
10	To discuss and agree a working party to cut the hedge adjacent to the play area Volunteers had trimmed the hedge and thanks were expressed to those involved.	
11	To consider and agree external audit arrangements from 1 April 2017 The SAAA was set up to procure audit for around 7000 smaller public sector bodies in England by the National Association of Local Council (NALC), Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) and the Association of Drainage Authorities (ADA) following the abolition of the Audit Commission that previously performed this role. The parish council had the option to opt out of using the SAAA and appoint its own auditors from 2017. It was agreed not to opt out of using the SAAA.	
12	Finance 12.1 To review and agree financial statement to 10th March 2016 The accounts were reviewed and agreed. 12.2 To consider and agree increase to Norse contract to include weekly cuts throughout the year at a cost of £244.34 The change to contract was discussed and it was agreed to increase the grass cutting to weekly throughout the season from March to October inclusive. The clerk would contact Norse to make the change.	CJ

