

The Mardler

Swanton Morley Parish Council's Newsletter

Forty Eighth Edition | Autumn 2021

Welcome to your Autumn Mardler. The crops are in, there is a certain mist in the cooler mornings and we all hold our breath and cross our fingers as we head towards an uncertain Winter (in Covid terms). Our local NHS provision will no doubt continue to do us proud with the next phase of vaccination direction from Government and I hope that keeps as many of us safe as possible ready to face what must surely be a brighter new year for which your Parish Council has lots of plans....

A message from your Parish Clerk...

Things have been very busy recently and it's a wonderful feeling having some form of normality for us all. I am now back to working in the office and I must say, it makes me happy hearing the buzz coming once again from the Village Hall. Over the last few months we have been busy clearing Burgh Common so the public can enjoy the space again, planting over 200 trees throughout the village, rolling out the Community Speed Watch, pursuing Norfolk County Council Highways Department to rectify any defects in the village and installing picnic benches on the Meadowview open space. I for one am looking forward to the next few months as we enter into Autumn and Winter, and I am certainly looking forward to the festivities again!

By the time you receive this edition, Maddi Heinrich will have officially left Swanton Morley Parish Council as the Administrative Assistant, I would like to say it has been a pleasure working with Maddi - we wish her all the best for the future. As always, if you have any issues you would like to discuss, please get in touch or pop in.

Kelly Pickard - Clerk to Swanton Morley Parish Council

Key Dates:







Parish Council Meetings:	Monday, 11th October 2021
Parishioners always welcome	Monday, 8th November 2021
	Monday, 13th December 2021
Fireworks:	Saturday, 6th November 2021
Carols on the Green:	Saturday, 4th December 2021



Swanton Morley Parish Council

Swanton Morley Village Hall
Mann's Lane
Swanton Morley
Dereham
NR20 4NP

www.swantonmorleypc.info

	01362 637166		parishcouncil @swantonmorley.org
	@SwantonMorleyPC		@swantonclerk
Village Hall:			
	@SwantonMorley VillageHall		admin @swantonmorley.org

Your Parish Clerk: Mrs Kelly Pickard

Please contact us with your concerns or ideas for the village using any of the above methods....we look forward to hearing from you.

**Our office hours are:
9am – 12pm Monday - Friday**

Mr Roger Atterwill Chairman 01362 637383/ 01362 637000	Mrs Brenda O'Dowd Vice Chairman 01362 637226	Mr John Keen 07767 405098
Mr Geoffrey Curran 01362 637069	Mr Jose Rodrigues c/o 01362 637166	Mr Ian Cawdron 07754 536716
Mr David Turner 07719 177527	Mr Jim Venworth 01362 637963	Mr Marc Lappin 07702 017506

The Parish Council usually meets on the second Monday of each month. Meetings begin at 7.30 and public are always welcome. The agenda for each meeting can be found displayed on the notice board at the junction of Woodgate Lane and Greengate (or on our website: www.swantonmorleypc.info).

Can you help?

You may have noticed the disparity in our village planters which were established for Swanton Morley Festival in 2019. Since then, only one of them has been adopted and



continues to look beautiful and we wish to extend a big thank you to Mr and Mrs Moulton for that. The other two currently do nothing to enhance the village, offer pollinators a reason to stop off or demonstrate our pride in our surroundings. Can you as a business, group, organisation, family or even individual commit to caring for one - planting, tending and watering as necessary? They are located on the traffic island in Town Street and on the grass verge on Greengate. Please do get in touch with the Clerk if you think you can help



So far, so good

Our Community Speed Watch has now been in operation for a few months and drivers who have been caught speeding by our volunteers have been contacted by the Police, to whom our data is sent after each session. The Parish Council would like to

extend a massive thank you to the volunteers who are giving their time for the good of the community. We know people feel passionately about the problem of speeding cars in our village, however, despite such feeling, we still only have 6 volunteers and would desperately like to see some more join our team. This would not only ease the burden but would offer the opportunity to perform more frequent speed watches at different times of the day. If you think you can offer your time - even if it is not on a regular basis, then please get in touch and we will explain the training process. The more volunteers, the less work for each person involved!

Don't forget

You can help to remind drivers to keep to the speed limit on bin day by affixing one (or two) of our wheelie bin stickers to your refuse, recycling and garden waste bins. We have spares in the office - please call in if you would like one or two more.



Pamper Party!

Friday, 29th October from 7.30pm at Swanton Morley Village Hall

All welcome

Please come along and support this fundraiser if you can - it's sure to be a fun evening and the bar will be open. Laura will be demonstrating Bodyshop products and how to use them. Treat yourself or just have a fun evening with friends...maybe even a bit of Christmas shopping?

raising funds for soft play equipment for the village hall



Fireworks Spectacular
Probably the best village display in Norfolk

Saturday 6th November 2021
Gates open: 5pm Fireworks: 7pm

Bonfire • Children's Entertainer & Disco • Funfair
Barbecue • Hog Roast • Bar • Tea & Coffee

Swanton Morley Village Hall, Manns Lane **NR20 4NP**

GREAT FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT
ADULTS £7 CHILDREN under 14yrs £5
Please **NO SPARKLERS** as they are a danger on the football pitch

ALL PROCEEDS TO VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS
For further details please contact:
JOHN Tel: 01362 638302 Mobile: 07869 723890 email: john@castlefarm-swanton.co.uk

Community Café
@ Swanton Morley
Village Hall
Tuesdays 9am - 3pm
Breakfast, coffee, cake,
lunch, afternoon tea...
Everybody welcome
Brought to you by Natterjack
Catering



Dear Resident,

I thought you might appreciate an update on some matters affecting the village:

Highways

The poor state of some of our village roads and footpaths has been a source of considerable frustration this year. We still have some defects reported in January which have yet to be repaired by Norfolk County Council (NCC) despite regular requests to do so by us. NCC have advised us that they no longer employ their own repair operatives. All work is now ordered through a company it owns called Norse. The response to repairs is sporadic and there seems to be no thought logic with some of the repairs when some potholes are repaired on a road but others just a few metres away left unrepaired. You will have no doubt noticed that the verge cutting has been virtually non-existent and that is because NCC has decided to reduce the frequency of cuts it does to one per year and in some areas none at all. The Parish Council received several complaints about this and despite numerous requests for assistance from NCC we

received no help. The Parish Council decided to pay a contractor to do a one off cut to remedy the situation which was dangerous in some areas such as the Dereham Road bend and a hazard for children and adults walking to school along Manns lane. We continue to press very hard for a better service from NCC but we are told that they do not have the budget to do any better. We have requested that NCC provides us with details of the money it has to spend on verge cutting in the village so that we can decide if it would be better for us to take this on going forward. This would give us control over the frequency and quality of work but do this may well require us to also increase our precept to cover the cost.

Grasscutting

It has also been very noticeable this year that the grass cutting carried out at the entrance to, and within estate roads has been done less frequently with some areas left in a very unsatisfactory state. To compensate for the lack of cutting in some areas the contractors have used lots of weedkiller instead of using a strimmer! With the exception of some grass areas in Thompson Close, Gray Drive, Middleton Avenue and Ward Crescent which are directly owned by Breckland Council, all of the remaining areas are owned by NCC. NCC currently employs Breckland Council to cut these areas on their behalf. Breckland Council employs Serco to do this work. You may have seen in the press that Serco are experiencing considerable labour resource issues. Their management team have advised me that they anticipate that it could take 12-18 months to get their service back on track meaning that the service we receive in the village could be adversely affected for some time. To compound the problem going forward, I am advised that NCC have told Breckland Council that from next year they will be taking their grass cutting back in house and reducing the frequency of cuts to their own land by 50%. This will no doubt leave many areas looking very untidy. The Parish Council employs its own contractor to cut the Village Green, Gooseberry Hill Playing Field, Davidson Park, Burial Ground and Churchyard.

In my view what we have here is a classic case of too much local government and not enough communication and joined up thinking. To try and remedy this I have had discussions with the Breckland Council Cabinet member and senior manager responsible for the Serco contract to see if there is a possibility that the Parish Council could employ its own contractor(s) to do this work. Again, as with the NCC verge cutting this might result in an increase in our parish precept but it would give us control over the frequency and quality of the work. These discussions are ongoing but we must try and have a better solution in place ready for next year. I will also try and have the same discussion with NCC about the land they own. My concern with them is that they will most likely be relying on Norse who are already struggling to provide a satisfactory road maintenance service.

Housing Development

The Hopkins Homes site on Rectory Road continues at pace and they have now reached the point in their programme where they need to carry out extensive road works in this location. We have received a temporary traffic order advising that Hoe Road East will be closed to vehicles and pedestrians from 4th October until 17th December. This will allow them time to widen the road, construct a new footpath and install underground services along the length of their site. Vehicle and pedestrian access to the Burial Ground and houses along Hoe Road East will be maintained from the Manns Lane end. Then, from 4th January “for up to three months” we have been advised by Hopkins Homes that Rectory Road will be closed to allow them to construct the new footpath including new bus stops and install underground services outside their site.

During this period there will be some changes to the regular bus service and we will advise you of these details when we receive them. We will be writing to NCC and Hopkins Homes to request that they try and maintain as much pedestrian access as possible along Rectory Road during this period. Access will be maintained for the Meadowview Estate from the Town Street direction.

Roger Atterwill
Chairman



www.swantonmorleyvillagehall.co.uk

For all of your private hire and regular hire needs

Competitive hire rates * good value packages * discounts * fully staffed bar

01362 637166

Swanton Morley Village Hall - Regular Clubs and Groups

Little Swans	Monday - Friday (term time)	littleswans1@gmail.com 01362 638103
Brownies	Monday	swantonmorleybrownies@
Table Tennis	Monday	K_meader@hotmail.com
Community Café	Tuesday	info@natterjackcatering.co.uk
Move It or Lose It	Tuesday	07941 086603 or 07925 602862
Primary Paws (dog training)	Tuesday & Wednesday	primarypawsdt@outlook.com
Gardening Club	Last Tuesday of month	jean.austin531@gmail.com
Pilates	Wednesday	carolyn@ norfolkpilatesandtherapy.co.uk
BAM Fitness	Wednesday	m.woods38@hotmail.com 01362 638133
Scarning Art Club	Thursday	01362 697783
Baby Bees Norfolk (baby massage)	Thursday	lauren@babybeesnorfolk.co.uk
Galaxy Twirlers	Thursday	koletteg40@gmail.com
Swanton Morley FC	Various	07887 893874
Cockers FC	Tuesday & Saturday	07957 764431

Carols on the Green

With

Dereham Brass Band

Swanton Morley Village Green
Saturday, 4th December 2021

Carols will start at **6pm** (song sheets provided)

Hot dogs for the children ★ Mince pies for the adults
Join us for an evening of festive cheer

★ Thank you to Swanton Morley Butchers and Swanton Morley Stores for their continued support ★

★ In the event of bad weather, we will move to the church ★



THE
QUEEN'S GREEN
CANOPY

THE PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022

Plant a tree for the Jubilee...

One of the ways the Parish Council will be marking the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 will be by planting a commemorative tree in the village for all to enjoy. We are currently in the planning stage of the process but once a location has been agreed and a planting date decided, we will publish the information using our usual channels of communication and will be contributing to the map which is being created to mark all of the trees

planted as part of this scheme.

The Queen's Green Canopy is something we can all be involved in and if you haven't already, please look at the website: <https://queensgreencanopy.org/> where you will find lots of ideas for individuals, groups and organisations to become involved in helping to create a national phenomenon which will be mapped for prosperity. The cause fits very nicely with our own ethos of improving our environment and offsetting carbon and will add to our own 'green canopy' that we have begun planting throughout the village - to find out more about that and other environmental improvements we hope to make, why not join our Climate Action group - see overleaf for more details...

CASM

Making Swanton Morley Sustainable



What does that mean
for Swanton Morley?
What can we do
about it?

CASM (Climate Action for Swanton Morley) is a mixed group of Councillors and parishioners, who meet to consider what small steps we can take as a village to combat climate change and improve our environment to benefit both people and wildlife. The group had started to meet regularly to discuss ideas and take action prior to the pandemic and are now making plans to get going again...would you like to join us? Do you have ideas to share? Do you have expertise to share? Do you just want to do 'something'? We would love to see some new faces at our next meeting. Contact the Parish Council office for more information and to register your interest.

*We don't need a handful of people doing zero waste perfectly, we
need millions of people doing it imperfectly*
(The Environmental Cowboy)



Some things we have achieved in our village so far...

- Planted over 200 trees
- Planted bee bombs (wildflowers)
- We have a growing band of litter pickers/anti litter campaign
- New bird and owl boxes
- Replacement of all lampposts with energy efficient LED bulbs now complete
- Mill common is now being properly managed
- Bike shelter installed at the village hall
- Investigations made into funding for energy efficient heating and electric car charger at the village hall
- Looking to produce a new school travel plan