

## SWANTON MORLEY PARISH COUNCIL

**THE SWANTON MORLEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** was held Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 at 7.30pm at Swanton Morley Village Hall and was attended by three parish councillors, and 13 members of the public. Also in attendance was Mrs K. Pickard (Clerk to the Council).

The meeting was chaired by Mr R Atterwill, Chairman of Swanton Morley Parish Council

### **1. Apologies for Absences**

Apologies were received from Mrs C Dack and Mr B Powter

### **2. Chairman's Report – Mr Roger Atterwill, Chairman of Parish Council**

The Chairman's report had been distributed to the village. This report focussed on the year gone by and the highlights for the village.

There was an update on the Parish Council Team including thanks to previous Councillors Geoffrey Curran and Ian Cawdron for their time on the council.

The report also included details on the current council tax bill and an explanation on the increase in costs.

Mr Atterwill also detailed various work that had been carried out in areas of the Village that the Parish Council are responsible for to include the new footpaths in the Burial Ground and the new Village Map that has been designed and painted by Scarning Art club and installed on the Village Green.

Councillor Atterwill's full report is available on the Parish Council website has been delivered to each household in the Village

### **3. To Agree Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

Mr Almond proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the Annual Parish meeting seconded by Mr Palmer and carried.

### **4. Matters arising from the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022.**

None were raised

### **5. Reports from Village Organisations**

**The following groups provided a report for the meeting and these are available on the website**

#### **a) Swanton Morley Cricket Club – Report received from Mr Green and delivered by Mr Atterwill**

Swanton Morley CC over recent years has seen its teams reduced from two Saturday teams and one Sunday team to one Sunday team now playing in the Mid Norfolk Sunday Cricket League, home games start at 1pm at the Angel Sports Field Hoe Road South.

After a successful season last year winning the R J Bidewell Division three we have been promoted to the Derek Cousins Elite Division through both promotion and re-organisation of the league to cut down on traveling, a league which we consider to be way ahead of our capabilities, having said that we won our first home game of the season on Sunday against last season's overall league champions A&B Wanderers.

Several village sides in the local area are finding it hard going at the moment recruiting players and some have folded altogether and Swanton Morley is no exception in trying to attract players from the village and local area with only one player actually living in the village who plays for the club.

With this in mind we would like to attract more people from the village and the surrounding area, there must be several that have played cricket in the past or young people who would like to get involved as a player of whatever ability or as an organiser or helper, we would love to hear from them and maybe we could resurrect the Saturday team once more.

Swanton Morley Cricket ground is one of the best grounds in Norfolk for village cricket which has been brought about by a few dedicated people over the years George and Rosemary Northall to name but two

who did so much for this club but are sadly no longer with us, so let's keep village cricket and this fantastic facility alive.

**b) Swanton Morley Surgery – Received from Mrs Googe delivered by Mr Atterwill**

When we are closed

If you contact the Surgery outside normal hours and you require urgent medical attention, your call will automatically be transferred to the Out-of-Hours Service. Alternatively, you can call 111, the NHS service for when the problem is less urgent than 999.

In a genuine emergency you should call 999 and ask for an ambulance. Chest pains and / or shortness of breath constitute as an emergency.

#### Appointments

Same day Appointments with a GP or Nurse Practitioner are available every morning from 8.30am Monday to Friday, excluding Bank Holidays. We also have some pre-bookable appointments, some are released every day at 11am, subject to availability. Patients will be offered either telephone or Face to Face Consultations, depending on the nature of their problem and they may be asked to submit a photograph if needed.

- Urgent problems – Please contact the Surgery from 8.30am
- To book an appointment with a Practice Nurse or Health Care Assistant please contact the Surgery after 2pm when our telephone lines are not so busy

#### How to Request a Home Visit

If possible, please try to telephone reception before 10:00am if you require a home visit.

You may only request a home visit if you are housebound or are too ill to visit the practice. The GP will only visit you at home if they think that your medical condition requires it and will also decide how urgently a visit is needed. We regret lack of transport is not a justifiable reason. You can be visited at home by a community nurse if you are referred by your GP.

#### Tests & Results

Please call after 2pm to enquire about your test results as our reception staff will have more time to deal with your request.

Note that the practice has a strict policy regarding confidentiality and data protection, and we will only release test results to the person to whom they relate unless that person has given prior permission or consent for the release of this data or they are not capable of understanding the results. Please allow 7 days for your test results to come back. It is your responsibility to check your results and to make an appointment to discuss them with your doctor if you are advised to do so.

**c) Little Swans pre-school – Report received from Mrs Syer, delivered by Mr Atterwill**

**d) Darby's – Received from Mrs Pinder, delivered by Mr Atterwill**

We are delighted to have been able to reopen Darbys to the village. Colin Kennedy is the new landlord and has worked for many years in the entertainment / live music business. Prior to this, he ran a number of pubs in London. Colin has always harboured the desire to run his own pub and when Darbys came up for grabs it felt like the right time to 'go for it'.

His wife, Kate, can often be found in the pub chatting to the customers. Kate has her own job working three days per week, so is less involved with the day-to-day running but enjoys picking up the website & social media side of things. She and Colin live in Deopham, between Wymondham and Hingham, and also have two daughters - Erin (11) & Evie (9) - so Kate's other job is ferrying them around and looking

after them. Kate's brother, Richard, lives in the village so it's lovely to see him and his family more, and to meet their friends.

In the kitchen we have Billy and his right-hand man, Carl. Billy has come from The Pigs in Edgefield and has been producing some amazing food, and the feedback has been really great. The Sunday roast, in particular, has won much support and yesterday saw a full-house! Billy lives in Wymondham and has two very young children, so the move has not only given him a new challenge but also helped him to redress his work-life balance a little. Carl lives in Wymondham too and has worked in most of the pubs in the area. Billy and Carl have worked together previously, so they make a great team.

We have Tony as our kitchen helper - such an important role! - and we have a lovely team of bar/waitressing staff who are keen to learn and are picking things up brilliantly. There are always a few teething problems along the way but we're all learning together and so far everyone seems to be very happy with how things are going.

We are having a new teepee / tent erected in part of the garden and new picnic tables are arriving to help maximise the lovely garden during the summer months. All we need now is some glorious sunshine! We are also looking into hiring small/local bands to come and provide entertainment on Saturday evenings, wherever possible, and we are aiming to make Tuesday night our chance to put on either a quiz night or a "pie & a pint" type of evening.

Our Facebook page was recently disabled, so we are busy getting a new one ready to go. Now that our garden has reopened we are going to have some professional photographs taken, which will mean that we can publish the new Facebook page and build an eye-catching new website. Whilst bookings for the moment are being taken over the phone, or by email, we are going to be launching a new online booking system and we will add a link to the website and on Facebook.

We must say that the local community has been amazing and the locals have been a delight to have through the doors. Our daughters are possibly more interested in the four-legged locals, but everyone has been so supportive and we couldn't have asked for a better bunch. Thank you for giving us such a warm welcome!

**e)** Norfolk Constabulary – Received from Mrs Gilluley, Breckland Community Engagement Officer delivered by Mr Atterwill

As we approach the summer months the Local Safer Neighbourhood Team will be looking to roll out engagement opportunities across the policing area. We have already been fortunate to have been invited to the Dereham Day celebrations and we welcome the opportunity to be able to get out and about in our communities. We know that with the warmer months comes the increase in opportunist crime and you can find lots of free crime prevention advice from our website at [www.norfolk.police.uk](http://www.norfolk.police.uk) which can help to prevent residents becoming victims of crime. If you have any specific concerns, please do contact the Team at [SNTDereham@norfolk.police.uk](mailto:SNTDereham@norfolk.police.uk). You can report crime at our website and always dial 999 in an emergency. We continue to encourage parish councils/residents to attend our SNAP meetings (times and dates sent to all parish councils in advance) to speak with their local beat managers and to raise any issues of concern.

Your local Beat Managers have always enjoyed a very close working relationship with the community, and we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Swanton Morley Parish Council, local community and businesses for their continuing support.

**f)** Mens Shed – delivered by Bob Almond

Current progress of the Shed project – Headlines

We've found a venue in which we can get started. Jason Chapman has offered us – free of charge – some barn space in Northall Green, and we can begin our journey there. Meetings at that location should begin shortly after the group is inaugurated.

Jon Pennell has taken on the role of treasurer, and helped get the application for a bank account completed

We have a Steering group in place to sort out the details of starting the group

We've had donations of tools and materials and the promise of more when we have somewhere to put them

We've been asked to provide a bench for the Brownies Allotment

And we've been named as this year's charitable cause for Cockers Football Club – thanks to them for helping us get started.

Next we need to meet together to agree to adopt the constitution and get up and running. We have a get together arranged for Sunday June 4<sup>th</sup> when we will have a brief AGM and then a guest speaker – Mandi Cleyndert, Managing Director of Bill Cleyndert & Company, Fakenham based bespoke furniture, cabinetry and specialist joinery manufacturer. 3pm at Swanton Morley Village Hall. And that will be the formal inauguration of the Swanton Morley & District Men's Shed

We are still looking for more people to get involved – especially those who have teachable skills that they can use to help get the group moving. If we are going to be using power tools and things with sharp edges, we need to be ensuring that we work together safely – so there's still a lot more to be done.

Bob Almond

**g) Link Up – delivered by Mrs Palmer**

Overall, Link Up has had a successful year, with reader numbers remaining stable. A promotional leaflet drop to new properties has resulted in more regular subscribers as well as encouraging sales of the magazine in the local shops. We still receive a frequent contribution of varied articles from our readership helping to make the Link Up an interesting and informative read.

Like all supplies affected by increased transport costs, there has been a considerable increase in ink and paper prices. Unfortunately the printer has had no choice but to pass on the costs, the outcome of which has forced us to raise both the magazine and advertising prices.

In the main, this has not deterred our regular readers or advertisers and we are confident Link Up will continue.

**h) All Saints Church – Received from Team Rector Mr Cubitt, delivered by Mr Palmer**

In November 2022 the REVD James Rosie finished his Ministry with us at Swanton Morley to take up a new post in Chesterfield. We would like to take this opportunity to record our thanks for his 5 years as Team Vicar in the Dereham and District Team.

On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June the Revd Rachael Dines will be installed as the new Team Vicar at All Saints Church at 6pm

All welcome to attend and welcome her into our Village

**i) Barretts Charity – delivered by Mr Palmer**

This legacy provides funding to support the Church Fabric and to make donations for Emergencies and Support to the Older members of the community at Christmas.

During 2022, 41 recipients received donations, also 3 individuals and 3 organisations.

Funds received from the legacy £5000, distributed £3,500. Church fabric - £1500.00

**j) District Councillor Roger Atterwill – delivered by Councillor Roger Atterwill**

Dear Resident,

I am the Leader of the Independent Group of Councillors and along with Labour and Green Councillors we form the opposition at Breckland Council. On behalf of residents, I do try to work collaboratively with much work done behind the scenes particularly with the Leader, Cabinet members, Chief Executive and Directors. I do not oppose for the sake of it. If I believe a proposal is a good idea and will benefit residents, it will have my support. Being an independent member means that I do not have to vote along any party lines. I see my role as that of a critical friend trying to suggest improvements to policies, procedures, spending priorities and improving transparency in all areas of the Council's work.

The last year has been a busy one for Breckland Council. In addition to its normal work it has helped communities get through the Covid 19 pandemic with additional staff resources and the distribution of Government grant funding to assist businesses and community groups. I believe that its communication and support for ward members and communities throughout this period has been very effective and I commend the Leader and senior management team for this. The council has achieved some notable work such as:

- The opening of the £1.8M Elm house project in Thetford to provide temporary accommodation to help people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. I fully support this scheme and it is my hope that we can soon identify a development opportunity for a similar project here in the north of the district.
- Provide £100K through its Community Green Grants Scheme to community projects aimed at promoting environmental sustainability. I know this funding has been well received by those communities applying for grants of which £500 was provided for our CASM group here in Swanton Morley. Another notable local recipient of a grant was Northgate High School for its outstanding work on recycling.
- Providing mental health training for 100 community mental health champions. Here in Swanton Morley myself and the Parish Clerk have undergone extensive mental health first aid training provided free of charge by this scheme to help us assist any residents in need.
- Work with partners such as the Daisy project to provide support for survivors of domestic abuse. This work is vitally important especially as incidents of domestic abuse increased during the period of the pandemic restrictions.
- Develop its 'Future Breckland' initiative to identify significant projects that can be delivered for our five market towns to help them thrive. I have actively engaged in the work relating to Dereham and made representations about the need for better and more public toilets and a new bus terminal to help devise a better public transport strategy for the town.
- Development of the Ellenor Fenn Garden in Dereham to transform old waste ground for public use. This is clearly a considerable improvement in this location which I welcome.
- Development of a new Food Bus service which will be visiting certain communities throughout the district. This service will commence in early May and will be a membership service offering discounted food products to help those people in most need. This will I feel be especially important as the cost of living crisis bites harder as we head into next winter.
- Introduction of a social prescribing service which has been commissioned by the Mid-Norfolk Primary Care Network to work with vulnerable residents providing holistic support to improve their health and wellbeing. I have worked with the Parish Clerk, Assistant Clerk and Breckland officers to provide this service here in Swanton Morley. This has been done in conjunction with the opening of the new Tuesday community cafe in the village hall and trained officers will be in attendance once a month but also available to residents for additional remote support as required.
- New household waste, street cleaning and grasscutting contract with Serco. Despite getting off to a difficult start I am now confident that the new service has bedded down and that the service is considerably better now in 2022. I suggested to the Overview & Scrutiny Commission that a Task and Finish Group of Councillors should be set up to oversee this contract and I am delighted that this was agreed and I am one of the group's members. Our discussions with Breckland Council officers and Serco have been very productive and this scrutiny will be ongoing over the coming months.

I am a member of the Planning Committee which continues to meet monthly to deliberate on the larger and more contentious development proposals as opposed to the majority of applications which are determined by planning officers under delegated powers. There continues to be a great deal of uncertainty around at the moment because the Government has for some time now been promising significant changes to the planning system. The indications coming from Whitehall is that they wish to reform the system to make it easier for developers to get planning permission and remove the requirement for developers to provide a percentage of new build homes as 'affordable' type homes. Instead, developers would be required to pay a levy to Breckland Council and it would be for the Council to build the affordable homes. I have serious misgivings about these proposals and I believe it would

result in less local accountability and fewer affordable homes being built. Over the last ten years Breckland residents like the rest of the country have been subjected to what feels like constant top down planning policy changes designed to try and achieve arbitrary housing number targets. The term 'affordable homes' means different things to different people. It covers social rented, shared ownership and first homes. In reality our young people earning wages in Norfolk's rural economy are finding it increasingly difficult to become homeowners as the gap widens between house prices and mortgage affordability.

In the last month there has been a stop placed on all planning permissions containing overnight accommodation in Breckland because Natural England provided advice to around 40 Local Authorities on 16th March 2022 that high levels of nutrients (mainly phosphorus and nitrogen) in protected water bodies were resulting in poor water quality. The sources of nutrients generally include sewage treatment works, septic tanks, livestock, arable farming and industrial processes. Where sites are already in unfavourable (poor) condition, extra wastewater from new housing developments can make matters worse. This affects the Broads and River Wensum tributary areas. Work is underway to more accurately define and map the areas affecting the River Wensum. Breckland Council is also working with other Norfolk councils to come up with suitable mitigation requirements to allow new developments to proceed. I am advised by Breckland Council's Planning Director that this could take a couple of years to properly resolve although it is hoped that areas outside the defined tributary maps could commence much sooner. Swanton Morley with its close proximity to the river is very much affected by this.

Work has commenced on the review of the Local Development Plan. I am pleased this work is underway but I continue to have misgivings about the approach being taken and the timetable proposed. At the present time the Council has not produced a draft development strategy. Instead, it has decided to first carry out a public call for more development sites and once the outcome of this is known it will produce a development strategy designed around these sites. In my view this is just an easy exercise in development by numbers, making policy fit the available land. I believe that a well considered strategy should be making clear where is the best place to build new homes in the district taking account of current infrastructure, utilities and services and identifying what improvements to these would be needed to accommodate the new homes. Once the strategy is devised, landowners in key identified development areas should then be approached. I am appalled at the timetable given to complete this Local Plan review with a proposed adoption date of 2027. It was clear from the Cabinet meetings I attended that this was done primarily for financial and resource reasons. My concern is that if the Local Plan is not reviewed and updated in a more timely manner a number of existing key planning policies will start to carry less 'weight' in the determination of planning applications and developers will find it much easier to obtain planning permission, sometimes to the detriment of local communities. I believe that this work can and should be carried out faster.

Looking to the future the closure of Robertson Barracks has been brought forward to 2029. This will have huge repercussions for Swanton Morley and the neighbouring parish of Hoe & Worthing. MOD analysis has identified that the land including the airfield has potential for thousands of new homes to be built on the site. Such a large development would in my view require very significant improvements to our infrastructure and local services such as the school and doctors. To this end I have already had discussions with the Leader of the Council and Planning Director with my suggestions for better road connectivity to the site. It is my opinion that the future of all of the MOD owned property at Robertson Barracks will be the defining issue for our community over the next twenty years as plans are developed and construction work is completed. The site does also offer an attractive proposition for the development of new and existing businesses utilising existing buildings and the construction of new ones. The Defence Infrastructure Organisation is already engaging with Breckland Council and the site may very well be put forward as part of the current local plan call for development sites.

Breckland Council owns much of the grassed areas and some footpaths and a car park in what is known locally as 'middle camp'. This comprises Thompson Close, Gray Drive, Middleton Avenue, Ward Crescent and Hannah Road. I have for some time now been in discussion with the appropriate cabinet members

and officers to consider ways of improving these areas in terms of play areas and additional car parking. This would likely involve a proposal for the parish council to take over the ownership of these areas. We are currently looking to see if there is any way that funding could be provided by Breckland Council along with the transfer of the title to the land. These discussions are ongoing and any proposal would have to be carefully considered by the Parish Council and agreed before any final decision is made.

As always, I am available to help residents where I can and would encourage anyone who needs assistance with a Breckland Council related matter to either call or email me.

## **6) Report on the Management of Swanton Morley Village Hall**

Mrs Pickard had provided a short report in the Annual Parish report and a further report for the meeting. Swanton Morley Village Hall has been exceptionally busy over the last twelve months providing a venue for 6 weddings, 66 private parties and the returning Tractor Rally, Dog Agility, Gardening club show and the ever popular Fireworks night.

The Community café ran every Tuesday morning and continues to provide coffee/tea and cake.

The Village Hall now boasts a comfy corner in the bar lounge area and this can be used by anyone that would like to pop in for a bit of support as the office staff are now mental health champions and have the tools to signpost to the right agencies if you are in need.

The Village Hall were also a lucky recipient of a £2,000 warm hub fund during the winter period, this enabled us to open up the warm space four days a week and provide a hot drink, cake or soup in a warm and welcoming environment.

The food bus also visits the hall every Tuesday morning for residents that use the service.

In September 2022 the Village Hall said goodbye to our Cleaner and Caretaker who were retiring, Barry had been with the Village Hall for a number of years and was joined by his wife Sue in 2019 as the cleaner, we wish them the very best in their retirement.

In their place we recruited Louise Watkins as the cleaner and in March 2023 Matt Robertson came on board as our Caretaker (Maintenance officer). With his vast experience so far he has carried out the general week to week duties to maintain the village hall and be complaint with Health and Safety legislation, he has also carried out much needed maintenance work in the mens toilets, changing rooms, chair and table cupboard, re structured the CoSHH area in the cabin, repaired the car park and planted our hanging baskets.

Future projects include re-painting the cabin and improving the sanitation of the mens urinals following the refurbishment of the drainage system.

There is also a fundamental need to replace the boiler system along with the lighting system in the building to help reduce the running costs. The funding for these projects is ongoing.

The website provides everything you need to know about the hall and its facilities as well as providing information about how to hire the various rooms and spaces.

Thank you to everyone who has continued to support the village hall over the past year – we hope to see you again very soon.

## **7) Parishioners' Questions**

A question was raised about the lake by Lincoln House when it rains and asked who is responsible for this when it floods.

Councillor Atterwill reported that Norfolk County Council regularly need to maintain the gully to stop the silt building up.

Mr Atkins asked if the flooding on Woodgate is caused by the last phase at Lincoln House as the pond could be too small.

Mr Atterwill confirmed that the pond is not the problem it is the surface water flowing off of the fields.

There is a survey due to be carried out on 31<sup>st</sup> May and this should raise any issues in the area.

Potholes were also raised and the issue of the number of them.

Another member of the public raised the issue of crossing the road outside the church at the end of Rectory Road.  
Councillor Atterwill reported that this issue has been raised and the Clerk is contacting the Highway Engineer to ask for a solution.

The Clerk is to contact the Garage regarding the parking issue  
The Clerk is to contact the landowner to trim the hedges back along Woodgate to Norwich Road

**8). Date of Next Meeting**

The next Annual Parish meeting will be held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.pm

\_\_\_\_\_ (Chairman) \_\_\_\_\_ Date

DRAFT