



Parish Clerk: Mrs Kelly Pickard
Swanton Morley Village Hall, Manns Lane,
Swanton Morley, Dereham, Norfolk, NR20 4NP
parishcouncil@swantonmorley.org

INVITATION TO ATTEND THE VIRTUAL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING will be held at Swanton Morley Village Hall on Monday 25th April 2022 at 7.30pm

All whose names are on the Electoral Register have a statutory right to speak and vote at the meeting. The electors may give others who attend, the opportunity to speak. The meeting is open to everyone.

AGENDA

1. To Receive Apologies for Absence
2. Chairman's Report – Mr Roger Atterwill, Chairman of Swanton Morley Parish Council
3. To Agree Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 26th April 2021
4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 26th April 2021
5. Reports from Village Organisations (Order to be Agreed by the Chairman)
6. Report on the Management of Swanton Morley Village Hall
7. Parishioners' Questions
8. Date and Time of Next Annual Parish Meeting

Roger Atterwill, Chairman, Swanton Morley Parish Council - 14th April 2022

SWANTON MORLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Mrs Kelly Pickard
Swanton Morley Village Hall, Manns Lane,
Swanton Morley, Dereham, Norfolk, NR20 4NP
Telephone: 01362 637166

Email: parishcouncil@swantonmorley.org

**Annual Report of
Swanton Morley Parish Council
2021/22
&
Invitation to the Annual Parish
Meeting
Monday 25th April 2022
Commencing at
7.30pm**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2022



Dear Resident,

I am delighted to provide you with this year's Swanton Morley Parish Council annual report. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the work the Parish Council has carried out on your behalf and our plans for the year ahead:-

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL TEAM

Sadly, at the end of last year we said goodbye to our Assistant Clerk, Maddi Heinrich who along with her family has moved away from Norfolk. Maddi worked extremely hard during her time with us and in particular during the Coronavirus restrictions. We thank her for her effort and wish her well for the future. We have since welcomed her successor, Jane Fabisz.

Our Clerk, Kelly Pickard has studied hard and successfully achieved her certificate in local council administration. Kelly and Jane are working on a number of projects with particular focus on the village hall and getting it back running at its pre-pandemic level. The Mardler newsletter has been further improved and the staff and I continue to communicate with residents using social media. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those councillors who have taken on responsibility for specific aspects of our work and have carried out practical work as well as providing regular reports for the full Parish Council. The proactive attitude of our team ensures that this is a vibrant and effective Parish Council.

For their own personal reasons, we have since Christmas received the resignations of Cllr Ian Cawdron and Cllr Marc Lappin.

We thank them for their work on behalf of the village. This means we currently have vacancies to co-opt two new councillors. If you are interested in this position, please contact Kelly on 01362 637166 or parishcouncil@swantonmorley.org

YOUR COUNCIL TAX BILL

This year the Swanton Morley Parish Council element of your council tax bill has increased by 3.8% to £108.43 for a Band D property. This is an increase of £3.93 for the year. When setting its budget for the 2022/23 financial year the Parish Council recognised that many residents face a squeeze on their household finances but we had to balance this with our own increased costs.

Swanton Morley Village Hall Report 2021/22

Swanton Morley Village Hall has bounced back this year and is fully reopened following the pandemic. It is, once again thriving with community activities and groups every day with plenty to offer the residents of the Village.

This year we have established links with Community Connectors from Breckland Council who regularly visit the Community Café to provide advice and support to local residents. Community Connectors engaged by the council to connect with local people and provide practical and emotional support where needed.

The Community Café meets every Tuesday from 9am to 2pm and provides opportunities for people of all ages to get together and chat whilst Natterjack Caterers offer breakfast and lunches at very reasonable prices.

This year has also seen the installation of a food and consumables bank sited in the car park in a secure wooden box kindly donated by local carpenters Callum and Mark. It is hoped that this will provide support for anyone who might be struggling to buy essentials. Items are donated by the kind residents of Swanton Morley and the facility is managed by Village Hall Trust representatives.

In addition, a grant secured by Tesco Bags for Life has helped towards purchasing our own soft play equipment which will be available at the Community Café and to hire for events and children's parties soon.

Looking ahead the Village Hall intends make improvements to the grounds of the Village Hall with some new plants and trees with a view to supporting the environment as well as enhancing the overall look of the venue.

You can still find out lots of up to date information by visiting the Village Hall website on:

www.swantonmorleyvillagehall.co.uk

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

Jane Fabisz
Assistant Clerk

| | Budget 2021/22 | Expenditure 2021/22 | Budget 2022/23 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Community Christmas Event | £500.00 | £500.00 | £500.00 |
| Contingency | £5,000.00 | £1045.53 | £5000.00 |
| Parish Partnership Highways Project | £5899.50 | £7705.00 | £20,000 |
| Swanton Morley Festival | £0.00 | £127.50 | £2000.00 |
| Defibrillators | £0 | £0 | £100.00 |
| Climate Change | £1,000.00 | £244.00 | £1,000.00 |
| Section 137 | £1,000.00 | £0.00 | £2,000.00 |
| School Travel Plan | £500.00 | £0.00 | £500.00 |
| Community travel | £0 | £0 | £500.00 |
| Link Up | £0 | £0 | £5.00 |
| Totals: | £125,230.25 | £97,432.28 | £144,812.53 |

Notes:All figures exclude VAT (and VAT recovered) and are from unaudited accounts

The Precept for 2022/2023 has been set at £78,916.39



Regrettably, we do not have any control over the increases imposed by other authorities.

71% of households in Swanton Morley are in bands A – C so pay a lower figure than this.

Our budget for this year stands at £92,830.00. We always endeavour to try and obtain grant funding and match funding where possible to assist with capital items such as play equipment and small highway improvements. In addition, we also seek to receive commuted sums of money from qualifying housing developments to pay for the ongoing maintenance of new assets such as open space areas and these funds are kept in an interest bearing account. We manage a wide variety of village assets and I believe that the Parish Council provides good value for money for all of the work it does on your behalf.

CHURCHYARD & BURIAL GROUND

The churchyard continues to be maintained to a good standard by the Parish Council. We have also received a £10,000 grant which we will be using towards the construction of an additional footpath in the Hoe Road East burial ground to ensure good accessibility to future graves. Our architect is currently drawing up the plan and we will shortly go out to tender for this work. We have also budgeted to install a permanent water supply in the burial ground this year for use by relatives and to help us better maintain the memorial rose garden.

OPEN SPACES

Over the past year there have been ongoing inspections carried out on the open spaces and any repair work deemed necessary has been carried out.

At Gooseberry Hill park the roundabout needed new bearings and this work was carried out quickly. We have plans this year to hold volunteer working parties to carry out some maintenance on this site such as painting and fitting new bird guards above the swings. Having obtained details of prices and designs we are also currently looking at grant funding options for the possible installation of a disability swing in the park and will provide any updates in due course.

Davidson Park is now the proud home to our Jubilee Tree as part of the Queens Green Canopy. This is a beautiful copper beech tree and was carefully selected and then planted by myself and Mr Marsham. The tree continues to be looked after by the residents of Davidson Park.

I would also like to say thank you to Swanton Morley Gardening club who have offered to help install a planting area surrounding the Davidson Park memorial lectern. As part of this very kind gesture the Gardening Club have also donated £200 towards the cost.

There are also plans for a working party on the Village Green to clear and tidy the area following the winter months and to also plant a replacement tree.

ENVIRONMENT

As reported at the last annual parish meeting the Parish Council received 210 saplings which were planted in various locations throughout the village thanks to a number of volunteers. As part of the Climate Action for Swanton Morley (CASM) working group, the team are putting together a tree survey to monitor the progress of these saplings. The CASM working group was relaunched in January of this year following a hiatus caused by Covid-19. They have held a number of meetings and are currently co-ordinating a relaunch event to be held at Swanton Morley Village Hall on Saturday 23rd April at 10.30am. There will be guest speakers and lots of information to have a look at. This event is open for the whole community.

We are also researching the possibility of installing an electric car charging point at the village hall

We have in the last year installed two picnic tables on Davidson Park and four picnic tables at the Village Hall, all made from recycled plastic. These are for the use of all parishioners.

The Parish Council are responsible for maintaining Burgh common located on the bank of the River Wensum. During late summer last year a volunteer working party attended site to trim and clear all of the boardwalks for visitors to the area.

The Parish Council also maintains Mill Common. This is a site of special scientific interest and is subject to a Countryside Stewardship scheme for which the Parish Council receives an annual income.

| | Budget 21/22 | Expenditure 21/22 | Budget 2022/23 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Telephone and Broadband | £1,200.00 | £1448.82 | £1300.00 |
| Stationery and Postage | £1,200.00 | £1023.77 | £1,200.00 |
| Members Expenses & Allowances | £832.00 | £118.80 | £846.55 |
| Training | £710.00 | £478.00 | £510.00 |
| Audit/ICO | £740.00 | £652.00 | £730.00 |
| Subscriptions | £3307.56 | £1690.03 | £2981.11 |
| Donations | £1000.00 | £300.00 | £1,100.00 |
| By Elections | £2,500.00 | £0.00 | £0 |
| Church Clock Maintenance | £262.00 | £280.80 | £245.70 |
| Permissive Paths | £3,000.00 | £2,500.00 | £2500.00 |
| Communications | £750.00 | £371.90 | £600.00 |
| Common Lands & Environment | £500.00 | £0 | £1800.00 |
| Lease of Manns Lane Land | £1348.00 | £1348.00 | £1348.00 |
| Allotments | £702.00 | £539.66 | £1000.00 |
| Loan Repayment | £8397.30 | £8397.30 | £8397.30 |
| Loan Repayments | £0 | £0 | £2,107.86 |
| Legal/Consultant Fees | £2,500.00 | £2612.00 | £2000.00 |

Swanton Morley Parish Council – Financial Summary

Income for year 2021/2022: £93,728.20

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Precept | £78,365.20 |
| Allotment Income | £2305.33 |
| Interest (General Funds) | £2.30 |
| VAT Reclaim | £2871.37 |
| Burial and Memorial Fees | £890.00 |
| Refund (training, legal fees) | £456.00 |
| Green Grant | £500.00 |
| S106 | £5788.00 |
| Donations | £700.00 |
| Parish Partnership | £1850.00 |

Expenditure for year 2020/21 (from precept and general income):

| | Budget 21/22 | Expenditure 21/22 | Budget 2022/23 |
|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Grass Cutting | £6,879.60 | £7307.77 | £9806.80 |
| Insurance | £2900.00 | £2945.24 | £3093.00 |
| Street Lighting Maintenance | £600.00 | £320.00 | £600.00 |
| Street Light Electricity | £900.00 | £725.31 | £1200.00 |
| Churchyard and Burial Ground | £13,418.00 | £345.00 | £14,472.28 |
| Open Spaces | £10,286.610 | £8210.97 | £8965.48 |
| Covid19 Response Team | £473.00 | £0.00 | £473.00 |
| Staff Remuneration | £46,924.68 | £45,625.96 | £46,176.15 |

The Rural Payments Agency attended site last winter and reported that the inspection was very positive and that the common land was in a good condition.

The Parish Council has continued the ongoing agreement with a local landowner to keep open several footpaths in the village. These are all detailed on our website including location maps. It is very important that these footpaths remain open for our residents to enjoy. I would like to continue to ask that you treat the countryside with respect and pick up your litter and your dogs mess and place it in the bins provided by the Parish Council or alternatively take your rubbish home.

HIGHWAYS

It is fair to say that the most frequent complaints we receive are about speeding traffic and the poor state of the roads and footpaths in the village.

Norfolk County Council (NCC) is responsible for highway maintenance. When defects are reported to the Parish Council our Clerk logs these on the NCC website and tracks progress. At that point we are completely in the hands of the NCC Highways Department as to if/when a defect is repaired. To help the Parish Council I would encourage residents to also log defects on the NCC website. This can be done anonymously if preferred and the weblink is:-

<https://apps.norfolk.gov.uk/HighwaysDefect/>

I would also encourage you to contact our county councillor, Bill Borrett, with your concerns. His contact details are on the NCC website but for your ease of reference he can be contacted by telephone: **01362 860200** or by email: bill.borrett.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

We have successfully applied for additional match funding from NCC this year to construct a trod footpath on Woodgate Road. We continue to work closely with the landowners and Norfolk County Council to finalise the design with a view to construction work starting later in the year. Last year we received match funding to install improved speed limit road painting in various village locations and we purchased an additional SAM2 speed sign.

Responding to residents concerns about speeding traffic, the Parish Council has set up a community speed watch scheme in conjunction with Norfolk Constabulary.

Initially we did have a number of volunteers willing to participate in the scheme and some sessions were run successfully with Norfolk Constabulary sending letters to more than 45 motorists in a four month period. Lately we have been unable to run any sessions because of a lack of volunteers. We have to have three trained volunteers present at each session. The training takes a short amount of time and Speedwatch sessions are 1 hour duration. If you think you could help us with this we would love to hear from you.

I have previously written in the Mardler about the state of the grasscutting carried out last year and the changes to the Norfolk County Council contract affecting many of our estate roads. We are in constant dialogue with NCC and we have included money in our budget this year to carry out additional cuts if NCC fall short of the quality we expect. So far this year they have not carried out one cut and the state of some grass is already a cause for concern which we have conveyed to NCC. We have also included money in our budget to pay for additional verge cutting so that we don't have similar problems like those encountered along Manns Lane and Dereham Road last year where NCC failed to cut.

PLATINUM JUBILEE FESTIVAL 2022

The Swanton Morley Platinum Jubilee Festival will be running from Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June. There will be many events being held to include a family fun sports day, lighting the beacon on the Village Green, a Beer/Gin Festival hosted by Darby's and a 'Big Jubilee Picnic'. More information on the events can be found on our Facebook page and in other publications that are distributed through the village. We hope to see as many of you as possible get involved and attend the events. To help pay for these celebrations we successfully applied for £4,509.00 from Awards for All.

In other news....

Thanks to an easing of the Covid19 restrictions, we were once again able to hold our 'Carols on the Green' event last Christmas albeit because of the weather it was held in the church. Our thanks are extended to Swanton Morley Butchers, Swanton Morley Stores and Squilla & Squidge for providing the food and refreshments on the night. There was a fantastic turnout from the community and everyone had a good time. To try and give everyone a bit of cheer over the Christmas period the Parish Council once again purchased more Christmas lights to improve our annual display.

Thank you to Bernie Marsham for providing us with the Christmas trees, to Sean Atterwill for his help putting up all of the lights and to Mrs Horstead for the use of her electricity on the village green. I hope these provided some seasonal cheer. On the 6th February we switched on an additional red, white and blue display on the village green to coincide with the 70th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne in 1952.

Swanton Morley Parish Council were also very proud to assist the primary school with the purchase of a brand new trim trail. The Friends of Swanton Morley School had been raising money to improve the outdoor play equipment at the Primary school including some parents running the virtual London Marathon. We have funded the new trim trail using s106 funds received from one current housing development on Gooseberry Hill. Due to the Parish Council not being able to install equipment on that development it was agreed that the funds would be used to purchase the new equipment for the children at the school to enjoy and it will be dedicated as part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. The money raised by the school is being used to refurbish existing play equipment on the site. The installation has been completed over Easter ready for the children to use when they return.

Moving forward this coming year there are a number of other projects and improvements we have agreed to carry out. The Parish Council has appointed a graphic designer to produce new and up to date artwork for the Millenium sign on the Village Green.

There will be three additional dog bins installed in different locations in the village, we will be replacing some noticeboards and a local contractor is being appointed to carry out cleaning of all play equipment and seats and repaint those seats which are of metal or wood construction.

FINALLY

The Annual Parish Meeting will this year be held in person for the first time since 2019. For those residents who are unable to attend this meeting but would like to ask a question or raise a concern, I am happy for you to contact myself or our Clerk directly and we will do our best to help you.



ROGER ATTERWILL
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