

The Mardler

The Newsletter of Swanton Morley Parish Council
Twenty Third Edition March 2013



Village Hall Extension

Progress

In our last newsletter, we proudly reported that the Parish Council had been successful in obtaining a £100,000 grant from the Community Construction Fund to extend the Village Hall. The work on this much needed extension will commence on 18th March and will last for approximately 16 weeks. Minimal disruption is anticipated as the majority of the work is to the outside of the building. All users of the hall which will be affected have been contacted and all other bookings will continue as normal. Whilst the hall is a community building, the construction site will be off limits to members of the public. We respectfully request that the construction company be allowed to work on the hall without interruption.

Allotment Vacancies

There are 4 allotments vacant on the Manns Lane allotment site. Allotments are a great way to grow your own organic fruit and vegetables, they are engaging for families and good for community spirit. Gardening is also a proven form of exercise and can reduce stress levels. Allotment plots cost £52 per year plus a share of the water bill. Contact the Clerk for more information on 637166

Increasing Community Resilience – Help Wanted!

The Parish Council is in the process of putting together a plan for the village which can be used in an emergency, as a short term measure should emergency services not be able to assist. Severe weather, power failure, loss of water or flooding can affect a community. Depending on the scale of the event, it can be some time before outside help arrives.

A Community Emergency Plan (CEP) combines local knowledge and forward planning to help the community help itself before outside assistance arrives and help the community work effectively with emergency responders.

Developing a CEP will help keep disruption to a minimum, safeguard the most vulnerable and speed a return to normality.

We therefore need to identify those in the village who can offer assistance in an emergency, and those who would need assistance from us. To help us with this we will shortly be delivering a short questionnaire to each household.

We will then collect the questionnaire two weeks later. We are appealing for help in distributing and collecting this questionnaire, because the better the return, the better the plan we can put together to help those who need it most. If you can assist with either distributing or collecting questionnaires in an area of the village please contact the Clerk on 01362 637166.



Do You Tweet?

The Chairman and the Clerk have taken a brave step into the world of Twitter. If you want to follow them for more insights into the hall and the village you can follow @SwantonChairman and @SwantonClerk We're also upping the trend of the village so if you are tweeting about the village please #swantonmorley so we can all see what's going on. We are also considering a Skype surgery for residents to discuss matters face to face without actually leaving the house. If this would be of interest to you please let us know.



Lincoln House Development Update

In our last newsletter, we reported that the Lincoln House site had submitted three planning applications.

An extension to the community centre. The Parish Council expressed no objections to this application and the development has since been granted planning permission.

An additional 27 assisted living units. The Parish Council objected to this application in its current form on the grounds of poor vehicular access to the site. This application has since been withdrawn.

A 30 bed dementia unit. The Parish Council objected to this application in its current form on the grounds of poor vehicular access to the site and the proximity to the Dereham Road. This application was put to the planning committee at Breckland District Council and was refused permission on 29th January.

The Parish Council recognises the need for dementia care, but any development in Swanton Morley needs to be in keeping with our village.

Better Broadband for the Village

Using a network of different sites across the county, WiSpire intends to transmit a wireless broadband connection into the heart of the local area via Swanton Morley church tower.

Different residential packages will be offered and each contract is only 30 days allowing the flexibility in changing service and freedom of not being tied in for a long period. As WiSpire don't use the copper cables from the exchange, you don't need to have your current BT phone line to receive the connection. To help ensure that this service goes live, a target of 25 registered interests is required and people are asked to visit www.wispire.co.uk or by calling 08451 800 026 to put forward their support.

The Big Switch & Save

Breckland Council has a new initiative to 'bulk buy' energy to help save local people money. Register your interest with no obligation at www.bigswitchandsave.co.uk or call 01362 656870.

2013/2014 Parish Precept

On 21st January, the Parish Council agreed its 2013/2014 budget and associated precept. Conscious that household budgets are tight for many people at the moment, the Parish Council reduced its precept by 0.88% to £39,251.28. Regrettably, due to changes in legislation relating to the calculation of council tax support, this has still resulted in an increase of 1.19% for each property. This equates to a total payment of £59.91 per Band D Property.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Monday 22nd April 7.30pm
Swanton Morley Village Hall

Find out more about the activities within your village

Events at All Saints' Church

5th May Gresham's School Choir, 7pm

21st May Friends AGM, 7pm

7th June to 9th June Flower Festival.

13th July Great Village Yard Sale

Ask the Council

Q. The Recent Bad Weather has Left Pot Holes in my Road. How do I get them Repaired?

A. The Highways Department at Norfolk County Council is responsible for repairing pot holes and other highway faults. The Parish Council will report any faults that we know about, but there is now an online reporting facility that anyone can use located at <https://online.norfolk.gov.uk/highways/>

Do you have a question you would like to ask the Council? If so, write to the Mardler via the clerk and we will publish the best questions and answers.

Your Parish Councillors are:

	Roger Atterwill 01362 637000/637383	
Alan Fleming 01362 637093	Alex Sommerville CPM c/o 01362 637166	John Carrick 01362 638302
Sean Atterwill 01362 637383	Steve Westbury 01362 637454	Bernie Marsham 01362 637300

For any further information about the Parish Council, or submissions to The Mardler, contact the clerk, Faye LeBon on 01362 637166, email parishclerk@swantonmorley.info, check out the website www.swantonmorley.info or write to 32 Humbletoft Road, Dereham, NR19 2RT. Also Tweet @SwantonClerk