

SWANTON MORLEY PARISH COUNCIL

THE SWANTON MORLEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING was held Monday 20th May 2024 at 7pm at Swanton Morley Village Hall and was attended by four parish councillors, and 23 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 Mr B Cushion, Mr G & Mrs D Palmer and Mr J Keen

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 past year highlights for the village and updates on upcoming projects.

There was an update on the Parish Council Team including thanks to Bob Almond his time on the Parish council.

The report also included details on the current council tax bill.

Mr Atterwill also detailed various work that is due to be carried out including the water supply into the Burial Ground and the Parish Partnership scheme.

There is also updated information on the future of Robertson Barracks.

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

3. To Agree Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 22nd May 2023

Mrs Alison Walker-Fraser proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the Annual Parish meeting seconded by Mr Stephen Gauntlett and carried.

4. Matters arising from the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22nd May 2023.

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 Bowls Club – Report received from Mr McKay and delivered by Mr Atterwill

Swanton Morley Bowls Club has been in existence since 1957.

Situated by the side of the ancient All Saints Church the club has, over the years, been very successful in winning trophies and competitions.

It has a rich heritage that the parents, grandparents and great grandparents of current residents will identify with.

The constitution of the club states that it is founded for "The promotion of the game of Lawn Bowls within the community" and the current membership holds that ambition.

Full report is available on the Swanton Morley Parish Council website.

b) Swanton Morley Gardening Club – Report received from Mrs Bowden and delivered by Mr Atterwill

On the last Tuesday of each winter month approximately 40 Swanton Morley gardeners can be found at the village hall enjoying an evening of garden talks, sharing tips and hints for the coming month, a cup of tea and a raffle.

Last year we heard talks as diverse as 'The Medlar Tree', 'The Winter Garden at Bressingham', 'Hedgehogs' and 'Companion Planting' which were all well received and thought provoking.

In the spring we visited Severals Grange and were treated to a guided tour around the beautiful, well stocked garden by the owners.

Other events included a successful Garden Party, a coach trip to the garden at Fullers Mill and the regular, popular Annual Show held at the village hall. This was a feast for the senses and keenly supported by both members of the garden club and the wider community.

We rounded the year off with a talk on 'Carnivorous Plants' followed by a cup of tea, and some festive fare.

Anyone wishing enjoy a similar year of events in 2024 contact the secretary - Belinda Bowden 01362 686893

c) Swanton Morley Shed Project – Report received and delivered by Mr Bob Almond

In the last 12 months, we've gone from 'that's a great idea' to an actual functioning group. A year ago we were talking about the possibility of starting to meet – and now, every Wednesday at Mulberry Farm on Northall Green Road at 10am, we're up and running.

So – big thanks to a lot of people who have helped. We've had financial help from the Love Norfolk Fund, through the Norfolk Community Foundation. We've had help from Cockers Football Club, and support and encouragement from the Parish Council. And then we've had donations from a number of individuals, and from Jewsons in Dereham, Bill Cleyndert and Co, Norfolk Fire & Rescue, and Toolbank.

Added to that has been the incredible support we have received from our hosts at Mulberry farm, the Chapman family. All of this means that we now have a well appointed workshop, materials store, and social area. And we couldn't have got this far without the guidance and wisdom of Jonny Wood and Henry Gowman, our local representatives of the UK Men's Shed's Association.

Clearly, getting the Shed space in order has been a major project. But we have found time for a few other projects. We've assembled and fitted a bench on the Brownies allotment; we have made a display stand for some educational puppets (with an Egyptian theme) for Swaffham museum; we've made a toy rifle for the D-day commemoration event at the Village Hall, and we are refurbishing a couple of notice boards for Swanton Morley Church.

We have around 40 people on our mailing list – a note with your details to bob@revbob.org and that could include you – and regularly see up to a dozen at 'Wednesday at the Shed'. Please come and join us – and it doesn't matter if you consider yourself to be an expert or a novice at making things, because meeting and chatting together is a vital part of what we do.

As well as the Shed sessions, we'll be organising talks at the Village Hall from time to time – look out for our next one coming soon, which will include our AGM and an exciting speaker. And we'll be present at the Duck Race and Fête on June 25th. Why not get in touch?

Bob Almond

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

We are currently very busy with 32 children and their families using our provision, we also have several waiting to join us in September which is great news!

Little Swans worked with the Parish Council to provide the Children that use our setting with an amazing extension to the garden area, which we are very grateful for their help. We have been working hard to improve the equipment and areas and are very happy with the results! The children show us they love it by asking to go across every time they go outside ☺

The extra area has helped us to supply the children with the skills to manage their own risk-taking abilities, learn how plants grow and to take care of other living things like the birds and feeding them. (They also love to collect their feathers and the long grass and flowers in the garden.) We have planted beans in hope they will grow into a Bean Teepee! and sowed wild flower seeds around the edge of the garden.

To go alongside our bench in memory of George and Rosemary Northall we have purchased another bench with money donated by The Friendship club.

We continue to invest in new toys, resources, and equipment to ensure that all the children at Little Swans have access to a wide and varied range; enabling them to explore and helping them to develop their full potential emotionally, socially, and intellectually, and have created a sensory and emotional area for the children to access at any time they need.

Towards the end of June, we have organised an exciting trip for our school leavers to Roar!
For more information about the Pre-school or to see what the children get up to you can pop in anytime to see us or find us on Facebook: Little Swans Pre-school
Thank you.
Lisa Syer (pre-school Manager)

e) Link Up – Report received from Mr Brooks, delivered by Mr Atterwill

Link Up magazine continues to be popular with readers locally and now further afield. As well as Swanton Morley, Beetley, Bilney, Hoe and Worthing, we also deliver to Dereham, Woodgate, North Elmham, Billingford and we are now posting to Essex! The shop sales go well and we often have to increase supplies in the summer when there are holidaymakers staying locally. We are grateful to our loyal customers, and the regular advertisers who continue to support the magazine. Fortunately we still have a dedicated delivery co-ordinator Moira Poole, and a plethora of willing volunteers offering to deliver magazines each month, helping to keep cost down and readership up. To all those incredible volunteers we offer our heartfelt thanks. Daphne Palmer remains in post as our treasurer and all payments should be sent to her (as per page 3 of the magazine). We are about to introduce new editor/s and all copy should be sent to them (as per page 2 of Link Up). We look forward to the new editors maintaining the regular items of Link Up, plus bringing modern features of their own, and wish them every success in their endeavours.

f) All Saints Church – Report received from and delivered by Rev. Rachel Dines

We started 2023 in a vacancy after Rev James Rosie moved to pastures new.

On 18th June I was licensed as Team Vicar by Bishop Jane Steen to a full church with excellent refreshments and floral arrangements.

In October we enjoyed the Harvest Festival with the church looking beautiful and we all enjoyed a tasty Harvest, bring and share Lunch in the church.

Monthly coffee mornings were held each month on a Thursday until October, when they became weekly. These have varied in number but are a great place to meet and support each other over cuppa and cake. Remembrance events and services took place in the church and were well attended. With thanks to Padre Ailsa and the Queens Dragoon Guards.
Christmas services.

‘Carols on the green’ event we were delighted to host. Wonderfully positive atmosphere that had a real community feel. Over Christmas I was off with Covid and so many people took extra services, for which we are most grateful indeed. We had the best since Christingle services started in 1995 with 500 people! Christmas Day service happened due to a retired priest graciously stepping in.

Easter Services.

During Lent, Holy Week and Easter we had a few more services, including a very successful Dawn Gathering at the church, with bacon butties afterwards.

During the year the links with our Church School have remained strong with the school coming to the church for a variety of services. Padre Ailsa and I are School governors and take assemblies as well as attending governor meetings and training.

Lincoln House has a communion service, or Special Service, each month and I am warmly welcomed to many events, which I love.

We are so thankful for the way in which the Parish Council maintains our churchyard. As it is closed to full burials the parish council look after the grass cutting and I can tell you, we are blessed with the care that is shown to the last resting place for many. It is worth noting that we can still have burial of ashes for ANYONE who lives in the parish, they do not have to be a church goer!

We are grateful to the Friends of Swanton Morley Church and The Barrett’s Charity for the funds they give to look after church building.

General upkeep of the church and paying Parish Share is costly but we are trying to find ways to raise funds and have more activities in the church. The last Bank Holiday in May we are holding a Big Book Sale in the church with LOTS of books and tasty refreshments.

We are working on having the Church building open during the day for visitors. Everyone is invited to any service in the church, it is after all your church! Coffee, cake and company is open to all 10-12 every

Thursday. I get out and about in the village as much as I can and am available if anyone wants a chat or has some church or faith related questions.
Rev Rachael Dines

g) Friends of All saints Church – Report received and delivered by Mr J Carrick

h) Barrett's Charity – Report received and delivered by Mr J Carrick

In 1488, in the reign of Henry the Seventh, Thomas Barrett, in his will, left 52 acres of land to the south of the parish of Swanton Morley, adjacent to what is now known as Frogs Hall Lane, to provide an income for a priest to say Mass for his soul.

The income, by way of rent, passed in the 16th Century to the Churchwardens, who used it to discharge their duties which included the repair of the Church, the relief of the poor, impotent and aged people of the parish and repair of the roads.

In Victorian times most of their jobs were undertaken by local Council's, and by 1952 the Charity Commission redefined the purpose of Barrett's Charity as: half to maintain the fabric of the Church and half to assist persons and occasionally organisations in need in the parish.

Though the Trustee sometimes make donations in emergencies, their custom for many years has been to give a little gift where it is thought helpful at Christmas to the elderly in the village.

Villagers will have noticed the substantial works currently being undertaken in the village to accommodate the Vattenfall windfarm cable which terminates in Necton.

As the route of this cable line passes through the Barrett's Charity land, the Trustee will be in receipt of substantial sums by way of compensation for the disturbance caused.

I know that suggestions from residents as to how these funds might be utilised for maximum village benefit, will be gratefully received and fully considered by the Trustees. We await your suggestions.

Chair of Trustees: Reverend Rachel Dines revd.rachael.dines@gmail.com

Vice Chairman: John Carrick john@castlefarm-swanton.co.uk

i) Patient Participation Group – Report received and delivered by Mrs B O'Dowd

The Elmham Practices

North Elmham Patient Participation Group

The EPPG meets 4 times a year on a Wednesday evening with the last meeting being on May 8th.

The meeting starts at 7pm for members' items and the Practice Manager and representative surgery staff join the meeting at 7:30 pm.

The Practice Manager is, until July, Lian Tan. After July, Carole Dunn-Bathurst will replace Lian as Acting Practice Manager.

The main topics for discussion this year include:

- New telephone system with a call-back function to assist patients who are not able to wait for calls to be answered.
- Future pre-bookable appointments are now available, subject to the individual staff 6-week advance rota.
- New online triage tool/system. For routine appointments, whether the patient request is walk-in, telephone, or online, they are directed to an online, detailed form for triaging. This analysis is automatically entered into the patient's record.
- This information feeds to a care navigator who directs the request to the most appropriate service/team.
- This is then reviewed by the practice team within 3 working days and action taken e.g. appointment, self-care.

Urgent appointments:

- As above with the online link but triaged on the day. There are clear checks & balances, with messaging on the practice system for the 'day doctor'.
- For those who cannot do online, then the care navigator will go through the same questions over the phone/in person. This will increase the length of time that care navigators (receptionists) will be in discussion, so online application will be encouraged.

- When it is fully operational, PPG suggested that it would be helpful to have a “teach -in” for patients on how this would work.
- PPG highlighted the need to offer some privacy in reception when triage discussions take place in person. Equally, the difficulties of providing this (limitations of physical space) were recognised.
- Updates will be provided for the local parish magazines, including LinkUp.
- Aware of housing discussions but too early for active involvement. Partnership is forward thinking and undertakes regular horizon scanning in its strategic planning.

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

Dear Resident,

It is my great privilege to serve as your Breckland District Councillor here in the Lincoln Ward. Here is a brief summary of my work on your behalf during the last year:-

Budget & Council Tax

For the financial year 2024-2025 Breckland Council has increased its share of your council tax bill to £113.58 for a Band D property. This is an increase of £4.95 above last year. It has not been immune to cost of living pressures caused by inflation and this year it has had to utilise some of its financial reserves and implement a programme of efficiency savings. The 2025-2026 financial year is also projected to be difficult. Having spent a lot of time with senior council officers reviewing the budget as well as meeting with the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition, I was content to support this year's budget. I continue to challenge the Council where I have concerns about financial matters. Having lobbied very hard on this matter, I was pleased to note that they finally scrapped the planned expenditure of £35,000 on painting murals in Dereham Town Centre. I also continue to ask searching questions about the future of Barnham Broom Golf & Country Club which the Council still owns. It is my long-held belief that the Council should never have bought this in the first place.

Local Development Plan Review

Breckland Council continues to carry out this review at pace and the draft plan will be discussed at the next Cabinet meeting to be held on 13th May 2024. Subject to approval at this meeting there will be a further public consultation anticipated to start on 3rd June 2024. I have been pleased to have the opportunity to work some with some Parish Councils on this very important piece of work.

The Future of Robertson Barracks

I was approached by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation in early January of this year to have an initial meeting with them to discuss their tentative plans for the site. This meeting was very constructive and I was pleased to hear their desire to communicate closely with the local community. This was followed on 30th April with a presentation and extensive inspection of the site with DIO and representatives from Breckland Council, Norfolk County Council, Swanton Morley Parish Council and Hoe & Worthing Meeting. The Breckland Council Draft Local Plan going before its Cabinet on 13th May, in my view, takes a very pragmatic approach to this site. It recognises that a lot of detailed work around transport links, utilities, green infrastructure and good quality design will need to be produced before a realistic assessment of housing and employment use can be determined. I will continue to engage with all relevant stakeholders to try and get the best possible outcome for the current local community and future generations. It must be remembered that any development of this site will likely take many years to complete after the base closes at the end of this decade.

2023 Power Cuts in Beetley & Gressenhall

I am grateful to a number of residents who contacted me following last year's power cuts to voice their frustration at the frequency and duration of these. I wrote to the UK Power Networks Public Affairs Manager in October seeking answers and a resolution to what was obviously an ongoing deficiency with their overhead cable network. I am pleased that they subsequently carried out a programme of tree cutting and replaced some cabling. I later requested that they send management representatives to the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Commission meeting which was held in March. At that meeting they acknowledged that their maintenance regime had not been satisfactory but that they now have a larger budget for maintenance work. Furthermore, I was pleased to receive an undertaking from them that additional engineering work will be carried out in 2024 to make the local electricity network more resilient.

Community Car Schemes

At a recent Beetley Parish Council meeting I was made aware of some complaints made by volunteer drivers and the co-ordinator about what they perceive is the onerous demands placed upon them by Breckland Council. These relate to the frequency of enhanced DBS and medical checks. It is felt that these can be off-putting for prospective new drivers and place an increased administrative burden on the Co-ordinator. I wrote to the relevant manager at Breckland Council (new in post) and having investigated the matter further, he confirmed that the Breckland Council scheme was last reviewed in 2010. He has advised me that his team will now undertake a thorough review taking account of the most up to date guidance. It is my hope that this will result in less administrative work and a sensible level of checks for drivers.

Beetley Pre-school

This long established Pre-school serves Beetley and surrounding villages. It is currently located within the school grounds. The age of the existing building and the need for the school to re-purpose the land it sits on, means that the Pre-school is trying to find land for a new home in the village. Despite obtaining planning permission to build new premises on land owned by Beetley Parish Council adjacent to the school, legal wrangling with some neighbouring properties has meant that this has had to be abandoned as the legal costs are prohibitive. I approached the Trustees of the Village Hall to see if they could help, but they did not respond to any of my correspondence. I was later advised by a third party that they declined to help. I continue to work with representatives of the Pre-school, Breckland Council planning department and a developer with a view to seeing if new premises can be built on land within the village. These discussions are at an early stage and I will continue to do what I can to secure the long term future of this facility for local children and their parents/carers.

Supporting our Military Families

I was troubled to find out in recent months that some of our service personnel and their families based at Robertson Barracks are living in substandard accommodation on the base. Some of these homes are very poorly insulated, have mouldy bathrooms and electric storage heaters which are decades old and very inefficient to run. This makes the cost of energy very expensive and impacts on other aspects of their household budgets such as everyday shopping. Working in conjunction with Breckland Council officers and Swanton Morley Parish Council, I have managed to help struggling families receive some emergency funding and specific help with food. I am grateful to the Leader of the Council, Sam Chapman-Allen for his support with this and to this end we, along with senior managers from the housing team will soon be meeting with representatives from the 1st Queens Dragoon Guards welfare team to develop more targeted support utilising funding from the Council and Armed Forces Covenant.

Casework

In the grip of the cost of living crisis Breckland Council has, with Government support, provided hardship and family support funding for those most in need. As part of my casework I have managed to help a number of local families receive additional financial support and I have signposted them to other professional bodies where they can receive additional help and guidance. I can and often do help with concerns relating to antisocial behaviour, housing, street sweeping, environmental health matters, business support and backing community grant funding applications.

Your Councillor

As well as my day to day duties as your councillor, I am also the leader of the Independent & Green Group at Breckland Council. I am now starting my sixth year as a member of the planning committee and I am also a substitute member of the Overview & Scrutiny Commission and Governance & Audit Committee.

Yours Sincerely

Roger Atterwill

Ward member – Lincoln Ward

Email: roger.atterwill@breckland.gov.uk

Tel: 07841 488860

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 had a slightly quieter year in 2023/2024 due to the rising cost of living.

Over the last twelve months the Village provided a venue for 5 weddings, 52 private parties, Tractor Rally, Wellbeing fayres and the Gardening club show to name a few.

The Community café ran every Tuesday morning and continues to provide coffee/tea and cake. We are soon to welcome our new volunteer who will be running this.

The Village Hall bar lounge has had a makeover this year, it is now freshly painted and soon to the home of the portrait of King Charles III. We still have the comfy corner in the bar area, and this can be used by anyone that would like to pop in for a bit of support as the office staff are 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 in a warm and welcoming environment.

The Village Hall have also had new hand driers, a new distribution board, key entry system, fire alarm panel and a new till. All of these improvements have been necessary for the maintenance and upkeep of the building.

The Village Hall were also very pleased to announce £9,973 in grant funding from the National Lottery Awards for All. This enabled the VH Trust to cover the cost to have all of the lighting in the Village hall upgraded to LED.

Following the report in 2023 about the need to replace the boiler system, I am pleased to report that with thanks to the Parish Council, the Village Hall has now had this work completed.

Future projects that are planned for the Village Hall include the main hall floor restoration and redecoration of the ladies and disabled toilets.

Mr Atterwill and the Clerk have also carried out a site visit with a local company to discuss the possibility of installing solar panels.

There will also soon be fencing installed along the boundary of the village hall field and Harkers Lane. This is to try and deter people using the cut throughs to the village hall field which have damaged over 40 saplings that were planted along this boundary and deter residents from exercising their dogs on the football pitches as unfortunately over the last 12 months there have been a number of reports from the football coaches that there has been a significant amount of dog mess on the pitches that they have had to clear up before training or a cup game.

Due to the cancellation of the bonfire night last year, the Village Hall Trust have now adopted an event management plan and policy to help our larger hirers run these events safely. The information required is all detailed on our website.

www.swantonmorleyvillagehall.co.uk

Thank you to our regular hirers, private hirers and everyone who has continued to support the village hall over the past year – we hope to see you again very soon.

Kelly Pickard

Clerk

7) Parishioners' Questions

Mr Bernie Marsham asked if the developers on Robertson Barracks would consider selling the surplus housing to local people before new people and could Highways install a roundabout outside the Barracks on the junction.

Mr Atterwill agreed that selling the housing to local people would be a good idea but this is ultimately a decision for Annington Homes.

Mr Atterwill agreed that building a roundabout might be a good idea but highway improvements will be something that will be decided along with any redevelopment of the Barracks site.

Mr Atterwill also reported that it is still unclear on the number of houses to be proposed for the site and a full transport study would be carried out initially, there would be significant amount of work to be done if 2000 houses are proposed.

Mr Marsham also suggested better signage when leaving the barracks.

Mrs Hyde suggested that the Village could have a 'diary of events' to share with residents.

Mr Marsham also raised a concern over the fee paid to the landowner of the footpath agreement, and suggested that the parish Council should cease paying for it. He feels that as there is a dog exercise field being put together that the footpaths are unnecessary.

Mr Atterwill responded that Swanton Morley is a growing village and there is a concern that the dog mess would be a higher problem if the footpaths are closed.
Mr Carrick agreed that there is a growing problem with dog fouling and this has resulted in cattle being infected.

Mr Atterwill then asked for resident's views on the future of Robertson Barracks.

Mr Atterwill then raised some points:

This could result in an entirely separate village being created.

Mr Atterwill is keen for the road infrastructure to be assessed with a possible access road from the old corners nursery behind the hospital and link to the A47

It has the potential to create employment opportunities.

Mr Atterwill also disagreed with the decision to downgrade the road from the B1147 to C888.

Mr Atterwill also asked if there would be any mileage in getting the railway line revamped and creating connectivity in the form of a walk/cycle path.

Mr B Almond understood the comments regarding the road infrastructure and suggested a more mixed development, community development and employment from the beginning of the process.

Mrs Venworth asked how the school and doctors would cope with the additional housing?

Mr Atterwill responded that there have been talks regarding a possible second school however this may not be required as the existing school has the potential to expand.

The development could be used by the NHS to build more specific surgery rooms.

It was reported that the developers could not pay towards doctors and nurses.

Mr Beacham asked when the mast at the end of the Village Hall car park would be commissioned.

The Clerk will chase this up with UK Power Networks.

A discussion was also had regarding the Control Tower and this being a protected listed building.

This could be refurbished and there is the potential to form a Charitable Trust to raise money to turn it into a Memorial museum.

Mr Atterwill discussed the issue of speeding in the Village.

This is being monitored by the Community Speedwatch sessions and the Clerk is discussing speed reduction measures.

Mr Gauntlett raised the issue of parking on the pavement on Town Street leaving little or no access for wheelchairs and pushchairs. This is officially illegal to park on the footpath and the vehicles should be parked in the road.

Mr Hyde asked if the road was re-graded would it necessitate beyond the current status? Mr Atterwill responded that there would be more maintenance visits and money allocated for repairs.

The Clerk reported that there is going to be a public meeting with RWE regarding the Vattenfall project this coming Friday at the Village Hall.

Mrs Bosche raised the concern that the site looks permanent.

Mr Atterwill assured the public that when the project is complete the sites will all be returned to how they were.

It was suggested that the layby on Elsing Road would be beneficial to keep.

Mr Atterwill also reported that there is talks with a Landowner to build a new shop unit in the village.

This will be on the pasture on Gooseberry Hill with the intention that the existing shop keeper will move into the new unit.

Mrs Venworth raised a concern about customers parking on the road but Mr Atterwill reported that there will be a carpark included.

Mrs Dack asked if having a link through to Harkers Lane would affect the allotment site.

8). Date of Next Meeting

The next Annual Parish meeting will be held on Tuesday 19th May 2025 at 7pm

The meeting closed at 8.28pm

_____ (Chairman) _____ Date

DRAFT