

SWANNINGTON with ALDERFORD & LITTLE WITCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 30 May 2018 at 7.30pm
in Church Farm Little Witchingham Norwich.

PRESENT

Mr Tim Prail Parish Council Chairman & Local Government Elector of Alderford Parish
Mrs P Kirby (Clerk to the Council)
18 Local Government Electors of the Parishes

1. Introduction

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those present and explained the nature of this meeting.

This meeting is a meeting of the people of the parishes and any matter pertinent to the parishes may be discussed. An agenda has been produced however items for inclusion can be added at agenda item 4 as appropriate.

He further introduced the members of the Parish Council who were in attendance as local government electors and would request input from them if required.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 3 May 2017

The minutes were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

3. Chairman's report 2017/2018

The Chairman read his report. A copy of which is attached to these minutes.

The Chairman further advised he had received an annual report from PC Devlin of the Reephams Safer Neighbourhood Team and summarised the crime figures. He reminded the next SNAP meeting would be held on 25 July. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

4. Subjects for discussion

Representations were made in respect of

- Consultation with parishioners and stakeholders regarding opinions for the new commons management plan. At the invitation of the Chairman Cllr Williams gave a detailed response and explained the current situation and of how any plan will fit in with funding streams. At this stage a framework needs to be considered before any consultation will go ahead. He invited any views to be put to him pre-consultation stage. The management plan will be a council document and will align with Natural England views on management of key designated areas.

1

Approved.....

Date..... 27/3/19

He reminded that interested parties can follow management of the sites as a detailed report on the current situation of the commons is provided to and discussed at each Parish Council meeting and is also made available on the parish council section of the village website. Some in attendance were unaware of this and some said they did not have internet provision.

- Parking on the commons. Cllr Williams stated parking should not be allowed on Uppgate common and this issue will be dealt with in the new plan in respect of how this can be managed with a sensible approach.
- Dog fouling on the commons. All agreed this is an issue and supply of a dog bin was suggested. The Chairman advised that as the site is Council owned then any provision would be at council cost. This would include ongoing maintenance for repair and emptying as well as initial purchase. Cllr Griggs offered to investigate costs.
- Bus timetable at bus shelter. In view of removal of bus service this needed to be removed. The Clerk would remove when next placing notices.

5. Matters discussed

As above.

6. Close

The Chairman gave thanks for attending and encouraged attendance at the regular parish council meetings.

The meeting closed at 8.07pm

2

Approved.....
Date..... 27/3/19

SWANNINGTON with ALDERFORD & LITTLE WITCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – 2017/2018

The Parish Council has met five times since the last Annual Council Meeting.

The past year has been quite busy with some significant events.

Since the last Annual meeting we have appointed a paid parish clerk for the first time. This became necessary as the duties and roles of a parish clerk and the increasing bureaucracy involving parish councils has made it very onerous to carry out on a voluntary basis. Once Hazel Nelson informed us of her intention to stand-down we took the decision that a paid, trained clerk was the only option to replace her. Patricia Kirby has joined us as our new clerk and is bringing her experience and trained expertise to bear on how we conduct our affairs.

The second change has been the transfer of ownership of the Swannington play area from Mr Buxton to the Parish Council. Steve Griggs lead on the legal issues for the council. The Parish Council has been discussing with the Play Area Committee how best to manage the play area now we have ownership, so as to maximise both the ability of the Committee to manage its own affairs while providing for the most effective financial arrangements. Helen Mutimer represents the council on the Play Area Committee which is seeking funding to re-equip the playground.

Steve Williams continues as our lead councillor for the Commons. This requires a lot of his time to deal with all the issues including: liaising with the volunteer groups who help maintain the Commons, liaising with the statutory and partnership bodies involved with the Commons and managing the finances along with the clerk. Over the coming year the council will be finalising its new management plan and has retained the services of a qualified person (who knows the Commons well from working with Natural England for years) to assist in this. Steve will be arranging for opportunities for local residents to be consulted on the draft plans as they become available.

Trevor Nelson continues with lead councillor responsibility for financial matters liaising with Patricia who is our responsible financial officer. Patricia's appointment has taken the burden off of Trevor who very efficiently managed our financial affairs over the years.

Steve Griggs continues to provide invaluable input into the Council. He seems to be the go-to-man for most things that don't directly relate to any of the other councillor responsibilities. This has involved organising tree removal, tree planting, running repairs to the bus shelter, strimming, hire out of council equipment and legal matters relating to not just the play area but its future legal arrangements. Steve also keeps an eye on the footpaths.

We have had a number of planning applications over the past year and Malcolm Rust has dealt with these as our lead councillor in liaison with Patricia.

Edward Jones has continued as Deputy Chairman and brings his local knowledge and long-standing experience on the council to our discussions and activities.

I have continued with the lead for highways matters which continue to cause vexations for us all. Battling to get more than just spot repairs to pot holes with a backdrop of tight funding in the County Council's Highways budget is challenging to say the least.

I have also taken responsibility for the ongoing planning proposals for the old Atlas works in Lenwade to be used as a waste disposal facility, to ensure it does not affect our residents. Also I have providing planning input into the proposed Hornsea 3 offshore wind farm cable installation which would run underground across Alderford and Little Witchingham, to ensure minimum disruption.

So my thanks go to all of the councillors for the work and time they have put into the running of the council without any payment. Also to the many parishioners who get involved in the affairs of the parishes, litter picking, strimming and hedge cutting, mowing of the grass around the Swannington pump and checking the ponies on Ugate Common. Lastly a special mention to Jeremy Smith the administrator of the parish website who kindly uploads all the parish council public information.

Tim Prail

Chairman



NORFOLK
CONSTABULARY
Our Priority is You

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Richard Oakes Road
Aylsham
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Telephone number :101
Email Address: sntreephams@norfolk.pnn.police.uk

Swannington, Aldeford & Little Witchingham Annual Parish Meeting

For The Period 01/04/2017 to 30/04/2018

- 1 x Criminal Damage**
- 2 x Theft**
- 1 x Harassment**
- 1 x Sexual Offence**
- 1 x Arson**
- 1 x Offence Against the Person**
- 1 x Road Traffic act 1988**

The parishes of Swannington, Aldeford & Little Witchingham have had **8** crimes for the 12 month period compared to **7** recorded crimes during the period of 01/04/2016 to 31/03/2017.

There has been increase of **1** reported crime to police compared to previous 12 month period.

I would like to advertise to councillors and parishioners that the next Reephams Safer Neighbourhood Team, Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel (SNAP) Meeting will be taking place on **Wednesday 25th July** at 7pm at The Bircham Centre Market Place Reephams NR10 4JJ. If you have an issue or concern where you live, tell the police and their partners at the next priority setting-meeting. All members of the public are welcome to attend.

PC 1143 Devlin
Reephams Safer Neighbourhood Team

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