

SWANNINGTON WITH ALDERFORD AND LITTLE WITCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council held at St Margaret’s Church, Swannington on
Thursday 8th December 2016 at 7:30pm**

Present:

Tim Praill (chairman)	Steve Williams	1 parishioner
Malcolm Rust	Helen Mutimer	
Ed Jones	Hazel Nelson (minutes)	
	Steve Griggs	

1. **Apologies** TN, Rotary commitment

3. **Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 29th September 2016**
It was resolved to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record

4. **Matters Arising.**

- BT community fibre broadband – 67 lines have been identified within the parish. Chris Liles is awaiting response from BT. (Those receiving less than 2MB/sec *potentially* qualify for £350 funding from BDUK)

- Bus shelter – builder found to undertake work for £50.

It was resolved to proceed

Action SG

- Village sign – ongoing **Action SG**
- “Triangle” – Highways are prepared to remove a metre of the grass, re-tarmac the area and thus widen the slip-road under road maintenance, as a safety issue. This will involve a road closure and the work is planned for the school half-term week at the beginning of February.

Also:-

- To improve area in front of bus shelter, the estimated cost of tarmac, kerbing, relocation of noticeboard and litter bin is £2,200 - £2,500. With a 50% grant the cost should be £1,100 - £1,250.

It was resolved to apply for a grant for this work

Action TP

- Chestnut tree – of 3 quotes the cheapest to fell the tree was £360/day + £40 to grind out the stump with the expectation that it comprised the work of 1 day.

It was resolved to undertake this work

Action SG

Also:-

- Replacement oak would cost £60 for 15ft tree + planting costs

It was resolved to plant oak prior to felling chestnut tree

Action SG

- Pledge opposing unnecessary housing has been signed and posted to CPRE
- Station Road “Housing” – Circle Housing are seeking another housing scheme to take this redevelopment forward. Council would like to know “Why?”

Action MR

5. **Finance**

1. **It was resolved to agree the following payments:-**

	£
• CGM grass- cutting – retrospective	405.60
• Play Area Inspection- retrospective	100.80
• Work on Alderford Common; George Taylor HLS – retrospective	40.00
• Norfolk Conservation Corps HLS – retrospective	55.00
• CGM grass-cutting September – retrospective	202.80
• Church hire – retrospective	90.00
• Stamps 12 X 2 nd class	6.60
2. It was resolved to reimburse the cost of “Poppy Wreath”	17.00
3. Remittance received from rpa	£1,474.22
4. Wayleaves UK Power Networks	£55.42

6. **Commons**

The following report was written by SW:-

1. Volunteer Group Tasks

Undertaken by Norfolk Conservation Corps (NCC) and Norwich Environmental Weekenders (NEWS).

Tasks Completed (since last report)

Date Location Volunteer Group Task Completed

09/10/16 Upgate NCC Scrub clearance on Deadman's Hill

13/11/16 Alderford NCC Cutting, raking in chalk grassland within fenced area

04/12/16 Upgate NCC Scrub clearance on Deadman's Hill

2. Management Plans - Ongoing

3. HLS Agreements

Meeting held with new Natural England Advisor (Nik Bertholdt) following retirement of Dave Weaver on 19/10/16 to introduce to the sites and discussed on-going management.

Existing Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) Agreements for Upgate and Alderford will end at the end of May 2019. We will have to apply for future funding under the New Environmental Land Management Scheme (NELMS) prior to this date to continue to receive funds to enable management. Funding is likely to be less under the new scheme. The details of this scheme may have changed by time of application considering Brexit.

4. Upgate Common

Ponies OK. NWT vet and farrier visited on 05/10/16 – all ok.

Douglas Brown, an ecology student from Easton College has joined the pony checking volunteers and is checking every Thursday.

Boardwalk – Another roll of netting put down on 16/10/16 but some other areas still need attention.

Longer term options for the boardwalk under consideration.

Birch scrub was removed from Deadman's Hill by a volunteer group on 09/10/16 with a second task on the 04/12/16 completing the area to the one side of the path.

Meeting held on site with contractor George Taylor on 02/10/16 to agree clearance of birch and scrub on fen and transition area. Work completed over 2 days in late November. Third day to be completed soon. The Internal Drainage Board contacted us regarding maintenance work on the Beck, commenced on 5th December. They required permission to access over the Commons which has been given. Most of the work is undertaken by hand, but an 8t excavator will be used to repair the bank adjacent to the fen area at Upgate, where the breach occurred last winter. Access will be along the northern bank and it has been confirmed by NE that the works have been assented.

5. Alderford Common

The stand of Japanese Knotweed was treated by George Taylor on 02/10/16. Further treatment will almost certainly be required next year. The large Ash bough that had fallen onto the fence line near the field gate entrance was removed with a chainsaw by GT at the same time. Fence line will require some tightening prior to any future grazing.

An area of grassland within the fenced area was cut, raked and removed by a volunteer group on 13/11/16 and some scrub removed that was blocking the access into the bat hibernaculum.

Further clearance of the grassland will be carried out during the next volunteer task and early next year. Hopefully some grazing can be found for the site next year to reduce the need to manually remove vegetation.

7. **Highways**

- Effluence in ditch leading to Swannington Beck has cleared; Environment Agency to monitor.
- Reephams Road junction with road from Upgate – pot holes again where the new tarmac abuts the old, as heavy lorries gain traction to turn. As this area also still floods regularly, a more complete approach is necessary. Highways aware and plan to undertake a full resurfacing. TP to continue correspondence with engineers.
- NDR West feasibility – NCC seems to accept that the SSSI will have to be crossed; however they intend to undertake traffic surveys once NDR is open. It has been suggested to them that counts need to include Hall Road traffic and Swannington.

8. **Play Area**

- Awaiting solicitor for change of ownership.
- There will be revised access,

- **It was resolved to underwrite necessary professional fees.** However £2,000 has already been pledged from donors. Thanks to SG for his hard work to this end.

9. Planning

- Mid Norfolk Shooting Club time changes have been agreed by Broadland.
- Atlas Waste Plant application deferred at NCC Planning Committee. The Environment Agency is also involved, as the proposal was above an aquifer, so much better protection of the environment is required.
- The Hornsea 3 offshore wind farm needs to run major underground cabling through the parish to a new sub-station south of Norwich. This will consist of a corridor 80 metres wide during the laying. This proposal is out for consultation.
- No objections to Alderford Barn application.

10. Public Rights of Way

Already registered, according to NCC.

11. Tree Warden

The tree warden is Tony Forster.

12. Pay Phone

Only used twice in the last 18 months, you need a card to use it and it is in poor condition so removal is accepted.

13. Correspondence

- No problem with dog fouling so does not require kits and warden.

14. AOB

- Suggestion to create parking spaces on Swannington Common – next agenda.
- Next meeting Wednesday February 8th 2017

Meeting closed 8:15pm