

SWANNINGTON WITH ALDERFORD AND LITTLE WITCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parishioners Meeting held at St Margaret's Church, Swannington on Thursday 2nd June 2016

Present:

Tim Praill (chairman)	Steve Griggs
Steve Williams	Malcolm Rust
Trevor Nelson	Helen Mutimer
Ed Jones	
Hazel Nelson (minutes)	Angela Phipps
Chris Liles	PCSO Stephen Bridges

1. Welcome by Chairman

2. Apologies for absence

3. Minutes of meeting held on 21st May 2015

It was resolved to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters arising

None

5. Chairman's Report

The Parish Council has met 5 times since the last AGM. Despite the church wardens pre-heating the church for our meetings only a handful of parishioners turned out for the meetings.

The parish finances continue to be in a very good shape – thanks to our very diligent finance lead – Trevor Nelson. We still have the complication of running the parish account alongside the Commons account, but Trevor makes an excellent job of producing very clear spreadsheets for us to work from at the meetings.

The Commons, as always, has kept us busy over the year. The ponies remain at Upgate common and thanks go to all who check them very regularly.

My thanks go to Steve Williams, who oversees all the commons and is a very competent link with all the agencies. Steve also manages all the volunteer groups that come and help with commons maintenance. This takes a lot of Steve's time. The Parish Council has started to think about how best to replace the boardwalk through Upgate Common. This will be a sizable undertaking for which we have been building up our financial reserves.

Planning – we have dealt with various planning matters over the course of the year. The most provocative was the proposed development at Swan Close, which was turned down by the District Council and went to a Planning Inspectorate appeal: this appeal was rejected. My thanks go to Malcolm Rust who has approached the neighbours and parishioners affected by planning applications and got their views and reported back to the council.

The play area at Swan Close continues to be a vital part of the parish and Helen Mutimer has continued to be responsible for this on behalf of the council: many thanks Helen.

Our thanks go again to Tom Mutimer for cutting the common by the pump in Swannington for yet another year, Simon Mitchell for trimming the area around the bridge in Swannington and Pam and Jeremy Smith for acting as our footpath wardens. Steve Griggs has very kindly overseen and reported back on any footpath issues. Thanks also to Pam for her work with the village web site which acts as a useful notice board.

Our thanks also go to Michael Pearce for maintaining all the local public notice boards and seats in Alderford Common.

Thanks go to Edward Jones for his local knowledge and long-standing experience on the council.

I have continued with the lead for highways matters which continue to cause vexations for us all. The use of Hall Road, Alderford by HGVs continues to be monitored: transport managers of culpable companies are contacted and where necessary details are passed to the police. Roadside parking down School Lane Swannington causing problems for buses and other large vehicles remains unresolved. The council reports minor repair and maintenance issues to the County Council for their ranger teams to tackle. Councillors have met Highways officers for site visits on several occasions.

Finally my thanks go to Hazel Nelson continues as our unpaid acting clerk – she prepares meetings' agendas takes the minutes and acts as our link with Broadland District Council. Her hard work and knowledge on council matters are a really appreciated, not just by me but everyone on the parish council. Thank you, Hazel.

6. Awards

Young people to be recognised for their help within the parish; Tyler Dennis and Ebony Leggett are to receive a certificate for their assistance with litter picking in Swannington. They are away on holiday at present.

7. Parishioner's questions and comments

None.

Meeting ended 7:36pm