

# SWEPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

## Parish Council Meeting Minutes

**Held at: Newton Burgoland Congregational Church**

**Date: Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 8.00pm**

**Present**                      *Councillors:* B Sumner, N Makin, P Cook  
*Chairman:* C Robinson  
*Parish Clerk:* Annie Callingham  
*No. of Parishioners Present:* x 6  
National Forest Representative

**297/2019                      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor Milner

**298/2019                      LOCAL POLICING REPORT**

There has been no crime or antisocial behaviour reported for Swepstone Parish for the past month. Records show there was a single vehicle RTC on Newton Road on 16th September which is the only item of note.

The following incidents (not crimes) were reported:

Police received a report of a dirt bike causing nuisance at the Green, Newton Burgoland on 9th October and during the early hours of this morning three youths were seen acting suspiciously around a van on Main St, Snarestone.

The Parish PCSO also visited farm premises off The Pinfold, Newton Burgoland to give crime prevention advice after an incident where unknown persons were seen on the premises at night.

Top policing priorities for the Parish now the nights are drawing in should be, the prevention of burglaries from private and commercial premises and outbuildings, breaks in to works vans (tool thefts) which is ongoing.

**RESOLVED:**

Clerk to remind parishioners about taking advantage of the Community Safety Box in the newsletter

**299/2019                      PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The meeting heard from parishioners concerns about sudden closure of The Belper, a request to plant daffodil bulbs on Main Street, Newton Burgoland, another to move the SID to the other end of Main Street Newton Burgoland (on the way out of the village towards Odstone), and a reminder that the community boxes are available.

**RESOLVED:** Clerk to communicate community safety box in newsletter, the SID to be moved by Councillor Robinson and Councillor Milner, the daffodils to be

planted on the bulb planting day, and clerk to write to Heineken to express the parish councils support while they recruit another landlord.

**300/2019**

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors were reminded of their duty to declare any personal or prejudicial interests – none were declared.

**301/2019**

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held in August were agreed as a true and correct record of the meeting and no further matters or new decisions have arisen since.

**302/2019**

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

None

**303/2019**

**MINORCA DEVELOPMENT**

Council heard from Philip Metcalfe, Green Infrastructure & Planning Officer for The National Forest, regarding the potential purchase of this area by The National Forest.

Philip explained that The National Forest is always keen to purchase land across the district to plant trees and make more green spaces more attractive.

It is looking to acquire 190 acres of the Minora site to plant trees, and in time, create footpaths and bridle paths for local residents and dog walkers etc. There are no plans for facilities, café, gravel paths etc and as such is classed as a “low key” site.

The main objective is primarily focussed on the woodland, for biodiversity, carbon sequestration and habitat connectivity, and the current plan is to acquire the area at the start of 2020. The first trees would be planted in the spring of 2020 and with subsequent planting every winter thereafter. We will keep you updates on any developments, but feel free to look at the proposed map on the parish website.

**RESOLVED:** Philip to send the map to the Clerk, who will then to update the parish website and share in the newsletter.

**304/2019**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The Council considered the correspondence from a parishioner with suggestions to improve the appearance of the village with tree planting. The Council are happy to proceed and investigate the funding options from NWLDC and The Woodland Trust.

Another correspondence arrived to ask for support with the continuous water leak on Francis Lane, Newton Burgoland; and that the swap stop phone box is, at times, becoming a dumping ground for unwanted books, rather than a swap stop which was its purpose.

**RESOLVED:** Clerk to pursue this further for next meeting and communicate the swap stop purpose in the newsletter i.e. take one, leave one. Donations only

need to go via the charity shop. The clerk shared that the water leak is being sorted on the 18<sup>th</sup> November by Leicestershire County Council.

### **305/2019 MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT**

This was reviewed and update accordingly. Key points to note are that:

- The appellant for Aylesbury Gardens appealed for leave to appeal to the Court of Appeal in June, and NWLDC Solicitors have still not heard anymore from the courts on this.
- Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> September at County Hall to discuss traffic calming in Sweptstone, street lighting and Francis Lane pothole was very disappointing. Parish Council waiting for their proposals
- The Friendly Bench idea shelved due to expense and lack of locations to place it.
- NWLDC Empty Houses Officer is still working with the owner on improving the appearance and safety of the property. The council decided to ask for quarterly updates from now on.
- Victorian streetlighting idea has been shelved due to inflexibility from LCC and exponential costs involved.
- Overgrown footpaths to be taken to NWLDC Footpaths Team and addressed in the main. The remaining overgrown areas near Ludlams to be communicated back.
- Tree work on “at risk” trees on the Wraggy to be addressed. Council heard from three quotes and chose accordingly.
- Street Signs ordered incorrectly and have been re-ordered
- Parish Survey is out, and replies are slowly coming in
- Community Grant to be reminded in Newsletters

#### **RESOLVED:**

- Update the progress report and circulate to Councillors
- Cascade relevant information on the newsletter
- Clerk to chase LCC following 18/09/2019 meeting.
- Communicate the council’s final decision to The Friendly Bench.
- Clerk to communicate back to the footpaths team
- Clerk to book tree work on Wraggs Yard
- Clerk to speak to insurers about the necessary checks needed on the Wraggs Yard area, and who the liability lies with.

### **306/2019 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

The Clerk updated the council of the current bank balance. The Council agreed to pay the following invoices:

- Clerks Expenses
- Notice Board
- Band from Party in the Parish event
- Red Phone Box
- Newsletter Printing
- Planter expenses

**RESOLVED:** Clerk to pay these invoices on-line, and update finances.

**307/2019**

**PLANNING MATTERS**

Council heard an update, including visuals from the Clerk on application 19/018011/FUL.

After considering the visuals of the proposed boundary, the council understand the reasons why such a high boundary has been applied for due to the noise of the busy road, and have replied to the NWLDC planning officer with two conditions:

1 - That the proposed front fence be painted green to be more in keeping with the countryside

2 - That the front boundary is no further onto the Highway than the existing fence so as not to interfere with pedestrians or highway activity.

**RESOLVED:** Clerk to submit the Council's position before 17th October

**308/2019**

**PARISH PLANNING**

The clerk has been contacted by a company called RMS offering a bespoke service to help parishes produce a comprehensive parish plan. Council to consider the information and inform Clerk on next steps in November meeting.

**RESOLVED:** Clerk to ascertain the costs involved.

**309/2019**

**NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT SURVEY**

Parish Councils have been invited to complete the NHT Survey. Due to time constraints, clerk to check the final deadline for this and possibly move to November meeting.

**RESOLVED:** Clerk to share deadline date with Councillors after the meeting.

**310/2019**

**VILLAGE HALL**

Council heard an initial update from Councillor Cook's research regarding the idea of a village hall.

Councillor Cook has gained information from other parishes, a contact a Fisher German and other funding options. There could be two possible sites, but as there has been no extra housing, nor planned to be, then section 106 money wouldn't be available.

There are funding options from DEFRA, Lottery Funding, Partnership Funding and others.

It was agreed that the Parish will try to bring to life a vibrant community and bring both villages together by utilising the church hall for smaller events, and the church space for larger events. Questions have been asked to the school to understand whether the school hall could be an option.

The Council will look at the results of the parish survey to understand those members of the Parish who are interested in social activities, and work with the

church, church hall and possibly school to utilise the space the parish already has.

**RESOLVED:** Council to understand the appetite for community events from the parish surveys after the analysis in November.

**311/2019      EMPTY HOUSE- NEWTON ROAD, SWEPSTONE**

Due to the mattresses outside the property, and the fridges etc abandoned outside the property, this area can now be deemed a hazardous and dangerous area of the parish.

**RESOLVED:** Clerk to work with NWLDC to clear the area as a matter of urgency, and charge back to the occupier of the property

**312/2019      VE GRANT**

Due to time constraints, the Council will be asked to consider using the £250 grant to celebrate VE celebrations on 8 – 10 May 2020. Ideas suggested by NWLDC are street parties, tea parties, exhibitions, talks, social events and dances

**RESOLVED:** To go on November Agenda

**313/2019      NEXT STEPS FOLLOWING JLR APPROVAL - JUNCTION 11**

Due to time constraints, the Council will be asked to decide on next steps to support traffic calming through villages following the approval of the new development.

**RESOLVED:** To go on November Agenda

**314/2019      THE BIG SWITCH ON**

Date agreed at 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019 at 5:00pm

**RESOLVED:**

Councillor Robinson to organise the church bells to be rung

Councillor Sumner to coordinate refreshments

Councillor Milner to coordinate the fireworks

Roger Smith to coordinate the plunger

**315/2019      REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

The daffodil bulb delivery is 17th October. The Council agreed to hold the village planting day on 27<sup>th</sup> October, with refreshments at 12 noon as normal.

**RESOLVED:** Clerk to communicate via Facebook, newsletter, parish website and Next Door Neighbour.

**316/2019      ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

- Terracycle concept                      - JLR Traffic Calming
- Parish Planning                              - VE Day Grant

**FUTURE DIARY DATES FOR 2019: -**

20<sup>th</sup> November – Swebstone

18<sup>th</sup> December - Newton Burgoland