

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF SWANLAND

Was held on Tuesday 5th May 2009

Commencing at 7.00 p.m. in Swanland Village Hall.

Followed at 7.30 p.m. by the Annual General Meeting of Swanland Parish Council and the monthly meeting of Swanland Parish Council.

Minute

No. Item No. MINUTES

1. Present: 12 Residents, Members of the Parish. Chairman Chapman, Vice-Chairman Burman, Councillors Dumsday, May, Richardson, Ward Councillor Gilmour, Ward Councillor Abraham and the Community Policeman.

022 2. Apologies for Absence: Councillor Sanderson, Councillor Stead, Councillor Fairburn

023 3. Chairman's Report:

This is not about current issues; it is about what we have achieved and to set priorities for the coming year. I will review briefly some of the key things that have happened over the last 12 months. This is my 2nd annual report and we need to thank a number of people for their hard work and involvement in the village.

The clerk has completed training and is gaining confidence with experience and is putting in many extra hours on behalf of the Parish Council.

An event that happened last year was the introduction of the Honours Board in recognition of the great amount of work put in by the previous Chairman Colin Hotham to achieve the village hall. The village has also been awarded a lottery grant from Awards for All for the restoration of the pond. Part of the work in the diversion of the water from the roof of the village hall has been completed, and the water levels have already gone up.

We now have improved communication with everyone by the introduction of the Parish Council website. There has been a good response. Personally I had 1400 emails last year. This shows the level of communication that is going on and is very important to the village.

Councillors Martin May and Yvonne Dumsday are involved with the applications for work to the trees in the village. Continued vigilance is needed

We have constant requests to do something about parking in the village. School parking still a problem and any suggestions that could help to alleviate the difficulties would be gratefully received.

In 2007 on Great Gutter Lane there were 3 fatalities and another last year and at last some changes are taking place to try to prevent the accidents by the painting of double white lines in centre of road.

Last year we had between 85 and 95 planning applications. This year there were 45 and amongst these several controversial ones. Two appeals have not yet been settled. We have a lot of houses with large grounds that could be split and this has been occurring. There have been two cases where planning permission has been refused, but due to permitted development rules have still been implemented. Although these rules give residents the freedom to develop their own property there are things that happen that are not agreeable. Areas of common character are being eroded and need more protection. Guidance can be found on the website in the Village Design Statement. Last year the status of the village in development hierarchy was classed as rural

Also last year, an emergency plan was further developed by Councillors Yvonne Dumsday and Jackie Richardson and is almost complete. Should there be an emergency that affects the village; the plan can be put into action in order to safeguard the residents.

Another point to be made is that the Parish Council has direct responsibilities for the quality of the village hall, the allotments and the playing fields.

We now have the Local Action Team which is there to bring organisations to bear on problems locally and support the parish councils.

Councillor Steve Parnaby at East Riding has complained about government interference and overruling the work of the East Riding Council. He should now understand how the parish councils feel in the way they are treated sometimes by the ERYC.

Among the priorities for the future are the following:-

Work to the Pond needs to be completed and this will involve members of the Parish Council, Swanland Village Association and Swanland Wildlife Group. The village seats are showing their age and we need more seats, but at about £1000 per seat including removal, this is an expensive item.

Village Signs - The Parish Council has obligations to support the Swanland Village Association in their plans to provide signs for the village.

Planning - We need to push hard to protect the area of common character. There is protection, but it is being undermined.

Dale Road footpath - The path to link the village to path to Nutwood and Raywell. Vice Chairman Burman is working to bring this about.

Geoff Chapman

024 4. Open Forum:

Residents of Mere Flats came to discuss the parking in the turning circle. The Chairman informed them that 2 years ago deputations came from Mere Flats requesting that shrubbery should be removed so that a turning circle could be put in to ensure safety. This work was carried out. Residents are finding difficulty parking so have started using circle. They stated how dangerous it was to back out into pinch point. A car parked on the corner is preventing people leaving the Mere Flats in safety. Yellow no parking lines could be placed at this point in the near future and this would give more room for people coming up to the pinch point by enabling them to pull to one side. The present white line marking is only advisory, not compulsory. Ward Councillor Julie Abraham and Ward Councillor Helen Gilmour made arrangements with the residents to discuss the problem.

Carol Ledgard of the Swanland Wildlife Group expressed her thanks and appreciation to Swanland Parish Council for their help and support in relation to the pond project.

The meeting closed at 7.30 p.m.