

## **NEEDHAM MARKET TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of the meeting of the NEEDHAM MARKET TOWN COUNCIL held in Needham Market Community Centre on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 7:30pm.

**Present:** Cllr J Lea (In the Chair), Councillors: BE Annis, G Cave, A Farrow, T Lawrence, M Norris, M O'Shea, A Price, A Reardon, J Reardon, and X Stansfield.

### **Apologies for Absence:**

R Darnell – Away

I Mason - Away

M Ost – Family Commitment

S Phillips - Illness

Suffolk County Councillor Kay Oakes

**In Attendance:** Town Clerk.

### **C064/22 To confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022.**

Cllr A Reardon referred to draft Minute C063/22/2a and proposed additional wording was required to reflect the full scope of the discussion relating to Speed Indicator Devices.

The Clerk reported he had no notes verifying the additional wording but agreed with the proposal.

Cllr J Reardon seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal. The additional wording to be appended to the adopted Minutes.

Cllr Lea welcomed Antony Price to the Council and invited him to make his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Cllr Price made his Declaration of Acceptance of Office which he then signed. The Clerk countersigned the Declaration as Proper Officer.

### **C065/22 To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest for Matters on the Agenda.**

Cllr J Lea – Accounts for Payment (Reimbursement of Expenses)

Cllr M Norris – Planning Matters

### **C066/22 To receive reports from the County Councillor, District Councillors and, to take questions from members of the public.**

Suffolk County Councillor Kay Oakes presented her report, which had been circulated to Councillors, and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book. Below are the report headlines:

- Windows are now open to apply for primary and secondary school places
- Great Big Green Week in Suffolk: Creating the Greenest County
- Alzheimer's Awareness Month
- Ipswich Register Office moves to Endeavour House
- Suffolk Road Partnership rolls out ANPR devices to target speeding motorists

Cllr Oakes added:

- A proforma for local councils to apply for the siting of automatic number plate recognition devices, is available
- The height of passage through the Coddensham Road railway bridge is to be raised to allow egress by the Needham Market fire engine

- The white roadway markings in the vicinity of the Coddensham Road railway bridge are to be refreshed within the next 14 weeks
- The yellow roadway marking on Bridge Street in the vicinity of the fish & chip shop are to be refreshed with additional 'keep clear' signage

Cllr A Reardon raised the parking issues affecting the area around Bosmere Community Primary School, and in particular, the entrance to Bloomfields (Needham Market Football Club). County Councillor Oakes referred to initiatives that had been discussed between her, the County Council Road Safety Officer and the school's Head Teacher. Action taken to date has not resolved the problems. Car drivers have ignored attempts to gain their co-operation. It was suggested the next actions could involve additional signage and bollards to physically prevent parking.

Cllr Stansfield said he is aware the B1113 High Street route is again being used by heavy goods vehicles trying to avoid a longer diversion when the A14 is closed at night.

District Councillor Mike Norris presented the District Councillor's Report, which had been circulated to Councillors, and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book. Below are the report headlines:

- Opportunity for greater tenant engagement.
- Residents urged to have their say over whether council tax bills should be reduced by up to 100% for those on low incomes.
- Winter warmth funding for community causes.
- New Innovate to Elevate programme launches for businesses.
- First stage of Women's Tour brings more than a million reasons to celebrate.
- Campaign launched to improve metal packaging recycling rates across Suffolk.
- Three finalists for Mid Suffolk and Babergh at Building Excellence Awards.
- Global bank to give students unique careers advice in jobs clinic.
- Raising awareness of chosen charity.

#### **C067/22 To receive a report of the activities of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on behalf of the Town.**

The Mayor reported attending:

Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	Attended the Police Meeting at the Cedars Hotel
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	Attended Bungay Civic Reception
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Attended Ipswich Civic Service
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Attended Trafalgar Night dinner – Stowmarket Branch of the Royal Naval Association
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Attended the AGM Of the Community Centre followed by the AGM of the Community Council
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Attended wreath laying at Barretts Lane Corner with children from Bosmere Primary School and members of the public
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Attended the Needham Market Remembrance Service held in the Community Centre

The Deputy Mayor reported attending:

Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	Attended the Police Meeting at the Cedars Hotel
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Attended the AGM Of the Community Centre followed by the AGM of the Community Council
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Attended wreath laying at Barretts Lane Corner with children from Bosmere Primary School and members of the public
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Attended the Needham Market Remembrance Service held in the Community Centre

**C068/22 To consider nominating a representative to the Needham Market & Barking Welfare Charities.**

The Clerk referred Councillors to an email received from the Clerk to the Charities which stated the Charities are keen that the current nominee continues.

Cllr Lea proposed current nominee Graham Oxenham be renominated to continue as a Charities Trustee. Cllr Norris seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

**C069/22 To receive a request for a grant/donation.**

The Clerk referred Councillors to a request received from St Elizabeth Hospice for financial support.

Cllr Stansfield proposed £250 be donated to St Elizabeth Hospice. Cllr Norris seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

The Clerk advised Council, Citizen's Advice, Stowmarket, has indicated a growth in local community demand for their support and there is, as in past years, budget remaining to supplement the award provided earlier in the year.

Cllr Norris proposed £1,000 be granted to Citizen's Advice, Stowmarket, Cllr Annis seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

**C070/22 To receive a report from Council's Civic Events Working Group.**

Cllr Lea reported the Remembrance Service arrangements in the town had gone well.

Cllr J Reardon said public comment had been made regarding the return of a procession along the High Street on Remembrance Sunday and this should be considered for 2023.

**C071/22 Clerk's Report and Correspondence to be noted.**

The issue of dog waste in the town was raised. It was suggested more should be done, if possible, to alleviate problems. Cllr Norris agreed to contact the appropriate Mid Suffolk District Council Officer to find out whether any support is available.

**C072/22 Committees**

**Governance & Finance Committee.**

**C072/22/1a Accounts for Payment and Confirmation.**

Cllr Annis presented the accounts for payment, which were tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book.

Cllr Annis proposed adoption of the accounts for payment. Cllr Stansfield seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

**C072/22/1b To receive a report on progress on matters raised in Council's Internal Audit Report 2021/22.**

Cllr Annis reported the final matter outstanding in the Internal Auditor's Report was being worked on.

**C072/22/1c To receive a report from the Committee Chairperson.**

Cllr Annis reported on the Governance & Finance Committee held 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

Cllr Annis proposed Council adopt an Annual Budget for 2023/24 of £150,000 as recommended by the Governance & Finance Committee. Cllr Cave seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

Cllr Annis reported further; the Committee agreed to send a donation of £250 to Headway, Suffolk. Headway, Suffolk had confirmed they have a number of clients resident in Needham Market.

Cllr Annis confirmed the next meeting of the Governance & Finance Committee will be held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7pm in Needham Market Community Centre.

**C072/22/2 Community & Assets Committee.**

**C072/22/2a To receive a report from the Committee Chairperson.**

Cllr A Reardon reported on the following:

- 'The Mix Hut' facility within the refurbished and extended Crowley Park pavilion is due to be formally opened on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Cllr Lea has funded Items of equipment for use in the facility from her Mayor's Charity Fund.
- The new MUGA facility on Crowley Park is open and in use.
- A meeting has been held with a supplier of children's play equipment as the project to replace the younger children's play area on Crowley Park is taken forward.
- Replacement of the Older Children's play area surface is being considered.
- The High Street Christmas trees are being erected and the lights will be switched on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November.
- The dead trees surrounding the Barretts Lane pond have been removed. The pond still requires dredging.
- The Babergh/Mid Suffolk District Council Culture & Tourism Service has arranged a Stakeholder Workshop at the John Peel Centre, Stowmarket, on 2<sup>nd</sup> December.
- The Climate Awareness Group are to visit the Energy from Waste site at Great Blakenham on 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

Cllr Cave asked whether the High Street Christmas Tree lights could be powered by solar energy. The Clerk explained the energy consumed is minimal and each tree has an independent energy supply.

**C072/22/3 Planning Committee.**

**C072/22/3a To receive a report from the Committee Chairperson.**

Cllr O'Shea reported on decisions made by the Planning Committee, on planning applications, at its meetings held 17<sup>th</sup> October and 14<sup>th</sup> November.

Cllr O'Shea referred to the Planning Appeal submitted to the Planning Inspectorate relating to a proposal to develop land off Barking Road for new housing. The Town Council's Planning Consultant has provided a draft report which sets out grounds for objecting to the appeal. The Planning Committee were arranging to ensure support was available to all in the community who wished to submit their objection to the Planning Inspectorate, acknowledging a lot of residents are not able to simply go online. Leaflets are to be delivered as far as possible in the town with details of how to access support. There will be a relevant item in the December edition of the Needham Market Newsletter.

**C0672/22/3b To receive a report on the review of the Needham Market Neighbourhood Plan.**

Cllr O'Shea reported the newly established Needham Market Neighbourhood Plan Review Group (NMNPRG) had met on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October. Attenders included representatives from the Town Council led Climate Action Group (CAG). CAG suggested and it was agreed, environmental statements should be included by the Town Council in consultation submissions to future planning applications.

The NMNPRG expressed concern regarding the 'improvement' to the road access to the new Mid Suffolk District Council housing development off School Street, that has done nothing to alleviate the risk presented by the narrow pavement.

The East of England Co-op has been contacted regarding the future of its now redundant store premises on King William Street. No reply has yet been received.

**The Meeting closed at 9pm.**

**Chairperson .....**      **Date .....**