



Needham Market Town Council
Community & Assets Committee
Minutes – 15th June 2022

Present: Cllr A Reardon, Chairperson; Cllrs Annis, Lea, Mason, Norris, O’Shea, J Reardon, X Stansfield.

Representatives from the Needham Market & Barking Guides and the Town Clerk were in attendance.

CA032/22 Chairperson’s Welcome and Apologies for Absence.

There were no apologies.

CA033/22 To receive and confirm the Minutes of the Community & Assets Committee held 20th April 2022.

Cllr Lea proposed the Minutes of the Community & Assets Committee held 20th April 2022, be adopted. Cllr Stansfield seconded the proposal. The Committee agreed the proposal.

CA034/22 To receive Councillors Declarations of Interest for items on the agenda.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

Having had prior notice, the Committee agreed to add the next item to the agenda.

CA035/22 To invite nominations for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Committee.

Cllr Mason proposed Cllr J Reardon as Vice-Chairperson of the Committee. Cllr Stansfield seconded the proposal. The Committee agreed the proposal.

CA036/22 To receive a presentation from the Needham Market & Barking Guides.

The representatives from the Needham Market & Barking Guides presented their proposed 'Needham Lake Nature Trail'. The presentation demonstrated the purpose of the trail and how it would be installed at the lake. It would be an activity available to visitors to the lake (for families to engage in) in which they follow a trail, answer questions relating to wildlife with the incentive of receiving a Needham Lake Nature Trail badge, following their completing the trail.

Councillors engaged in a Q&A session and expressed their congratulations to the Rangers on an excellent presentation.

Within the presentation, the costs associated with setting up the Nature Trail were highlighted. Cllr Norris suggested he will probably be able to arrange a contribution to those costs via the MSDC Locality Award Scheme.

Cllr A Reardon proposed funding should, in principle, be set aside within the Town Council's Grants/Donations budget for an appropriate contribution once the sponsorship of the Nature Trail proposal is clearer. Cllr O'Shea seconded the Proposal. The Committee agreed the proposal.

CA037/22 To consider outstanding projects including those in course of delivery.

Cllr A Reardon provided updates on:

- Crowley Park Skatepark, MUGA and younger children's play area Project – the outstanding issue with the funding for the MUGA remains to be rectified. The installation of the MUGA will nevertheless proceed with onsite work planned to commence mid-July. With the MUGA replacing the younger children's play area, the Committee's focus is now on providing a new younger children's play area, in a different location.
- Crowley Park Pavilion and Former Clubhouse Building Improvement Project – onsite preparations are taking place with construction work due to start on 16th June.

At 7.50pm Cllr Mason left the meeting.

CA038/22 To consider new projects, their prioritisation and funding, including allocation of CIL funds.

Cllr Annis reported further information is being sought on the proposal to locate Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) in the town. Cllr J Reardon suggested the solar option for powering the devices should be given priority.

The condition of the pond area, located adjacent to the junction of Barretts Lane and Hurstlea Road, was discussed. It was suggested Mid Suffolk District Council, the owner of the pond area, is to carry out landscaping/improvement works as part of the planning conditions attached to their development of the Hurstlea Road car park site.

Cllr O'Shea reported the doors of the Barretts Lane public toilets are often left open. The Clerk agreed to place signage requesting users to close the door as they leave the toilet. If that fails, then automatic door closure units may be required.

Cllr A Reardon reported consideration is being given to the future placement of Christmas decorations in the town. The Council's Christmas trees have deteriorated and there is the perennial problem associated with installing the trees on the streetlight columns along the High Street. It was suggested placing Christmas motifs at strategic points in the High Street area, without the need for mounting on the streetlight columns, may be a better option.

CA039/22 To consider the Council's Communications functions.

Cllr J Reardon reported he is engaging with a local IT support company regarding the creation of a suitable portal to host a new Town Council website, as illustrated in the presentation he delivered to an earlier Committee meeting.

Cllr Stansfield proposed an item be added to the agenda for Council's next full meeting (20th July) regarding adoption of a new website, including associated costs. Cllr Lea seconded the proposal. The Committee agreed the proposal.

CA040/22 To receive a report on the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

Cllr A Reardon described the celebrations as a great success and thanked all those involved, particularly the members of the Working Party. All the celebratory events were well attended. An article and photographs taken at the events will be included in the Needham Market Newsletter.

CA041/22 To receive a report from Council's Civic Events Working Group

Cllr Lea reported the Working Group's attention will now be focused on the annual Remembrance Service and, the Civic Service. The membership of the Group was confirmed as Cllrs Lea, A Reardon, Annis and Frank Lea (British Legion).

It was confirmed the Community Centre has been booked to host the Remembrance Service. This will allow the Service to be more inclusive. It was suggested the Civic Service should take place near to the end of the Mayoral year, in the spring of next year.

At 8:25pm Cllr Mason rejoined the meeting, informed the Committee he had spoken with the Chairperson of the Trustees of Needham Market Institute and, suggested a matter regarding a current shortfall in funding relating to the Skatepark Project should be resolved shortly.

CA042/22 To consider Crime Prevention and Community Health and Wellbeing issues.

Cllr A Readon reported anti-social behaviour involving teenagers continues in the town. Recent incidents indicate those involved show no sign of being concerned regarding the nuisance and damage they cause. The proposed increase in the presence of The Mix (Stowmarket) in the town may provide a more positive outlook.

Cllr A Reardon referred to the notice received from Mid Suffolk District Council regarding the next stage of consultation on its emerging Parking Strategy. The notice was received on the first day of the latest consultation period with drop-in sessions taking place at the Community Centre on 23rd and 27th June. This left precious little opportunity to advertise the sessions. Details will be uploaded on local social media.

CA043/22 To receive an update from the Council's Climate Emergency Sub-Committee.

Cllr A Reardon reported the July Needham Market Newsletter will include an article which will explain the purpose of the Sub-Committee and ask for expressions of interest, in joining the sub-committee, from members of public.

The Meeting closed at 8:35pm.

Signed..... Committee Chairperson

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