



Needham Market Town Council
Community & Assets Committee
Minutes – 13th December 2023

Present: Cllr S Phillips, Chairperson; Cllrs Annis, Cave, Lea, Norris and A Reardon.
(Cllr A Reardon left the meeting at 7:30pm to attend a Climate Action Group meeting)
The Town Clerk was in attendance.

CA051/23 Chairperson's Welcome and Apologies for Absence.

Apologies: Cllrs Lawrence, Mason, O'Shea, J Reardon and X Stansfield.

The Clerk notified the Committee that Cllr Farrow had tendered his resignation from Council.

CA052/23 To receive and confirm the Minutes of the Community & Assets Committee held 18th October 2023.

Minutes of the Community & Assets Committee held 18th October 2023 were adopted by the full Town Council meeting held 15th November 2023.

CA053/23 To elect a Deputy Chairperson.

No proposal was made.

CA054/23 To receive Councillors Declarations of Interest for items on the agenda.

There were none.

CA055/23 To consider outstanding projects including those in course of delivery.

Cllr Phillips provided an update on the Crowley Park Younger Children's Play Area Project which has been hampered by wet weather but should be completed by the end of January.

Cllr A Reardon reported the Climate Action Group has identified the location on the former Needham Market Middle School Playing Field where the Community Orchard is to be planted. It will commence with the planting of 12 small native species trees. An initial planting day event is proposed to take place on 17th February. Also, there is an initiative currently from Mid Suffolk District Council to increase the tree canopy in

their District. It may be appropriate to plant new trees to add to those along the playing field boundary with The Drift.

The Clerk suggested a land audit should be undertaken across the whole of the former Needham Market Middle School Playing Field prior to then, community consultation taking place regarding its future.

The Clerk reported:

- He and the Responsible Finance Officer are in a dialogue with Mid Suffolk District Council regarding the initial claim for CIL grant relating to the new Younger Children's Play Area at Crowley Park.
- Suffolk County Council will be contacted regarding the areas of public land in the town which are being marketed for sale.
- Due to the condition of some of the current grit/salt bins across the town, an order will be raised for 2 replacements, at approximately £120 each.
- The First Responders have suggested an AED unit, within a suitable cabinet, be installed at the top end of Crowley Park.
- A letter has been received from a resident relating to the recent Street Fayre to which an appropriate reply had been sent.
- The Council's Solicitor has confirmed the lease for the former Needham Market Middle School Playing Field has been completed with final documents to be received.
- A meeting took place on 21st November between the Trustees of the Needham Market & Baking Welfare Charities and the Needham Market Allotment Holders Association at which the Town Clerk was present.
- An email has been received from Mid Suffolk District Council confirming the annual increase in their cost for emptying the 45 dog/waste bins in the town. Year on year the charge is going up from £46.53 to £69.00 per bin, a 47% increase.
- It has been agreed with Suffolk County Council that the streetlights across the town will remain on all night Christmas eve and New Year's eve.
- The visit to the Suffolk Police CCTV Control room, hosted by West Suffolk Council, is being organised.

CA056/23 To consider new projects, their prioritisation and funding, including allocation of CIL funds.

The Clerk confirmed Councils' future CIL use is subject to its adopted Community Infrastructure Investment Plan (CIIP).

CA057/23 To consider the Council's Communications functions.

The Clerk referred to the change to Council's internet provider which has been caused by the compulsory ending of the Plusnet service. The change is being worked through and will require confirmation of the Council's email address, as early as possible.

CA058/23 To receive a report from Council's Civic Events Working Group

Cllr Lea referred to the earlier discussion on the Christmas Fayre and suggested a meeting with the current organiser should be held in the new year regarding planning for the 2024 event.

Cllr Lea confirmed the Annual Civic Service is to be held on 28th April 2024.

CA059/23 To consider Crime Prevention and Community Health and Wellbeing issues including receipt of data collected from Speed Indicator Devices and a visit to the CCTV Control Room at West Suffolk Council.

Cllr Phillips reported he had contacted Needham Market Neighbourhood Watch Chairperson to consider how Council might provide any support required.

Cllr Cave, said he had been successful in downloading statistical information from the three Speed Indicator Devices installed in the town, following useful support received from the equipment provider. He then presented the data which evidenced driver behaviour. Overall, most drivers observed the speed limit although there were a few examples of extreme speeds. The data is to be shared with local Police to establish what it represents and how it compares with other Speed Indicator Device locations.

The visit to the CCTV Control Room is reported above.

CA060/23 To receive an update from the Council's Climate Awareness Group (CAG).

Cllr A Readon had reported earlier in the meeting.

Cllr Lea reported the CAG is yet to decide whether to organise an Earth Day Event in 2024.

The Meeting closed at 8.17pm.

Signed..... Committee Chairperson

Date.....