

NEEDHAM MARKET TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of NEEDHAM MARKET TOWN COUNCIL held in the Green Room, Needham Market Community Centre, School Street, Needham Market, on Wednesday 1st June 2016 at 7:30pm.

Present: Cllr X Stansfield (In the Chair), Councillors, BE Annis, R Campbell, JE Lea, A Morris, MG Norris, KMN Oakes, S Phillips and M Spurling.

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr TS Carter - Holiday
Cllr D Campbell - Holiday
Cllr RP Darnell - Holiday
Cllr I Mason – Family Commitment
Cllr D Spurling – Family Commitment
Cllr AL Ward - Holiday

In Attendance: Suffolk County Councillor Julia Truelove, Mid Suffolk District Councillor Wendy Marchant and Town Clerk Kevin Hunter.

C105/16 To confirm the Minutes of the Annual Town Council Meeting held 18th May 2016.

The Minutes of the Annual Town Council Meeting held Wednesday 18th May 2016 were accepted as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C106/16 To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest for Matters on the Agenda.

Cllr BE Annis – Accounts for payment
Cllr MG Norris – Planning Matters
Cllr KMN Oakes – Accounts for payment (Community Centre)
Cllr X Stansfield – Accounts for payment (Community Centre and Mayor's expenses)

C107/16 To receive reports from The County Councillor, District Councillors and to take questions from members of the public

County Councillor Julia Truelove presented her report, which was tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book. It included reference to:

- Full Council Meeting Postponed – following the news of the death of the Leader of Council's father
- Children's Special Needs Centres to Remain Open – centres which provide support for children with learning difficulties to remain open for the next academic year following a 6,000 signature petition
- Community Action Suffolk – has reported the results of its rural services consultation
- Government Bill to extend Broadband – new legal requirements may come into being following announcement in the Queen's Speech regarding equality of access to decent broadband
- Heritage Lottery Award to Records Office – grant awarded towards the building of a new £17m records and heritage centre, which the County Council has promised to fund by £5m
- Two New Suffolk River Crossings Planned – County Council approved £20m to progress the design and build of additional crossings at Ipswich and Lowestoft
- SCC's Trading Standards Success - £59,000 returned to consumers who were victims of rogue traders

County Councillor Truelove added the latest position on devolution is two devolved areas are now being proposed in the east of England, Norfolk and Suffolk and, Cambridge and Cambridgeshire.

Cllr Phillips said he felt it outrageous the County Council had proposed to close facilities across the Suffolk which provide support for children with learning difficulties, with the aim of saving £250,000 per year when at the same time it can commit £5m to the Suffolk Records project, the latter amount being enough to continue to fund a vital children's service for 20 years.

District Councillor Wendy Marchant presented the District Councillors report, which was tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book. It included reference to:

- East Anglia Devolution – special full Council meeting on the issue to be held on 29th June
- Rubbish – 1.5 tonnes of litter collected from the verges of the A12 and A14 each week costing taxpayers £150,000 each year
- Deputy Chief Executive – Lindsay Barker appointed

C108/16 To receive a report of the activities of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on behalf of the Town.

The Mayor reported attending:

Thursday 19th May – St Edmundsbury Civic Service

Sunday 22nd May – Southwold Civic Service

Thursday 26th May – Official opening of the new Stowmarket Citizen's Advice Centre (in the presence of HRH The Princess Royal)

The Deputy Mayor had nothing to report.

C109/16 To receive a report from the Strategic Planning Working Group.

Cllr Norris presented his report on the Group Meeting held on Friday 20th May, which was tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book. The report included:

- Cllr Norris re-elected as Leader of the Group with Cllr R Campbell to continue as Deputy Leader
- The Group's title to be renamed to the 'Needham Market Neighbourhood Plan Working Group'
- Group meetings to take place on a 6-weekly cycle with the next being Thursday 30th June at 10am in the Town Council Office

Cllr Phillips proposed the report and its recommendations be adopted. Cllr Lea seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C110/16 To consider the persistent use of Quinton Road/Foxglove Avenue by heavy goods vehicles.

On behalf of Cllr Mason, who had raised the issue at Council's 18th May meeting, the Clerk referred to a lack of signage on the B1078 Barking Road indicating a route Heavy Goods Vehicles should take to avoid the weight limit imposed along the High Street and also keep those vehicles from taking a short cut through the residential area between Barking Road and Stowmarket Road. Vehicles aiming to go in the Stowmarket direction and traversing the residential area have to exit either onto the High Street or Stowmarket Road where the weight limit applies and are therefore in contravention of the limit. There are signs, for example, on the B1113 Ipswich Road which provide advance warning to vehicle drivers of the weight limit in the centre of the town but these are absent from the B1113 Barking Road. Signage is necessary on the B1113 Barking Road to warn Heavy Goods Vehicle Drivers coming into the town they must continue past the Foxglove Avenue junction, turn onto Grinstead Hill and then, at The Lion public house junction, take the B1078 route towards Claydon.

The Clerk added that evidence shows Heavy Goods Vehicle Weight restrictions, which are in place for environmental purposes, are not given priority by the Police, the deterrent by way of fines for offenders is relatively low plus offenders are not penalised with points on their driving licences. In

many respects contravention appears to be viewed by some Heavy Goods Vehicles Drivers as 'part of the job'.

Cllr Lea said she is surprised Heavy Goods Vehicle drivers are taking the route along Foxglove Avenue as it is punctuated by many 'sleeping policemen' speed bumps.

Cllr Norris agreed to follow the matter up and will initially look back at the documentation which accompanied the original establishment of the weight limit in the High Street to see whether there is any reference to signage etc.

C111/16 Clerk's Report and Correspondence to be noted.

1. Actions from Town Council Meeting 06.04.16 and 18.05.16:

C060/16 – Letter to Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner sent 27th May

Cllr Stansfield said he had spoken with the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner who has offered to come and speak to Council in the future should it so wish.

C104/16 – Item on agenda

2. Issues:

- Needham Market Civic Service 2016 – will take place on Sunday 16th October at 3pm in the Parish Church of St John the Baptist

3. Correspondence to be noted:

None

C112/16 SECTIONS.

C112/16/1 Finance/General Purposes

C112/16/1a 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 Phillips proposed the accounts for payment be adopted. Cllr R Campbell seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C112/16/1b Accounts for Year Ending 31st March 2016.

Cllr Annis referred Councillors to the Accounts for Year Ending 31st March 2016, which had been tabled at Council's 18th May meeting and copied to each Councillor. No queries had, in the meantime, been raised with the Council's Responsible Finance Officer.

Cllr Phillips proposed the Accounts for Year Ending 31st March 2016 be adopted. Cllr R Campbell seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C112/16/1c Confirmation and signing of Annual Audit Return for Year Ending 31st March 2016.

Cllr Stansfield referred Councillors to the Annual Audit Return for Year Ending 31st March 2016, which had been tabled at Council's 18th May meeting and copied to each Councillor. No queries had, in the meantime, been raised with the Council's Responsible Finance Officer.

Cllr Stansfield read out each relevant question included in the report to which, in every case, Council responded in the affirmative.

Cllr M Spurling proposed Council adopt the Annual Audit Return for Year Ending 31st March 2016. Cllr A Morris seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C112/16/1d To receive a report from the Section Leader

Cllr Annis reminded Councillors a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Section is to be held on Tuesday 7th June at 10am in the Town Council Office.

C112/16/2 Recreation & Sport

C112/16/2a To receive a report from the Section Leader.

Cllr Phillips gave a verbal report of the Section meeting held Tuesday 31st May. The purpose of the meeting was to elect Leader and Deputy Leader of the Section for 2016/17. Cllrs Phillips and Morris were duly and respectively elected to the Leader and Deputy Leader positions.

C112/16/3 Town Property and Services

C112/16/3a To receive a report from the Section Leader

Cllr Oakes presented notes from the Section meeting held Tuesday 31st May, which were tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book. The purpose of the meeting was to elect Leader and Deputy Leader of the Section for 2016/17. Cllrs Oakes and Phillips were duly and respectively elected to the Leader and Deputy Leader positions.

The Section will next meet on Tuesday 14th June at 7pm in the Town Council Office.

C112/16/4 Newsletter and Communications

C112/16/4a To receive a report from the Section Leader

Cllr Lea presented notes from the Section meeting held Wednesday 25th May, which were tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book. The purpose of the meeting included election of Leader and Deputy Leader of the Section for 2016/17. Cllrs Lea and M Spurling were duly and respectively elected to the Leader and Deputy Leader positions.

The Section meeting also agreed notes of all Section meetings should, in future, be posted to Council's website along with event posters and notices carried in Council's monthly Newsletter and, Cllr Carter be asked to co-ordinate these activities.

Council's website is also to be checked for any out of date information, particularly that which relates to clubs and other organisations in the town. This will be discussed further at the next Section meeting.

C112/16/5 Planning.

Cllr Stansfield referred to the Minutes of the Planning Section meeting held on 31st May, which were tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book. The meeting had started with the election of the Section Leader and Deputy Leader for 2016/17. Cllrs R Campbell and M Spurling were duly and respectively elected to the Leader and Deputy Leader positions.

Cllr R Campbell continued with presentation of the Section meeting Minutes:

C112/16/5a To receive Planning Decisions.

Cllr R Campbell reported the following planning decision had been received:

1544/16 - Hill House, Hill House Lane – Erection of a three bay cart lodge with garden room.

The Application is Withdrawn.

C112/16/5b To consider Planning Applications

Cllr R Campbell reported the following planning applications had been received:

2162/16 – 3 Mill Stream Court, Hawks Mill Street – Fell because of excessive shading and low amenity value. Tree to be felled will not be able to replant as no space available. Sycamore tree.

The Section recommended Council support approval of the application on condition the works are agreed by the District Council's Tree Officer. Cllr Phillips proposed Council support approval of the application including the condition. Cllr Lea seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

2147/16 – 29 Barking Road – Erection of two storey side extension and single storey side extension.

The Section noted the comments shown regarding pre-application advice and agreed the application satisfied the relevant policies.

The Section recommended Council support approval of the application. Cllr Annis proposed Council support approval of the application. Cllr Phillips seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C112/16/5c To receive a report from the Section Leader.

Cllr R Campbell reported the Planning Section will next meet on Monday 13th June in the Town Council Office at 7pm.

C112/16/6 Highways, Lighting and Footpaths

C112/16/6a To receive a report from the Section Leader

Cllr Norris presented notes from the Section meeting held Monday 23rd May, which were tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book. The meeting had started with the election of the Section Leader and Deputy Leader for 2016/17. Cllrs Norris and S Phillips were duly and respectively elected to the Leader and Deputy Leader positions.

The meeting had also discussed:

- Consideration of areas in the town where additional parking would be beneficial – outcome of initial enquiries made to Mid Suffolk District Council and Suffolk County Council on suggested areas
- Road signage and markings at the junction of Lion Lane and Coddensham Road – these have become indistinct and worn away and should be reported to Suffolk County Council
- Heavy Goods Vehicles – going through the town in the early hours

Cllr Norris undertook to follow up the newly reported issues above.

Cllr Phillips commented since parking restrictions have been extended along Quinton Road, parents dropping off/picking up from school park on the grass verges. Cllr M Spurling said he has contacted Mid Suffolk District Council regarding car parking on grassed areas around the town but nothing has been done to date.

Cllr Lea said she was disappointed by Suffolk County Council's negative response to the enquiry regarding creating a layby allowing for additional parking on Stowmarket Road, particularly when vehicles already habitually park on paved areas there.

Cllr Phillips said recent changes to the law meant the Police no longer enforce where general parking issues are concerned and responsibility now rests with the District Council. Cllr Norris

confirmed the District Council's enforcement resources are very limited. Cllr Annis added the Police are still responsible for dealing with dangerous parking.

Cllr Norris agreed to follow up the car parking on Quinton Road verges report.

Cllr R Campbell asked if it is known whether the school have raised the car parking on verges issue with parents. The Clerk agreed to enquire with the school.

C113/16 Questions under Standing Order 40.

Cllr Annis asked if Council has a view on the addition of another tier of authority should the regional devolution proposals being taken forward. Councillors agreed the question to be included as an agenda item at Council's next meeting.

The Meeting closed at 8:15 p.m.

Chairman **Date**