

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 17th August 2016 at 7:30pm.

Present: Cllr X Stansfield (In the Chair), Councillors, BE Annis, D Campbell, R Campbell, TS Carter, RP Darnell, JE Lea, I Mason, A Morris, MG Norris, D Spurling, M Spurling and AL Ward.

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr KMN Oakes – Work Commitment
Cllr S Phillips - Holiday

Mid Suffolk District Councillor Wendy Marchant

In Attendance: Suffolk County Councillor Julia Truelove and Town Clerk Kevin Hunter.

C154/16 To confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 3rd August 2016.

The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held Wednesday 3rd August 2016 were accepted as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C155/16 To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest for Matters on the Agenda.

Cllr B Annis – Defibrillator
Cllr R Campbell – Planning Matters
Cllr MG Norris – Planning Matters
Cllr X Stansfield - Defibrillator

C156/16 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:

- County Councillor's Resignation – having not attended a meeting for more than six months following emigration to the United States eighteen months ago
- S.C.C.'s response to Rail Franchise Decision – cautious welcoming of the nine-year franchise awarded to Abellio
- Devolution Consultation Continues – events have taken place and submissions closure date is 23rd August
- S.C.C.'s Trading Standards Update – laser pointers now listed as a potential hazard and unsafe hover boards continue to be imported

County Councillor Truelove added Suffolk County Council is due to debate the Government's decision on the Norfolk/Suffolk Devolution Deal, in November.

County Councillor Truelove also informed Council the local Flood Risk Group is due to meet next on Wednesday 5th October.

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

- Ward Boundaries in Mid Suffolk to be Reviewed – seeks to deal with electoral inequality and any new boundaries will come into effect from the next District Council elections in 2019

District Councillor Mike Norris added, the District Council's Planning Service is not achieving Government Targets with a resultant reduction in income to the Council and Members are to be briefed on measures to address the shortfall.

Cllr Annis asked if the District Council will, not before time, accept its Planning Service is failing and ensure something is done about it. District Councillor Mike Norris replied he expects Members will take action as necessary.

Cllr Ward said he could not understand the recent publicity regarding the Mendlesham Neighbourhood Plan being put out for formal pre-submission public consultation, in circumstances where Mid Suffolk District Council has no up-to-date Local Plan or Five-Year Housing Land Availability Policy in place, which are pre-requirements for completion of a Neighbourhood Plan. District Councillor Mike Norris said he too is not able to understand how the Mendlesham Neighbourhood Plan is suitable for the formal public consultation process and agreed to make enquiries within the District Council.

C157/16 To receive a report of the activities of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on behalf of the Town.

The Mayor reported attending:

Thursday 21st July – Golden Age Fair held at Needham Market Community Centre

The Deputy Mayor had nothing to report.

C158/16 To receive a report from the Needham Market Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

Cllr Norris presented his report, which was tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book. The report included notes from the following meetings attended by members of the Working Group:

- Thursday 4th August – meeting with the Mid Suffolk District Council Economic Development Officer to discuss the updated Needham Market Retail Assessment Analysis, the draft Town Centre Survey and the proposed Needham Market Visitor Survey.
- Tuesday 16th August – meeting with Nick Gowrley, Leader of Mid Suffolk District Council which covered a range of issues which are of concern to the Town Council including reiteration of the request to seek agreement on the hiatus position of the Needham Market Neighbourhood Plan and distribution of Community Infrastructure Levy whilst that hiatus position persists.

C159/16 - To consider a response to the consultation on the Suffolk/Norfolk Devolution Deal.

Cllr Lea said her summary view is that, with Central Government intending to cease payment of Rate Support Grant to Principal Councils beyond 2019/2020, devolution deals are being promoted and accepted as a means of compensation and are, to all intents and purposes, already concluded. Any responses made as a result of the consultation will not impact on the current deal as that is clearly done, but may influence future reviews.

Cllr Annis said he could be more positive about the devolution proposal if it came as part of a reorganisation of local government which would not simply add a further level of bureaucracy to the current structure.

Cllr Ward expressed his concern that small rural town councils such as Needham Market would become squeezed further out of decision making by the devolution proposal which only involves the direct participation of Principal Councils.

Cllr Mason referred to the countless reorganisations of local government that have taken place previously and their legacy of cost and confusion.

Cllr Lea reminded Councillors they can make their own personal submissions under the consultation process should they wish to.

C160/16 Clerk's Report and Correspondence to be noted.

1. Actions from Town Council Meeting 03.08.16:

C144/16 – Request sent to the Environment Agency regarding the Needham Market Flood Risk Assessment

C151/16 – Request made to Suffolk Constabulary for information on community funded policing

2. Issues

- Update on future options for the Mid Suffolk District Council Offices, Needham Market site – Mid Suffolk District Council Officers to deliver a presentation to the 21st September Town Council meeting
- Meeting with the Leader of Mid Suffolk District Council 16th August – various topics discussed and subsequent email to MSDC regarding outstanding Planning and CIL issues
- New access being created – off the entrance to the former Maltings building (Taylor Wimpey development)

3. Correspondence to be noted:

- Email dated 17th August from Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner setting out schedule of dates for the next series of public meetings (see Corr. and Misc. items folder for details)

C161/16 SECTIONS.

C161/16/1 Finance/General Purposes

C161/16/1a 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 Annis proposed the accounts for payment be adopted. Cllr Mason seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C161/16/1b To Approve and Accept Council's Annual Return and External Auditor's Certificate for the year ended 31st March 2016.

Cllr Annis said that thanks were due to the Assistant Clerk (Responsible Finance Officer) for the successful audit now concluded. Council conferred its agreement.

Cllr Annis proposed Council Approve and Accept Council's Annual Return and External Auditor's Certificate for the year ended 31st March 2016. Cllr Ward seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C161/16/1c To receive a report from the Section Leader

Cllr Annis presented his report, which was tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book. He reminded Councillors of the item included in his report to Council's 3rd August

meeting which had set out details of an opportunity to provide a further defibrillator in the town which he has pursued. The defibrillator would be installed, in a secure box, on the front wall of the Community Centre. The defibrillator can be obtained, by the generosity of the Needham Market First Responders, free of charge and installation will cost around £1,000.

Cllr Annis declared an interest and took no further part in the discussion or decision on this item.

Cllr Stansfield declared an interest, passed the Chair to Cllr R Campbell and took no part in the discussion or decision on this item.

Cllr M Spurling proposed Council set aside up to £1,200 to fund the cost of installing the defibrillator. Cllr Lea seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C161/16/2 Recreation & Sport

C161/16/2a To receive a report from the Section Leader.

There was no report.

C161/16/3 Town Property and Services

C161/16/3a To receive a report from the Section Leader

There was no report.

C161/16/4 Newsletter and Communications

C161/16/4a To receive a report from the Section Leader

There was no report.

C161/16/5 Planning.

Cllr R Campbell reported that, due to lack of relevant business the Section meeting scheduled for Monday 15th August, had not taken place.

C161/16/5a To receive Planning Decisions.

Cllr Stansfield reported the following planning decision had been received:

2511/16 – 7 Orchid Way – Erection of a two storey side extension following demolition of existing car port.

Planning Permission has been granted.

C161/16/5b To consider Planning Applications

Having declared an interest in the next item, Cllr R Campbell requested Cllr Stansfield to take the item on his behalf.

Cllr Stansfield reported the following planning application had been received:

3165/16 – Hill House, Hill House Lane – Erection of a 3 bay cart lodge with garden room.

Cllr Stansfield proposed Council recommend approval of the application. Cllr Ward seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

Cllr R Campbell resumed his Section Leader position and reported the following planning application had been received:

3328/16 – 78 High Street – Change of use to include A5 coffee shop and sandwich bar. Use to include public ceramic item painting for glazing and firing. A3 use granted under planning permission 2912/15.

Section members had been forwarded details of the application prior to the meeting.

Cllr Ward proposed Council recommend approval of the application. Cllr Lea seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C161/16/5c To receive a report from the Section Leader.

Cllr R Campbell reported the Planning Section will next meet on Monday 5th September in the Town Council Office at 7pm.

C161/16/6 Highways, Lighting and Footpaths

C161/16/6a To receive a report from the Section Leader

Cllr Norris reported he continues to follow up several outstanding issues with Suffolk County Council's Highways Service.

Cllr Darnell said the new road signage installed at Pinecroft Way has significantly reduced the amount of traffic coming into the estate.

C162/16 Questions under Standing Order 40.

There were no questions.

The Meeting closed at 8:33 p.m.

Chairman **Date**