

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 19th October 2016 at 7:30pm.

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

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr BE Annis – Family Commitment
Cllr R Campbell – Family Bereavement
Cllr TS Carter – Unwell
Cllr RP Darnell - Holiday
Cllr I Mason – Holiday
Cllr AL Ward – Family Commitment

In Attendance: Suffolk County Councillor Julia Truelove, District Councillor Wendy Marchant, one member of public and Town Clerk Kevin Hunter.

C194/16 To confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 5th October 2016.

The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held Wednesday 5th October 2016 were accepted as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C195/16 To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest for Matters on the Agenda.

Cllr MG Norris – Planning Matters
Cllr KMN Oakes – Accounts for Payment and Christmas Fayre
Cllr S Phillips – Planning (16 Crowley Road)
Cllr X Stansfield – Accounts for Payment (Community Centre and Mayoral Expenses)

C196/16 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:

- Devolution – Scrutiny Committee 'Recommendations to Cabinet' – examples from among those for consideration including; an estimate of paid officer time put into devolution work, the cost of devolution in Suffolk and clarity as to the circumstances in which an elected mayor would have power to over-rule majority decisions of the Combined Authority
- Broadband Provision – superfast broadband rollout has reached another 10,000 Suffolk homes and businesses
- Flood Alleviation Proposals – following the meeting of the Local Flood Working Group held on 5th October, it is suggested the Town Council invite the Environment Agency and Suffolk County Council to a Town Council meeting

Cllr Phillips said he had procured a home broadband service from BT which included a £50 connection fee and, on switching to another broadband provider, had again to pay a £50 connection fee.

Cllr Phillips proposed Council adopt the suggestion regarding calling the Environment Agency and Suffolk County Council to a meeting with the Town Council regarding progress on flood alleviation. Council agreed the proposal.

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:

- Proposed New Scout Hut for Needham Market – Needham Market Scout Group is investigating the possibility of building a new Scout Hut on the site of the existing one at the Camping Land
- Flood Risk in Needham Market – various options raised at the 5th October meeting to help prevent future flooding in the Crown Street area
- Annual Meeting of Suffolk Historic Churches Trust – the Trust no longer receives grant aid from Mid Suffolk District Council
- Planning Application for Extension of the Rampant Horse Public House – whilst in favour of businesses expanding our District Councillors are concerned about impact on neighbouring residential property.

District Councillor Mike Norris added an update on the Planning Application for Extension of the Rampant Horse Public House. The applicant is, in view of the concerns regarding the impact on neighbouring residential property, prepared to make various changes to the original planning proposal. The immediate residential neighbour was said to have agreed, on balance, with those changes. The District Council's Planning Committee had reconvened and resolved to authorise the Lead Planning Officer to decide on the application following a further 21-day consultation period.

Cllr M Spurling said he was keen to see the revised planning proposals for the extension of the Rampant Horse Public House.

Cllr Lea suggested the Town Council should discuss the proposals further with the neighbouring residents. Cllr M Spurling confirmed the neighbours had been spoken with and they have been invited, if they so wish, to attend a future Town Council meeting.

Cllr Phillips, referring to the proposal for a new Scout Hut, confirmed the Town Council has always supported the scout group's ambition to replace its existing poor accommodation and suggested Councillors may wish to meet with the representative from the scout group who is leading the proposal. Cllr Stansfield said he felt the existing scout hut location remains appropriate for redevelopment for continued use as it offers immediate access to the open spaces afforded by the Camping Land and Needham Lake.

The member of public present had no question to raise.

C197/16 To receive a report of the activities of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on behalf of the Town.

The Mayor reported attending:

Sunday 25th September – Hadleigh Civic Service

Thursday 13th October – Needham Market & Barking Welfare Charities AGM

Friday 14th October – Bungay Civic Service

Sunday 16th October – Needham Market Civic Service

Cllr Stansfield reported receiving a letter from the Mayor of Felixstowe congratulating Needham Market on its splendid Civic Service.

The Deputy Mayor was not present.

C198/16 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 referred to continued efforts to arrange a meeting with Mid Suffolk District Council regarding the hiatus position affecting progression of the Needham Market Neighbourhood Plan.

C199/16 Clerk's Report and Correspondence to be noted.

1. *Actions from Town Council Meeting 05.10.16:*

None

2. *Issues*

- Proposed BT Removal of Pay-phone, Barking Road – 90-day consultation ends 4th December

Cllr Lea said the Town Council had objected to the proposed removal of the pay-phone, Barking Road on a previous occasion but, as the accompanying information showed it has only been used twice in the past 12 months there are no longer grounds for objecting to its removal.

3. *Correspondence to be noted:*

- Email dated 4th October from the Communities Officer Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils with Hallowe'en trick or treat posters from Suffolk Constabulary
- Email dated 11th October from the Housing Condition Officer, Private Sector Housing, Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils referring to a project working with the fire service to identify flats above businesses, looking at the fire safety arrangements and providing advice and information

Cllr Phillips, referring to the flats located above retail shops on Barking Road, said the safety of the residential occupants has been compromised by the erection of a fence obstructing a Public Right of Way which previously allowed emergency services vehicles ready access to the rear of the properties. Cllr Norris agreed to inform the Housing Conditions Officer about that situation.

C200/16 SECTIONS.

C200/16/1 Finance/General Purposes

C200/16/1a Accounts for Payment and Confirmation.

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

Cllr Lea proposed the accounts for payment be adopted. Cllr M Spurling seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C200/16/1b To receive a report from the Section Leader

The Clerk read a short report on behalf of Cllr Annis which included a reminder to Section Leaders that an F&GP Section meeting will be held on the 15th November, by which time Section Leaders will have prepared their Section Budgets for the year 2017/18. The overall Town Council Budget will be an agenda item for the meeting. The report concluded by congratulating the Town Mayor on the efficient, enjoyable and much appreciated Civic Service and reception.

C200/16/2 Recreation & Sport

C200/16/2a To receive a report from the Section Leader.

Cllr Phillips reported Council's Town Warden has made the necessary preparations at Crowley Park to allow a further storage container unit to be installed there.

C200/16/3 Town Property and Services

C200/16/3a To receive a report from the Section Leader

There was no report.

C200/16/4 Newsletter and Communications

C200/16/4a To receive a report from the Section Leader

Cllr Lea informed Section members there will be a Section meeting on Tuesday 8th November at 10:30am in the Town Council Office.

C200/16/5 Planning.

Cllr M Spurling reported no Planning Section meeting had taken place on Monday 17th October due to insufficient business.

C200/16/5a To receive Planning Decisions.

Cllr M Spurling reported the following planning decision had been received:

3640/16 - 4 Lime Tree Close - T1 Walnut - Reduce length of damaged branch at approx 5m west by 1.5m to reduce end loading. Reduce length of branches overhanging neighbouring drive to south west to within approx. 1m of boundary fence.

Consent has been granted.

C200/16/5b To consider Planning Applications

Cllr M Spurling reported no planning applications had been received.

C200/16/5c To receive a report from the Section Leader.

Cllr M Spurling reported the Planning Section will next meet on Monday 31st October 2016 in the Town Council Office at 7pm. Unless Section Members are informed by email of a cancellation.

C200/16/6 Highways, Lighting and Footpaths

C200/16/6a To receive a report from the Section Leader

Cllr Norris presented his report, which was tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book. The report included:

- Roadworks, Stowmarket Road – details of the works planned which will take place in phases up to March next year
- Fence, Barking Road – it appears the matter will be considered by the County Council's Right of Way Committee in January next year
- 'Bowed' boundary wall, Bosmere Court, School Street – being followed up to ascertain the recommended remedial work required
- Weight Limit Signage – apparent confusion within the County Council as to what is being requested by the Town Council to try and prevent incursions by heavy goods vehicles into residential areas

C201/16 Questions under Standing Order 40.

Cllr Lea asked if Councillors were aware the Working Group set up to make Needham Market a 'Dementia Friendly Town' are due to hold an Open Coffee Morning on Tuesday 1st November from 10am to noon at Christchurch.

The Meeting closed at 8:10pm.

Chairman **Date**