

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 21st December 2016 at 7:30pm.

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

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr R Campbell – Family Commitment
Cllr I Mason – Holiday

Suffolk County Councillor Julia Truelove

In Attendance: District Councillor Wendy Marchant and Town Clerk Kevin Hunter.

C234/16 To confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 7th December 2016.

The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held Wednesday 7th December 2016 were accepted as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C235/16 To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest for Matters on the Agenda.

Cllr M Norris – Planning Matters
Cllr M Spurling - Accounts for Payment

C236/16 To receive reports from The County Councillor, District Councillors and, to take questions from members of the public.

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

- Gipsy Lane Crossing – details from the Network Rail public information event held on December 14th in Needham Market Community Centre
- Suffolk Primary Schools' Test Results – Suffolk's achievement of 48% in pupils meeting standards is below the national average of 53% and places the County 119th out of 152 authorities
- Government Schools Funding for Suffolk – funding increase for Suffolk of under 4% spread over three years does not compensate for years of under-funding
- Recent Closure of the Orwell Bridge – details from a meeting held on 19th December to discuss the impact of the recent closure

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:

- Christmas Festivities – Wendy and Mike Norris joined with the Town Mayor and others in the singing of Christmas Carols around the town
- Gipsy Lane Level Crossing – Network Rail Public Exhibition attended
- Flooding in Coddendam Road – pleased to see the drains under and near the railway bridge are being flushed out
- Mid Suffolk's Full Council – the 22nd December meeting is to consider a change of governance for the Council which would mean Cabinet/Leader rule consisting of Councillors from the controlling group only
- Neighbourhood Plans – Mid Suffolk's Scrutiny Committee discussed key aspects of neighbourhood planning with Council Officers

Cllr Lea asked what the outcome of the District Council moving to a Cabinet/Leader model would represent. District Council Marchant explained it will lead to less democratic governance and reduce the opportunity for questions to be raised with those in power.

C237/16 To receive a report of the activities of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on behalf of the Town.

The Mayor reported attending:

Thursday 8th December – Ashburnham Over-60's Club Christmas Lunch

Monday 12th December – Needham Market Community Council Carol Service

Wednesday 14th December – Network Rail Public Information Event (Gipsy Lane Rail Crossing)

The Deputy Mayor was not present.

C238/16 To receive a report from the Needham Market Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

Cllr Norris presented his report on a meeting which had taken place on 15th December. He, Town Councillors Lea and Stansfield, plus the Town Clerk, had met with Mid Suffolk District Councillor David Whybrow, Member with Special Responsibility for Planning and Bill Newman, Corporate Manager, Strategic Planning, Mid Suffolk District Council. A copy of the report, which was tabled, will be appended to the Minute Book.

The meeting had included discussion on issues which had first been called for in May 2016.

The Mid Suffolk District Council representatives confirmed work is being prioritised on putting together the updated joint Local Plan and the production of a 5-year Housing Land Supply Policy. They are mindful of the Neighbourhood Planning Bill currently passing through Parliament and indicated acceptance its outcome would include Neighbourhood Plans becoming a material element of the updated joint Local Plan. Commitment was made to further meetings taking place commencing mid-January 2017.

There was no progress made on reaching agreement on the unfairness which currently exists with distribution of Community Infrastructure Levy funds whilst the District Council continues to be bereft of an updated Local Plan and 5-year Housing Land Supply Policy.

Cllr Norris proposed the same Town Council representation which attended the 15th December meeting also attend the next meeting with the District Council. Cllr Phillips seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

Cllr Norris referred to a Ministerial Statement dated 12th December 2016 which set out the Government's response and intended approach to circumstances affecting the completion of Neighbourhood Plans where the local planning authority cannot demonstrate a 5-year supply of deliverable housing sites, as is the case with Mid Suffolk District Council which can currently only demonstrate a 3.7-year supply.

C239/16 To propose street names for future new housing developments.

Cllr Stansfield advocated street names for future new housing developments should follow a themed approach appropriate to Needham Market such as referencing the historical significance of wool production. That approach has already been agreed in principle by Council, and suggested names based on the wool production theme should be submitted to the District Council to be considered for new developments which have no specific individual historical or locational connotation attached to them. If there is any specific individual historical or locational connotation, Cllr Stansfield recommended Council reserve its position and focus its attention, at the time, on the connotation. Council endorsed Cllr Stansfield's recommendation.

C240/16 To agree meeting dates for 2017.

The Clerk tabled a suggested schedule of meeting dates for 2017.

Cllr Darnell proposed Council adopt the schedule. Cllr M Spurling seconded the proposal. Council agreed the schedule.

C241/16 Clerk's Report and Correspondence to be noted.

1. Actions from Town Council Meeting 7.12.16:

C224/16 – Communication to SCC regarding proposed cut to the Suffolk Libraries Budget (outstanding)

C227/16 – Communication to Environment Agency regarding lead paint dropping into the watercourse below Badley Bridge railings (outstanding)

C228/16 – Agenda item regarding Policing Consultation to be added to Feb/Mar 2017 meeting agenda

C229/16 – Suggested street names to be forwarded to MSDC

C230/16 – Item regarding Speeding in the High Street to be added to a future agenda

C231/16 – Dependents Carers Allowance Survey to be completed (outstanding)

C232/16/5b – Communication to be sent to MSDC and other bodies regarding the SnOasis application for Reserved Matters (outstanding)

C233/16 – Communication to SCC Highways regarding reinstatement of roadside verges including flower bulbs (outstanding)

2. Issues:

- MSDC Waste Vehicle Access – problem with access to Drift Court reported to SCC

3. Correspondence to be noted:

- Suffolk Armed Forces Community Covenant – Annual Report 2016 received
- Email dated 19th December received from the PA to the Chief Executive and Team Leader, PA Executive and Support Services, Mid Suffolk/Babergh District Councils – in connection with 'Operation London Bridge', attached Local and National Protocols: Royal Death and National Mourning Protocol – Marking the Death of a Senior National Figure

C242/16 SECTIONS.

C242/16/1 Finance/General Purposes

C242/16/1a 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 Darnell seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C242/16/1b To adopt the 6-month accounts to 30.09.16.

Cllr Annis referred to the 6-month accounts to 30th September 2016 which had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. No issues had been raised with either he or the Responsible Finance Office (Deputy Town Clerk).

Cllr Annis proposed the accounts for the 6-month period to 30th September 2016 be adopted. Cllr Ward seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C242/16/1c To receive a report from the Section Leader.

Cllr Annis referred Councillors to an email dated 20th December, from the Senior Financial Services Officer, Mid Suffolk District Council which provided an update on referendum for Parish and Town Councils for Council Tax 2017/18. It confirmed the Government will not be introducing referendum principles for Parish and Town Councils for 2017/18, although it will be keeping the level of precepts set by Parish and Town Councils under close review.

C242/16/2 Recreation & Sport

C242/16/2a To receive a report from the Section Leader.

Cllr Phillips reported the following:

- An estimate quotation was received and agreed for works to provide and install security fencing and a gate in the sum of £1,740 inclusive of VAT, which has been accepted. 50% of the cost will be met from the Recreation and Sport Section budget with the remaining 50% to be offset from the Section 106 funding received from the Taylor Wimpy Needham Maltings development. The works are necessary to secure a workshop area for use by the Town Warden during inclement weather (as agreed at the last Section meeting). The facility will also be used to securely store the Town Council's trailer which used to be stored at Needham Chalk Quarry. The installation works are scheduled to take place on Thursday 22nd December.
- The replacement metal doors and frame at the Crowley Park store building (former football clubhouse) are now complete and in place and will make a huge difference to access and security. There will also be less risk of injuries caused by faulty doors or runners.

C242/16/3 Town Property and Services

C242/16/3a To receive a report from the Section Leader

Cllr Oakes reminded Councillors the Christmas trees and lighting installed on the High Street are due to be taken down on New Years Day and requested support towards that task.

C242/16/4 Newsletter and Communications

C232/16/4a To receive a report from the Section Leader

Cllr Lea had nothing to report.

C242/16/5 Planning.

Cllr M Spurling reported no Planning Section meeting had been convened on Monday 19th December due to insufficient business.

C242/16/5a To receive Planning Decisions.

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

4051/16 – 107 High Street – Re-roof kitchen extension with clay peg tiles and re-roof two storey rear extension. Roof repairs to front elevation and re-point rear chimney.
Listed Building Consent has been granted.

4314/16 – Brambles, Gipsy Lane - Proposed two storey side extension and associated alterations together with conservatory.
Planning permission has been granted

4202/16 – Richmond House, Barretts Lane – Erection of a single storey rear extension and one and a half storey side extension.
Planning permission has been granted

4403/16 – 7 Alexander Drive – Erection of a single storey front extension.
Planning permission has been granted

C242/16/5b To consider Planning Applications

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

4795/16 – Unit 15 Plot 5, Lion Barn Industrial Estate, Maitland Road – Change of use from vehicle repair shop (B2) to Canine Creche (sui generis).

Cllr M Spurling proposed Council recommend approval of the application. Cllr Phillips seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C242/16/5c To receive a report from the Section Leader.

Cllr Ward asked if businesses on the Lion Barn Industrial Estate had been informed regarding Planning Application 4427/16, which related to Lion Barn House, Maitland Road and seeks the erection of 8 No. flats and associated vehicular access and external works following demolition of the existing dwelling. Cllr Stansfield said the previous planning application relating to Lion Barn House for a similar purpose attracted representations from 22 businesses on the Lion Barn Industrial Estate and therefore Mid Suffolk District Council is well aware businesses have an acute interest in the future use of Lion Barn House. Cllr Norris added he is keeping Lion Barn Industrial Estate businesses updated as to when the Mid Suffolk District Council Planning Committee will meet to consider Planning Application 4427/16.

Cllr M Spurling reported the Planning Section will next meet on Monday 16th January 2017 in the Town Council Office at 7pm. Unless Section Members are informed by email of a cancellation.

C242/16/6 Highways, Lighting and Footpaths

C242/16/6a 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. It included reference to:

- Badley Bridge Railings – contact has been made with two local metal engineering firms, one of which has responded the work is beyond their means and a response from the other is awaited.
- Parking Issues, Enforcement of Double Yellow Lines – Mid Suffolk District Council intended meeting on 9th December with the Civil Parking Enforcement Group unfortunately had to be curtailed. Parking issues on the High Street had been further referred to the Stowmarket Safer Neighbourhood Team and, the double yellow lines in the area of concern have now been repainted and extended.
- Gipsy Lane Rail Crossing – brief description of the Network Rail Public Exhibition event held at the Community Centre on 14th December. Detailed technical and

structural investigation work will now be undertaken by Network Rail and their consultants, with a view to a planning application being submitted mid-2017, with construction taking place in 2018.

Cllr Ward questioned whether the Town Council should be involved with the issue of the condition of the Badley Bridge railings when it is part of the highways infrastructure Suffolk County Council is responsible for. Cllr Norris said the condition of the railings causes a blight on the entrance into the town from Stowmarket but it appears the County Council is now only undertaking essential works in which case they will only be replaced or improved once they have deteriorated to the point of failing in their purpose. Cllr Lea added support for the approach being taken which has only so far gone to the extent of investigating possible solutions and costs involved.

C243/16 Questions under Standing Order 40.

Cllr Stansfield asked if Councillors were aware the Christmas Carol singing around the town held on Saturday 17th December had raised £219 for the Mayor's Charities and thanked all those who had supported the event.

The Meeting closed at 8:17pm.

Chairman **Date**