

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 November 2017 at 7:30pm.

Present: Cllr X Stansfield (In the Chair), Councillors; BE Annis, D Campbell, R Campbell, JE Lea, I Mason, KMN Oakes, S Phillips, D Spurling and M Spurling.

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr TS Carter – Family Commitment
Cllr RP Darnell - Holiday
Cllr A Morris – Work Commitment
Cllr MG Norris - Unwell
Cllr AL Ward – Family Commitment

District Councillor Wendy Marchant

In Attendance: County Councillor Anne Whybrow, 1 Member of Public and Town Clerk Kevin Hunter.

C189/17 To confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 18th October 2017.

The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held Wednesday 18th October 2017 were accepted as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C190/17 To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest for Matters on the Agenda.

Cllr M Spurling – Accounts for Payment

C191/17 To receive reports from The County Councillor, District Councillors and, to take questions from members of the public.

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

- Highways – update on issues including Badley Bridge railings, HGV's using Foxglove Avenue and signage at the Lion Lane/Ipswich Road junction
- Mid Suffolk District Council Headquarters Site – briefing session on its future to be held on 14th November
- Proposed Sand and Gravel Workings Sites - Suffolk County Council Consultation now open
- Flu Vaccinations – reminders to appropriate people to undergo a vaccination
- Suffolk Fostering Service Recruitment Campaign – Suffolk residents encouraged to provide a child with a secure home life

Cllr Phillips commented the Town Council has, in the recent past, received from Suffolk County Council an estimated cost in the region of £12,000 for the repainting of the Badley Bridge railings, which is out of the question. County Councillor Whybrow said that, in the circumstances she is now aware of, she will leave the matter to rest for the time being.

Cllr Mason questioned Suffolk County Council's logic in stating Foxglove Avenue is suitable for heavy good vehicles to use, when entering Foxglove Avenue off Barking Road leads vehicles to a road which is subject to a vehicle weight limit. He added the visibility problem associated with signage at the Lion Lane/Barking Road junction could easily be resolved by elevating the 'Wattisham' sign which is currently too low and thereby obstructs the vision of car drivers.

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

- Planning Performance – Council Members briefing held on Mid Suffolk District Council's performance measured against other authorities

- Babergh and Mid Suffolk Merging into One Council – Mid Suffolk District Council's decision to merge could not be called into Scrutiny as it was an 'endorsement' (not a 'decision') whereas, at Babergh District Council, their decision has been called in to Scrutiny
- Gateway 14, Stowmarket - Mid Suffolk District Council propose borrowing £60 million from the Public Works Loan Board for the land and infrastructure for Gateway 14.
- Planning – details of applications going to the 1st November Planning Committee

The member of public present, being a Trustee of Needham Market Institute and Club, gave an update on progress with the disposal of the Institute premises. The disposal process has been severely hampered by Barclays Bank having lost the deeds to the premises.

C192/17 To receive a report of the activities of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on behalf of the Town.

The Mayor had no activity to report.

The Deputy Mayor had no activity to report.

C193/17 To receive a report from the Needham Market Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

The Clerk read out a brief report received from Cllr Norris as follows:

An inception meeting is being arranged locally with AECOM in respect of the viability/feasibility study on possible development beyond the existing southern boundary of the town.

C194/17 Clerk's Report and Correspondence to be noted.

1. *Actions from Town Council Meeting 18.10.17:*

C186/17 – Email sent to the Suffolk Police & Crime Commissioner 30th October regarding the 101 non-emergency telephone service

2. *Issues:*

- New Temporary Public Toilets – update on Planning Application

The Clerk reported the Town Council's Planning Agent had been informed by Mid Suffolk District Council that the Town Council's planning application for siting a temporary public toilet building on the 'Needham Maltings' public car park needed to be withdrawn or, a Notice of Refusal would be made on the heritage grounds. The Planning Agent had, on 27th October, requested an extension of a week before a final decision is made, to allow the Town Council to appraise its position. The Planning Agent also asked why the planning application was not being decided by a Planning Committee. The Planning Agent had yet to receive a response.

Cllr Mason said the local District Councillors should press to ensure the decision on the application is made by Councillors (Planning Committee) and not by an Officer.

Cllr Phillips proposed no withdrawal of the application be undertaken and, our local District Councillors be requested to insist the application goes to the appropriate Planning Committee, for a decision. Cllr Mason seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

- Needham Market Fireworks Display – cancellation

Cllr Lea, in relation to some of the comments made on social media regarding the cancellation of the annual fireworks display, said people need to acknowledge the time and

effort put in by the Community Council volunteers over many years, which has allowed the event to take place.

- Needham in Bloom (NIB) – replacement of High Street planters

Cllr Lea reported NIB is aiming to replace the High Street planters. Costings are being sought and NIB hope the Town Council will support their objective. Cllr Phillips suggested the Town Council should procure the planters, reflecting its current ownership of those to be replaced, to enable a degree of influence over their use and location. Cllr Lea confirmed the locating of the planters has to be in accordance with the appropriate licences obtained by the Town Council some years ago. Cllr Stansfield suggested the matter comes back as a future agenda item once costs are known.

- Future of the Internet Café – update

Cllr M Spurling reported being far happier with the formal 'handover' of the operation of the Internet (now Community) Café following the intervention of its initiator. Non-participating Directors had resigned and a review of the memorandum under which the social enterprise operates is being undertaken.

- Environment Agency 'Reducing Flood Risk in Needham Market Event' – response received regarding lack of notice for the event held 2nd October
- Suffolk County Council Minerals and Waste Local Plan consultation - Preferred Options consultation runs from 5pm on Monday 30 October until 5pm on Monday 11 December 2017 (hosted on the Suffolk County Council website)

3. *Correspondence to be noted:*

- Email dated 30th October from Needham Market & Barking Welfare Charities with full set of accounts for year ending 31st March 2017 attached.

C195/17 SECTIONS.

C195/17/1 Finance/General Purposes

C195/17/1a 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 Lea seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C195/17/1b To receive a report from the Section Leader.

Cllr Annis reminded Section Leaders there will be a meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Section at 10am on Tuesday 5th December 2017 in the Town Council Office, which will be concerned with the setting of the Town Council's Annual Budget for 2018/19.

C195/17/2 Recreation & Sport

C195/17/2a To receive a report from the Section Leader.

Cllr Phillips presented Notes from the Recreation & Sport Section meeting held on 24th October, which were tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book. The meeting was focussed on setting the Section's budget for 2018/19.

Cllr Annis thanked Cllr Phillips and the Section members for the detailed breakdown of annual costs which formed the basis for the annual budget requirement.

Cllr Phillips reported a slide in the younger children play area on Crowley Park had been vandalised. An entire section of the slide had been destroyed. The Town Warden has secured the slide so that it cannot be used, and replacement parts will be ordered from the equipment supplier. The cost of replacement parts will exceed £200.

Cllr Phillips proposed the Notes from the Section meeting be adopted. Cllr Lea seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C195/17/3 Town Property and Services

C195/17/3a To receive a report from the Section Leader

Cllr Oakes reported there will be a Section meeting on Tuesday 21st November at 7pm in the Town Council Office. The meeting will discuss the Section budget requirement for 2018/19.

C195/17/4 Newsletter and Communications

C195/17/4a To receive a report from the Section Leader

Cllr M Spurling verbally presented Notes from the Section meeting held on 31st October. The Notes included the Section's budget requirement for 2018/19.

Councillors made various comments on the 'younger persons' article which was included in the November edition of the Newsletter. It was suggested the article caused offence and should have been edited prior to it being included.

Cllr Stansfield said he has agreed to meet with the 'younger persons' article author, along with others from his peer group, to discuss the article to try and gain more understanding of the basis for the sentiments expressed therein.

Cllr Annis said he intended to write an article for the December edition of the Newsletter as he wished to encourage youngsters to become directly involved in the future proposals for the all-weather sports facilities attached to the Community Centre.

C195/17/5 Planning.

Cllr R Campbell reported no Planning Section meeting had taken place on Monday 30th October due to insufficient business.

C195/17/5a To receive Planning Decisions.

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

1850/17 – Unit 4, 3 Station Yard – Change of Use of Commercial Land to Residential and Erection of 2 no. 2.5 storey Attached Dwellings Following Demolition of Existing Buildings.

Planning Permission has been Granted.

DC/17/04913 – 76 High Street – Lift lower branches on 1 no. Beech tree and fell to ground level 1 no. Holly tree

The Planning Authority does not wish to object.

C195/17/5b To consider Planning Applications

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

DC/17/04064 – Rhs Shop, 7-9 Station Yard – Application for advertisement consent. Sign 1. Internally illuminated logo panel with letters only to illuminate. Sign 2. Halo illuminated individual letters. Sign 3. Non illuminated dibond panel with vinyl text. Sign 4. Non illuminated dibond panel with vinyl text. Sign 5. Non illuminated dibond panel with vinyl text. Sign 6. Internally illuminated projection sign with letters only to be illuminated. Sign 7. Non illuminated poster frames (x2). All to front elevation.

Cllr R Campbell reported the application had been revised owing to an error in the original documentation and was now subject to a further period of consultation.

Cllr D Campbell proposed Council reiterate its objection to the application. Cllr Mason seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C195/17/5c To receive a report from the Section Leader.

Cllr R Campbell reported the Section will next meet on Monday 13th November 2017 in the Town Council Office at 7pm. Unless Section Members are informed by email of a cancellation.

C195/17/6 Highways, Lighting and Footpaths

C195/17/6a To receive a report from the Section Leader

The Clerk presented a brief verbal report on behalf of Cllr Norris.

C196/17 Questions under Standing Order 40.

There were no questions.

The Meeting closed at 8:26pm.

Chairman **Date**