

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 4th April 2018 at 7:30pm.

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

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr RP Darnell - Work Commitment
Cllr I Mason – Holiday
Cllr KMN Oakes - Unwell
Cllr M Spurling - Work Commitment

In Attendance: County Councillor Anne Whybrow, District Councillor Wendy Marchant, a member of public and the Town Clerk.

C051/18 To confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 21st March 2018.

The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held Wednesday 21st March 2018 were accepted, with a minor non-material amendment, as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C052/18 To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest for Matters on the Agenda.

Cllr BE Annis - Accounts for Payment (Community Centre Payment)
Cllr D Spurling - Accounts for Payment (Community Centre Payment)
Cllr X Stansfield - Accounts for Payment (Community Centre Payment)

C053/18 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:

- Suffolk School Travel Consultation – I am speaking with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and have asked for full details of any changes to school buses in our area.
- Full Suffolk County Council Meeting Items – February meeting included agreement on a total Council Tax rise of 4.99% made up with an increase of 2.99% on general council tax and a 2% precept to fund Adult Social Care.
- Gipsy Lane Rail Crossing Closure – full text from the confirmed Minutes of the Suffolk County Council Committee Meeting held 18th October 2017 at which decisions to seek the necessary Orders to divert the footpath and close the existing rail crossing were resolved.

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:

- Improved Access to Needham Market Railway Station – details from the recent visit to meet the Minister for Transport.

The member of public had no question to raise.

C054/18 To receive a report of the activities of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on behalf of the Town.

The Mayor and the Deputy Mayor had nothing to report.

C055/18 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:

Needham Market Neighbourhood Planning Masterplanning Feasibility Study, relating to the concept of a new southern town boundary which would include a through road from Barking Road to Stowmarket Road.

Further to the email previously circulated, the proposal to incorporate the AECOM feasibility study into a revised Needham Market Neighbourhood Plan was unanimously agreed at the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group Meeting last Thursday 29th March to be put forward as a recommendation to Town Council.

We have today received an email from the SCC Schools Infrastructure Programme Officer, advising he is currently discussing the future use of the former Needham Market Middle School grounds and is working with Bosmere Primary School to consider expansion of their school and, is keen to discuss with MSDC and the Town Council their plans and aspirations for this area of the town. Formal agreement by the Town Council is therefore requested to:

- Continue the feasibility exercise with AECOM, particularly relating to a revised Needham Market Neighbourhood Plan.
- Formally engage with the principal authorities, including MSDC and SCC, in relation to Local Plan development.

Cllr Norris proposed his report be adopted. Cllr Annis seconded the proposal. On being put to the vote, the proposal was carried. Cllr R Campbell abstained.

C056/18 To receive an update on the Needham Market Institute

Cllr Stansfield presented a summary of recent events including the receipt of a letter from the Solicitor instructed by the Trustees to act on their behalf. The Solicitor's letter responded to a letter sent to the Chairman of the Trustees but included no acknowledgement of concerns raised by the Town Council.

The Clerk read out a draft letter which reiterated the Town Council's concerns which are focused on the agreement by which funds were loaned to the Trustees following the closure of The Institute and the way the Trustees are proposing to address the substantial funds that are due from the sale of The Institute building. The draft letter includes a request to meet with the Trustees which is deemed preferable to initiating correspondence between legal representatives.

Cllr Ward proposed the draft letter be sent to the Chairman of The Needham Market Institute Trustees. Cllr Lea seconded the proposal. Council unanimously agreed the proposal.

C057/18 Clerk's Report and Correspondence to be noted.

1. Actions from Town Council Meeting 21.03.18:

C043/18 – Letter to SCC Portfolio Holder (PROW) – pending

2. Issues:

- New Public Toilets – funding to be included in revised S106 agreement (former NM Chalk Quarry)
- Mobile Skatepark – will be on Crowley Park for two days next week (subject to ground conditions)

3. Correspondence to be noted:

None

Cllr Carter proposed the Town Council enhance its support for the Needham Market Railway Station 'Access for All' campaign by providing a further link on the Town Council's website to the campaign petition. Cllr Phillips seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C058/18 SECTIONS.

C058/18/1 Finance/General Purposes

C058/18/1a Accounts for Payment and Confirmation.

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

Cllr Morris proposed the accounts for payment be adopted. Cllr Phillips seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C058/18/1b To receive a report from the Section Leader.

There was no report.

C058/18/2 Recreation & Sport

C058/18/2a To receive a report from the Section Leader.

The Clerk referred to correspondence with Needham Market Phoenix Youth Football Club relating to a potential merger of the Youth Football Club and Needham Market Football Club. The correspondence responded to a number of potential outcomes, which could result from a merger of the two clubs, in particular future use of Crowley Park football facilities.

Councillors expressed views on the benefits of the current approach to the management of the Crowley Park football facilities both to the Town Council and Needham Market Phoenix Youth Football Club. The current agreement in place for use of the football facilities applies solely to Needham Market Phoenix Youth Football Club and that agreement would cease in the event of a merger.

Council endorsed the information and advice provided by the Clerk to Needham Market Phoenix Youth Football Club.

C058/18/3 Town Property and Services

C058/18/3a To receive a report from the Section Leader

There was no report.

Cllr Annis commented it has been some time since Councillors were made aware of progress on the replacement of the edge of town signs and, it is also necessary to ensure improvements to the High Street Christmas Tree lighting display is reviewed as early as possible in the year.

C058/18/4 Newsletter and Communications

C058/18/4a To receive a report from the Section Leader

The Clerk reported the May 2018 edition of the Town Council Newsletter will be its 500th. A centre 4-page insertion is to be included in the May Newsletter which will provide the opportunity to celebrate the 500th edition.

Cllr Phillips asked if the recent initiative to encourage more newsletter delivery volunteers to come forward had been successful. Cllr Lea answered the initiative had been a success and several new volunteers were now on board.

C058/18/5 Planning.

Cllr R Campbell reported a Planning Section meeting had not been held on Tuesday 3rd April due to lack of business.

C058/18/5a To receive Planning Decisions.

Cllr R Campbell reported no planning decisions had been received.

