

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 16th March 2016 at 7:30pm.

Present: Cllr JE Lea (In the Chair), Councillors BE Annis, D Campbell, R Campbell, TS Carter, I Mason, MG Norris, KMN Oakes, S Phillips and X Stansfield

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr RP Darnell – Holiday

Cllr D Spurling - Family Commitment

Cllr M Spurling - Family Commitment

Cllr ALWard - Family Commitment

Suffolk County Councillor Julia Truelove

In Attendance: Mid Suffolk District Councillor Wendy Marchant, 2 Members of Public and Town Clerk Kevin Hunter.

Cllr Lea asked Councillors if they were happy to add an item to the agenda to allow Cllr Phillips to provide a brief verbal report from the meeting of the Trustees of Needham Market Institute and Club held on 15th March. Council agreed.

C042/16 To confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 2nd March 2016.

The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held Wednesday 2nd March 2016 were accepted as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C043/16 To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest for Matters on the Agenda.

Cllr BE Annis – Accounts for Payment

Cllr MG Norris – Planning Matters

Cllr KMN Oakes - Accounts for Payment (Community Centre)

Cllr X Stansfield – Accounts for Payment

C044/16 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:

- Full Suffolk County Council Meeting – to be held Thursday 17th March and includes an agenda item relating to the proposed cuts in the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service
- Devolution Update – latest position reported and announcement expected in the Budget Statement
- Gipsy Lane Crossing – further details as to why there has been a three month delay indicated by Network Rail relating to the assessment of the Badley Bridge culvert option
- Suffolk Policing Changes – information event to be held on Monday 21st March at Cedars Primary School, Stowmarket

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:

- Mid Suffolk Neighbourhood Plans – 6 Parishes engaged in creating a Neighbourhood Plan and the stage they are at respectively
- Clean for the Queen – 40 groups across Mid Suffolk and Babergh have confirmed they will undertake a Spring litter Pick, 80% of them choosing the early March date

- Community Achievement Awards – Needham Market Internet Café has been chosen for an award which will be presented at Wherstead Park on Thursday 21st April
- Hill House Lane Planning Application – Planning Inspector Hearing resumed on Tuesday 15th March with a decision expected before Monday 11th April
- Increase in Passenger Numbers using Needham Market Station – passenger numbers grew during 2015 by 1.2% from the previous year

The members of public had no questions.

C045/16 To receive a report of the activities of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on behalf of the Town.

The Mayor reported attending:

Saturday 5th March – ‘Clean for the Queen’ activities in Needham Market at which the local MP Jo Churchill was present

Tuesday 8th March - Attended an event at Christchurch when I was asked to speak about the Community and possible threats to the town. I also walked around the town with those attending.

Saturday 12th March - Needham Market Fire Station to greet a young boy on the Autistic Spectrum who is aiming to visit every Fire Station in the country. This weekend was Suffolk’s turn.

Sunday 13th March - Evensong of Her majesty’s Courts of Justice in Bury St Edmunds in the Cathedral and hosted by the High Sheriff for Suffolk.

Monday 14th March – Hopkins Homes Public Consultation Event regarding proposed development off Barking Road, held at Needham Market Community Centre

The Deputy Mayor reported attending:

Saturday 5th March – ‘Clean for the Queen’ activities in Needham Market at which the local MP Jo Churchill was present

Monday 14th March – Hopkins Homes Public Consultation Event regarding proposed development off Barking Road, held at Needham Market Community Centre

C046/16 To receive a report from the Strategic Planning Working Group.

Cllr Norris reported there had been no information received from Mid Suffolk District Council, necessary before commencing a review of the Draft Needham Market Neighbourhood Plan, although he hoped this would be received by the end of March.

C047/16 To receive a report from the Meeting of the Trustees of Needham Market Institute and Club held 15th March.

Cllr Phillips gave a brief verbal report from the meeting which confirmed him as a new Trustee.

Cllr Phillips agreed to provide a full written report on the meeting at Council’s 6th April meeting.

C048/16 To consider a request for a donation towards the Rural Coffee Caravan event ‘Golden Age Fair’ to be held at Needham Market Community Centre.

The Clerk described the request received from the Rural Coffee Caravan Information Project which is proposing to hold the fair in July.

Cllr Phillips said there is a balance of £100 remaining in Council’s grants/donations budget for 2016/17 and proposed this be applied to support the ‘Golden Age Fair’ event. Council agreed.

C049/16 Clerk's Report and Correspondence to be noted.

1. Actions from Town Council Meeting 02.03.16:

C038/16 – Photo of Council to be used as the basis of the congratulatory message to Her Majesty the Queen on the occasion of her 90th birthday

2. Issues:

- section 137 Expenditure Limit 2016/17 – the appropriate sum is £7.42p which equates to an annual budget of approximately £26,000 (Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables local councils to spend a limited amount of money for purposes for which they have no other specific statutory power)
- Local Policing is Changing – a meeting to allow people to meet their new Locality Inspector and to hear about how teams will be working within local communities is taking place on Monday 21st March at 6:30pm at the School Hall, Cedars Primary School, Stowmarket.

Cllrs Lea and Oakes volunteered to represent Council at the meeting.

- Town Councillor Vacancy – today is the final day for a request for an election to be lodged with the District Council. In the absence of a request the vacancy can be filled by co-option. The co-option could take place at Council's 6th April meeting.

Council agreed consideration of co-option should take place at its 6th April meeting.

3. Correspondence to be noted:

- Letter received 16th March from a resident regarding the Hopkins Homes proposed housing development off Barking Road

C050/16 SECTIONS.

C050/16/1 Finance/General Purposes

C050/16/1a 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 Mason proposed the accounts for payment be adopted. Cllr Phillips seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C050/16/1b To receive a report from the Section Leader

There was no report.

C050/16/2 Recreation & Sport

C050/16/2a To receive a report from the Section Leader.

Cllr Phillips reported the storage container purchased to provide additional storage at Crowley Park had been installed and its exterior will be painted to blend in more with its immediate surroundings.

Cllr Mason asked whether the Cricket Club heavy roller will remain stored in the old clubhouse building. Cllr Phillips confirmed there is no intention to store the roller elsewhere.

C050/16/3 Town Property and Services

C050/16/3a To receive a report from the Section Leader

Cllr Oakes reported now the weather is improving she will recommence the installation of Council's new notice boards.

C050/16/4 Newsletter and Communications

C050/16/4a To receive a report from the Section Leader

Cllr Lea had nothing to report.

C050/16/5 Planning.

Cllr Stansfield reported that, due to insufficient business, the Planning Section meeting scheduled for Monday 14th March had not taken place.

C050/16/5a To receive Planning Decisions.

Cllr Stansfield reported the following planning decisions had been received.

4456/15 - Gateway House Ipswich Road - Siting of new temporary buildings to provide Soil Shed, Office, Laboratory, Tea Room and Storage room to be used in connection with the existing building.

Planning Permission has been Granted.

0099/16 - 25 Paget Close - Erection of two storey side extension.

Planning Permission has been Granted.

0182/16 – 43 Steggall Close - Erection of a two storey side extension.

Planning Permission has been Granted.

0412/16 – 38 Burton Drive – Remove existing rough cast render and replace with Grey Hardie-Plank.

Notice has been received that Mid Suffolk District Council's Development Management Committee is to consider the planning application at its meeting to be held on 16th March.

C050/16/5b To consider Planning Applications

Cllr Stansfield reported the following planning application had been received:

0744/16 – Mawes House, 141 High Street – T1-Yew Tree: Cut back 3-4 metres.

Cllr Stansfield proposed Council recommend approval of the application if it accords with advice given by the District Council's Tree Officer. Council agreed the proposal.

C050/16/5c To receive a report from the Section Leader.

Cllr Mason said, in relation to the Hopkins Homes proposed development of 150 new homes off Barking Road, he was surprised residents of Foxglove Avenue had suffered flooding to their properties in the past and, if that is the case, it is an issue that should be considered in the context of the new development proposal.

Cllr R Campbell said he was concerned that, at the resumed Planning Inspector's Hearing of the Planning Appeal relating to a proposed housing development at Hill House Lane, which had taken place on Tuesday 15th March, Mid Suffolk District Council's Planning Officer, when asked by the Inspector, could not confirm whether the proposed Planning Development at Needham Chalk Quarry (off Ipswich Road) had been granted Planning Approval or not.

Cllr Phillips added, in view of the huge costs attached to the Hill House Lane Planning Appeal, he was dismayed the District Council's Planning Officer was so insufficiently prepared he was unable to respond to a simple question from the Planning Inspector regarding whether or not another major development site in the town had obtained Planning Approval.

Cllr Stansfield referred to seeing the District Council's Planning Officer being conveyed in a wheelchair up Hill House Lane following a suggestion made to the Planning Inspector by Cllr Carter that the access route to the proposed development site would be impractical for a wheelchair user.

Cllr Stansfield said, at the conclusion of the Planning Inspector's Hearing, a Mid Suffolk District Council representative requested the Council's costs be awarded against the Appellant.

Cllr R Campbell commented that, again, the Mid Suffolk District Council Officer involved with the Hill House Lane Appeal, failed to raise the existence of the Needham Market Neighbourhood Plan during the resumed Appeal Hearing.

Cllr Mason asked whether local District Councillors have the opportunity to speak at Mid Suffolk District Council Planning Committees. District Councillor Norris confirmed local District Councillors can speak on matters relating to their wards but, cannot vote on those matters. He reminded Council he and District Councillor Marchant had recently had a controversial local Planning Application referred to Mid Suffolk District Council's Planning Committee. In the absence of their intervention, the Planning Application would have been decided by Officer delegation. The Planning Committee unanimously rejected the Planning Application.

Cllr Stansfield concluded his report by stating he is to speak with the Leader of Council's Strategic Planning Working Group (Cllr Norris) regarding the importance of the need to complete the Needham Market Neighbourhood Plan and what position Council should adopt, in relation to the proposed Hopkins Homes development off Barking Road and any other new development proposals, in the hiatus Council finds itself in.

Cllr Stansfield reported the Planning Section will next meet on Monday 4th April in the Town Council Office at 7.00pm.

C050/16/6 Highways, Lighting and Footpaths

C050/16/6a 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:

- Road Closure Notice, Barretts Lane – the road will be closed from 11th to 15th April with details of the alternative route
- Fatal Accident, B1078 Barking Road – details of the accident which happened at around 8:45pm on 15th March
- Dog Fouling – this has again been reported as continuing in the Crowley Road/The Causeway area and a resident has suggested the Council carry out a leaflet drop

On the dog fouling item, Cllr Lea referred to the measures already adopted by the Clerk in conjunction with the Town Warden. Cllr Oakes said the Town Warden, as part of his current focus on the Crowley Road/The Causeway area, had checked that day and found no dog waste present. Cllr Carter referred to dog waste he had encountered elsewhere in the town.

Cllr Phillips said it is important the dog fouling issue in the town is not blown out of proportion.

Cllr Lea asked if Councillors agreed with the suggestion that a leaflet drop be undertaken in the Crowley Road/The Causeway area. Councillors did not agree.

The Clerk reminded Council of the availability of specialised street cleaning machines the purpose of which included picking up dog waste.

Councillors concluded the current approach to the problem should be maintained and the potential to deal with dog waste via appropriate equipment, continue to be looked into.

C051/16 Questions under Standing Order 40.

Cllr Stansfield asked if Councillors were aware that, at the drop-in consultation event held by Hopkins Homes in relation to its proposed development of new housing off Barking Road, a noticeable number of the roughly 200 attendees had made enquiries regarding the proposed mix of housing, in particular the need for bungalows to be included.

The Meeting closed at 8:19 p.m.

Chairman Date