



Needham Market Town Council Community & Assets Committee Minutes – 22nd February 2023

Present: Cllr A Reardon, Chairperson; Cllrs Annis, Lea, Norris, Phillips, J Reardon and Stansfield.

The Town Clerk and seventeen members of public were in attendance.

CA001/23 Chairperson's Welcome and Apologies for Absence.

Apologies: Cllrs Darnell, Lawrence and O'Shea.

CA002/23 To receive and confirm the Minutes of the Community & Assets Committee held 14th December 2022.

Cllr Lea proposed the Minutes of the Community & Assets Committee held 14th December 2022, be adopted. Cllr Stansfield seconded the proposal. The Committee agreed the proposal.

CA003/23 To receive Councillors Declarations of Interest for items on the agenda.

There were no declarations of interest.

CA004/23 To consider outstanding projects including those in course of delivery.

Cllr A Reardon read out her response to an email received from the Needham Market Skatepark Committee.

Members of the Skatepark Committee raised questions and made a number of comments. Town Councillors responded to the questions and comments mostly reiterating what had been said previously. This included stating Crowley Park is not a tenable location for a skatepark and the Town Council owns no other land suitable for one to be located on.

Cllr A Reardon concluded the session involving those members of public present as follows:

- The Town Council will be providing advice regarding the forthcoming Local Council Elections.
- The replacement younger children's play area on Crowley Park will be sited on the existing basketball court, thus saving the cost of extensive groundworks, and following the completion of the Multi-Use Games Area which includes basketball backboards and hoops.
- A future Town Council meeting will consider the question 'what do young people in the town want?'

Cllr Phillips left the meeting at 7.57pm

Cllr A Reardon reported the slide in the older children's play area, which had been vandalised, has been repaired and is back in use plus, suppliers of younger children's play area equipment continue to be engaged with.

Cllr A Reardon suggested an interim arrangement to provide some younger children's play equipment should be considered now the timescale for grant funding of the main project has been pushed back. This may include an option to locate the initial items of play equipment on the former Needham Market Middle School playing field. Cllr Annis said he would be happy to lead a small working party to consider an interim arrangement.

Cllr Annis reported he continues to put arrangements in place that will result in the installation of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDS) at strategic points on the town's most busy roads. The Locality Grant funding has been received from the local District Councillors Mike Norris and Steve Phillips. Locality Funding has also been committed by our local Suffolk County Councillor Kay Oakes. Suffolk County Council is to manage the installation of the SIDS, which are to be permanently located.

The Clerk gave updates on the Scout Hut Replacement Project, the Boxing Club Toilet Project, the relocating of the Youth Shelter on Crowley Park and the occupation by Cadent of Crowley Park car park, which is coming to an end.

CA005/23 To consider new projects, their prioritisation and funding, including allocation of CIL funds.

The recent dredging of the Barretts Lane duck pond was raised. It was reported the works involved a large digger pulling silt from the bottom of the pond onto its bank. This has left a very unsightly perimeter to the pond which has a considerable amount of detritus within it. The 'duck house' which has sat on the pond for many years is to be rebuilt. The Committee agreed to fund the rebuild if necessary.

A request had been received for further signposting to the town centre to be added at Needham Lake. The Committee agreed in principle with the request although Needham Lake is owned and managed by Mid Suffolk District Council and their support will be necessary.

CA006/23 To consider the Council's Communications functions.

Cllr A Reardon reported the redevelopment of the Town Council website is nearing completion, including it now pointing to the Town Council Facebook page, where appropriate.

Cllr J Reardon reported there have been 5,800 engagements on the Town Council's Facebook page.

CA007/23 To receive a report from Council's Civic Events Working Group

Cllr Lea reminded Councillors to ensure they had Sunday 16th April 2023 in their diary as the date for the Needham Market Civic Service. The Rural Dean Daniel Harrison will lead the Service and Cllr John Reardon will deliver the first reading.

Cllr A Reardon reported on the first meeting of the King's Coronation Group and described its proposals. The Town Council Newsletter will be used to advertise events.

CA008/23 To consider Crime Prevention and Community Health and Wellbeing issues.

The Clerk referred to the recent meeting held with local Police regarding the potential for installing CCTV in Needham Market and suggested, with existing projects already weighing heavily on the Town Council, further action should be postponed until after the forthcoming local council elections. The Committee agreed.

Cllr Lea reported on a successful dementia friendly singalong event, held on 21st February in a local pub, organised by the Needham Market Dementia Action Alliance.

CA009/23 To receive an update from the Council's Climate Action Group (CAG).

Cllr A Reardon reported the Group is progressing arrangements for the forthcoming Earth Day events (Saturday 22nd April) and the Thermal Imaging Camera Project attracted a great deal of public interest and has subsequently become oversubscribed.

The Meeting closed at 8.56pm.

Signed..... Committee Chairperson

Date.....