



Needham Market Town Council
Community & Assets Committee
Minutes – 18th October 2023

Present: Cllr S Phillips, Deputy Chairperson; Cllrs Annis, Darnell, Goodchild, Lea, Mason, Norris, A Reardon, J Reardon, O'Shea and Stansfield.

The Town Clerk was in attendance.

CA041/23 To elect a Chairperson.

Cllr Stansfield proposed Cllr Phillips. Cllr Annis seconded the proposal. The Committee agreed the proposal.

CA042/23 Chairperson's Welcome and Apologies for Absence.

Cllr Phillips thanked Cllr A Reardon for her term as Chairperson of the Committee.

Apologies: Cllrs Darnell, Farrow and Lawrence.

CA043/23 To receive and confirm the Minutes of the Community & Assets Committee held 16th August 2023.

Cllr Lea proposed the Minutes of the Community & Assets Committee held 16th August 2023, be adopted. Cllr Norris seconded the proposal. The Committee agreed the proposal.

CA044/23 To receive Councillors Declarations of Interest for items on the agenda.

There were none.

CA045/23 To consider outstanding projects including those in course of delivery.

Cllr Phillips provided updates on the Crowley Park Younger Children's Play Area Project, the Needham Market Scout Hut and on ancillary asset maintenance work.

Cllr J Reardon suggested a formal report was required on the Crowley Park Younger Children's Play Area Project including a plan showing the precise location of each piece of equipment being installed. Cllr Phillips responded that such a plan would be practical following equipment installation. Cllr Phillips undertook to liaise with the Clerk to establish a report on the background to the current position.

The Clerk reported Mid Suffolk District Council may be willing to release funds which could be used for improvements to the High Street, in particular to remove vegetation growing on pavements and out of the road kerbs.

Cllr Phillips reported the charges that will be levied on the users of Crowley Park for the period 2023/24. An annual uplift of around 5% had been applied to the standard charges from 2022/23. The main user, Needham Market Phoenix Youth Football Club, had been invoiced and payment has been received.

CA046/23 To consider new projects, their prioritisation and funding, including allocation of CIL funds.

Cllr Phillips confirmed Councils' future CIL use is subject to its adopted Community Infrastructure Investment Plan (CIIP) which includes, as its top priority, increasing the capacity of The Mix Hut within Crowley Park Pavilion.

CA047/23 To consider the Council's Communications functions.

Cllr J Reardon reported statistics from the last 28 days relating to the Town Council's Facebook presence. 2,100 people had been reached and there were 437 engagements.

Cllr J Reardon reported the Town Council's website is no longer on a platform which is free of charge. A monthly fee of £20 is now payable,

CA048/23 To receive a report from Council's Civic Events Working Group

Cllr Lea reported on the arrangements for Remembrance that will take place on the weekend of the 11th and 12th of November at Barretts Lane Corner and Needham Market Community Centre/Needham Market War Memorial, respectively.

CA049/23 To consider Crime Prevention and Community Health and Wellbeing issues.

Cllr A Reardon referred to the 'Warm Winter Spaces' initiative that was put in place over the last winter period. Needham Market Library provided a well-used facility which the Town Council supported by contributing to consumables such as hot drinks. Councillors agreed the same approach should be taken this year and Cllr A Reardon agreed to meet with the Library Manager accordingly.

Cllr Phillips reported he had recently rejoined Needham Market Neighbourhood Watch and had subsequently received an amount of information material but, as yet, no direct contact.

In view of changes announced by Suffolk Constabulary, Councillors agreed updated local policing information should be included in future editions of the Needham Market Newsletter.

Cllr Phillips, referring to the Town Council's responsibilities relating to crime prevention, suggested the Council should try and be more proactive in that respect and he would be taking that aspect of Council business forward.

Following a discussion on CCTV, Cllr J Reardon agreed to pass a range of dates to the Clerk in respect of a Councillors visit to view the CCTV control room which is based in the West Suffolk Council offices in Bury St Edmunds.

CA050/23 To receive an update from the Council's Climate Awareness Group (CAG) including consideration of adopting the following policy statement:

Needham Market Town Council pledges to protect and encourage nature within Needham Market. It aims to increase the use of more environmentally friendly land management practices and support local residents, businesses and organisations in activities which enhance and promote biodiversity.

Cllr A Reardon proposed the Committee adopt the above policy statement. Cllr Lea seconded the proposal. The Committee agreed the proposal.

Cllr A Reardon referred Councillors to the September and October Climate Action Group meeting Minutes, the September item being supplemented with a slide presentation on Sustainable Transport.

Cllr A Reardon reported projects potentially coming to Needham Market include provision of E-bikes at Needham Lake and the installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Points at a number of locations in the town.

Cllr A Reardon reported there has been a lot of local interest in the next phase of the Thermal Imaging Camera Project with many local residents keen to participate.

The Meeting closed at 8.02pm.

Signed.....

Committee Chairperson

Date.....