

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 20th March 2019 at 7:30pm.

Present: Cllr D Spurling (In the Chair), Councillors; BE Annis, D Campbell, RP Darnell, JE Lea, S Phillips, P Potter and X Stansfield.

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr N Andrews - Family Commitment
Cllr C Campbell – University Studies
Cllr I Mason – Holiday
Cllr MG Norris - Unwell
Cllr M Spurling - Family Commitment
Cllr AL Ward – Family Commitment

In Attendance: Suffolk County Councillor Kay Oakes, District Councillor Wendy Marchant and the Town Clerk.

C034/19 To confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 6th March 2019.

The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held Wednesday 6th March 2019 were accepted as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C035/19 To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest for Matters on the Agenda.

None

C036/19 To receive reports from The County Councillor, District Councillors and, to take questions from members of the public.

County Councillor Kay Oakes gave a verbal report on:

- Bosmere Primary School Travel Plan – County Councillor Oakes is to meet with the appropriate County Council Officer to discuss the process for creating the travel plan and what documentation the process will include. The Town Council Clerk will be contacted subsequently regarding the Town Council's request to participate in the creation of the Travel Plan
- County Councillor Oakes has received contact from an elderly resident in the town who had been the target of a distraction burglary. Needham Market Neighbourhood Watch is to reiterate its advice on distraction burglaries in the Needham Market Newsletter

Cllr Lea said the Cedars Link traffic lights situation has not improved and long queues of traffic are being created along with vehicles ending up being stranded across carriageways. Cllr Phillips added he too has seen the problem which appeared to him to be sporadic depending on how the sequence and timings of the traffic lights are functioning. County Councillor Oakes agreed to follow the issue up, again, with the appropriate County Council Highways Officer.

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

SNOASIS This is the biggest thing which has happened in Mid Suffolk since the last Town Council meeting, (and for some time) was debated and approved at Mid Suffolk's Planning Referrals last Wednesday 13.3.19. It will be enormous.

Apart from the Ski Slope, there will be an ice rink, speed skating, entertainment area, boating lake, club house, sports training area, massive hotel with multi storey car park, lodges, flats and hostel, cycling area, sports area, education centre, convenience store, sports equipment shop, and many other attractions. It will be world class and should attract people from around the world. A young man who was an Olympian, came to speak in support of the project at the Planning Referrals last Wednesday. He brought his glass Olympic trophies with him. He said when he was training for the Olympics he had to travel abroad to train, but with these facilities, he (and others) will be able to train in this country, and he is from Suffolk and lives in Ipswich. However, local people had a

number of concerns. In the original plan there was to be a railway station at Great Blakenham, but because the rail company was not willing to stop the trains at Great Blakenham, this plan had to be scrapped.

Instead there are going to be shuttle buses from Stowmarket to Snoasis. (Will the rail company regret this decision in years to come?) Nettlestead were concerned about light pollution, and visual appearance, and changing a peaceful rural area, into something more urban; Great Blakenham are concerned about the extra traffic generated, and have County Council Highways, agreed sufficient measures to mitigate this? Also, air quality and environmental issues. Little Blakenham's concerns were drainage, water run-off, and thus possible flooding, especially at houses on The Beeches development at Little Blakenham.

One of the biggest concerns the local representatives had, was that they had not been involved enough in the discussions, and some of them with expertise and local knowledge which could be very useful. Wendy asked the Planning Officer to enlarge upon this, and at first he said there would just be someone from the local Parish Councils, and then Wendy went on to ask if the local SPA representatives could be included in the 'External Reference Group' which will be looking into all the issues which they are concerned about The Chairman agreed that they should, and this will happen, which is a very good thing.

MID SUFFOLK'S FULL COUNCIL 18.3.19 will possibly be the last Full Council before the District Elections on 2nd May 2019. The papers are very lengthy – 309 pages, but some of these pages are A3 size, folded in, with lines of small print. The subjects under discussion will be: Annual Report of Scrutiny Committee; Appointment of Directors to the Board of MSDC (Suffolk Holdings) Ltd.; Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL); Stradbroke Neighbourhood (Development) Plan; Debenham Neighbourhood (Development) Plan; Joint Communities Strategy; Adoption of the Homes and Housing Strategy; Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy; Changes to Mid Suffolk Constitution; Motion to Council, that the Council endorses the adoption of Unison's End Violence at Work Charter. (Recently we have had very lengthy papers to read – Snoasis 343 pages and the papers for the Needham Market Planning meeting were 437 pages long.)

District Councillor Marchant added she had relayed the question raised at the previous Town Council meeting regarding the release of s106 (Developer Contribution) funds to the appropriate District Council Officer and had updated the Town Clerk accordingly.

C037/19 To receive a report of the activities of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on behalf of the Town.

The Mayor reported her attendance at:

Sunday 17th March – Choral Evensong for Her Majesty's Courts of Justice held at St Edmundsbury Cathedral

The Deputy Mayor had nothing to report.

C038/19 To receive a report from the Needham Market Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

Cllr Potter presented her report which was tabled, and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book:

Both the 'hub' and 'spokes' groups of Councillors have met since the last report to the Town Council, with Councillors working together to ensure that the development of the Needham Market Neighbourhood Plan (NMNP) goes forward positively. Considerable effort has been put into planning for the Consultation Event on 30th March, with councillors contributing to/drafting posters, which will give the community information and seek opinions on several key aspects of the NMNP. Councillors D Campbell and Andrews have edited the content of the posters, to ensure similarity of style and layout and have arranged for A0 posters to be printed at Gipping Press. A questionnaire, designed by Councillor C. Campbell is being printed for distribution to community members on 30th March. Work on the new NMNP is focussing on fine tuning the work that AECOM continues to do with us and linking that to a revised and updated NMNP, initially drafted in 2014. It is recognised that developments have superseded some of the work in the draft plan and several of the policies in that draft need updating. Furthermore, there will be a need to consult again with local businesses and other key sections of the community. It was agreed that a consultant should be appointed in the

near future to work with us on the process of compiling the new NMNP, ensuring that we produce a plan that is appropriate and in line with regulations governing the process. Councillor Potter has contacted a recommended consultant, who has, with a colleague, worked on eleven Neighbourhood plans, three of which have been adopted and some eight are in process, and Councillor Andrews is contacting another consultant, who has also been recommended to us. Council approval is sought to move ahead with the recruitment of a consultant, following an interview process. We are aware of the pressing necessity of meeting with MSDC, SCC, developers and adjacent parishes. However, if we can get a consultant in place and working with us in the near future, it will be preferable to have an expert on board for some, albeit not all, of these proposed meetings. We are in discussion with AECOM about our future work with them and Council approval is sought for us to move ahead with signing a contract with them, within the available grant funding. In addition to drilling down further into their plan, we will be asking AECOM to consider the possibility and cost saving implications of putting in a lesser 'relief' road; to consider further provisional options for, at some time in the future, putting in a link road to the A14 and/or other options for shifting traffic through to the A14; and, to look in detail at the junctions, e.g.: those with Barking Road and Ipswich Road on the plan. Further meetings on both 'hub' and 'spokes' groups are planned in April.

Cllr Potter proposed Council adopt her report. Cllr D Campbell seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C039/19 Clerk's Report and Correspondence to be noted.

1. Actions from Town Council Meeting 6.03.19

C032/19/5c – email sent to the Planning/Highways Consultants 11.03.19

2. Issues:

- S106 Developer Contributions and Public Open Space – update

The Clerk referred to a lengthy telephone conversation he had held with Mid Suffolk District Council's Community Engagement Officer that had involved both above subjects. The Clerk explained the District Council is set to explore with Town and Parish Councils the future upkeep of Public Open Spaces that currently exist (typically a small area of recreational space on a housing development) and new Public Open Spaces that will come along with housing growth. On the s106 Developer Contributions front, the District Council Officer is keen to agree prioritisation and precise funding for the delivery of community projects under the agreement attached to the St Georges Park (former Needham Chalk Quarry) housing development.

Cllr Annis outlined the funding position for the refurbishment of the Needham Market Community Centre outdoor sports courts and additional car parking.

Councillors expressed caution regarding the transfer of responsibility of the management of Public Open Spaces from the District Council to the Town Council.

Cllr Lea commented housing developers appear to be establishing their own arrangements for managing Open Public Spaces and residents' amenities on their new housing developments and she anticipated that trend will continue in the future.

3. Correspondence to be noted:

None

C040/19 SECTIONS

C040/19/1 Finance/General Purposes

C040/19/1a 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 adoption of the accounts for payment. Cllr Phillips seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C040/19/1b To receive a report from the Section Leader.

There was no report.

C040/19/2 Recreation & Sport

C040/19/2a To receive a report from the Section Leader.

Cllr Phillips reported an invoice has been received in the sum of £4,500 for preplanning assessment and design in relation to the refurbishment/replacement of Crowley Park pavilion.

Cllr Phillips proposed Council accept and remit the £4,500 invoice. Cllr Darnell seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

Cllr Phillips reported, following the removal of the hedge and fencing from the boundary of Crowley Park with Barretts Lane, the Town Warden has reinstated temporary fencing securing the young children's play area.

C040/19/3 Town Property and Services

C040/19/3a To receive a report from the Section Leader

Cllr Lea reported quotations have been received regarding the connection of mains services to the location where it is intended a temporary public toilet is to be sited to the rear of the Town Council's High Street car park. The quotations received are for:

Connection of mains water	£18,729
Connection of mains electricity	£5,297 plus £350 for a new electric meter

A quotation for connection to mains sewerage drainage has yet to be received.

Cllr Lea said she has been completely taken aback by the cost for mains service connections. The Clerk said he had been forewarned a couple of days prior to the quotations being received of the level of costs. As an explanation for the level of costs, the Clerk was told it is due to Anglian Water holding a monopoly over mains connections. It is not possible to carry out any work independent of Anglian Water as a result of that monopoly and the monopoly is exploited to levy higher costs compared to other areas of the country where there is no monopoly.

Cllr Lea suggested Council consider locating the new public toilet facility elsewhere, possibly off Barretts Lane where the original public toilet building stood prior to demolition.

Cllr Stansfield said the quotations received from Anglian Water are outrageous. Cllr Phillips added it is important the community is made aware of the situation.

Cllr Phillips suggested, in view of the dire need for a public toilet facility in the town, if there is a way of trying to influence Anglian Water regarding its mains services connection costs, perhaps the intended project could still be viable.

Cllr Lea said she would put the public toilet project on hold pending further consideration and will include it as a future Town Council meeting agenda item once fuller information is to hand. The Clerk said he will request a refund of the application fee paid in respect of the mains sewerage drainage connection.

Cllr Lea reported the installation of the edge of town 'Needham Market' signs is subject to further conditions being imposed by Suffolk County Council Highways. The conditions refer to one of the sign locations being within the national 60mph speed limit, yet Suffolk County Council Highways has itself recently extended the 30mph limit beyond the sign location point.

C040/19/4 Newsletter and Communications

C040/19/4a To receive a report from the Section Leader

Cllr D Campbell reported Cllr Andrews is requesting opinions from Councillors on the future design of a new Town Council website and the Website Designer, engaged to create the new Town Council website, is due to visit the town on Friday 22nd March.

Cllr D Campbell reported the Adobe In-Design software has been purchased for future editing of the Town Council Newsletter, at slightly higher cost than referred to in an earlier Section report.

C040/19/5 Planning

Cllr Stansfield presented Notes from the Planning Section meeting held on 18th March, which were tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book.

C040/19/5a Planning Decisions and other Notices received

Cllr Stansfield reported the following:

DC/19/00005 - 19 Saxon Park, Barretts Lane - Installation of a step lift access outside park home to provide disabled access.

Planning Permission has been Granted

DC/19/00879 - 74 High Street - Notification of works to Trees in a Conservation Area - T1 (Beech) Reduce crown volume by up to 40%.

Mid Suffolk District Council Does not wish to Object.

DC/19/00766 - Fir Trees, 13 School Street - Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Fell a large Fir tree.

Mid Suffolk District Council Does not wish to Object.

C040/19/5b Planning Applications Received

Cllr Stansfield reported the following planning applications had been received:

DC/19/01123 - 13 John Swain Close - Erection of single storey side extension following demolition of conservatory.

The Section considered this extension non-controversial, it also considered the positioning of the proposed extension and its proportion to the size of the dwelling and Recommends Approval.

Cllr Stansfield proposed Council support approval of the application. Cllr Phillips seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

DC/19/00259 – Former Mid Suffolk District Council, 131 High Street - Application for Advertisement Consent - Erection of solid hoarding to the South and Western elevations of the caretakers' cottage. A-Frame (triangular) sign board on the corner of Barretts Lane/Hurstlea Road and panel facing onto High Street.

The Section was mindful of a previous application made for similar advertisements, it noted the two which had encountered criticism have been substantially reduced in size and the panel on the High Street has also moved location away from the pedestrian crossing. The Section therefore recommends approval.

Cllr Stansfield proposed Council support approval of the application. Cllr D Campbell seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Appeal under Section 78. Appeal Reference APP/W3520/W/19/3221675. Appeal and Location: Erection of 2 No. one bedroom dwellings and 1No. two bedroom dwelling (following demolition of extension to 24 Crowley Road) Widening of existing lay by to provide additional parking spaces. Land Adj. 24 Crowley Road, Needham Market, IP6 8BJ

Cllr Stansfield explained the background to the appeal.

Cllr Stansfield proposed Council submit a recommendation the appeal be dismissed on the grounds the proposal would result in overdevelopment. Cllr Phillips seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C040/19/5c Planning Report

Cllr Stansfield reported the Clerk had written a Needham Market Newsletter item concerning the former Needham Market Middle School and Mid Suffolk District Council HQ Office sites and submitted it to the Section for approval. The Section gave the item its approval and thanks the Clerk for the precise style in which the Statement relates the information contained in it.

Cllr Stansfield reported the Planning Section will next meet on Monday 1st April in the Town Council Office at 7pm. Unless Section Members are informed by email of a cancellation.

C040/19/6 Highways, Lighting and Footpaths

C040/19/6a To receive a report from the Section Leader

There was no report.

C041/19 Questions under Standing Order 40.

Cllr D Spurling asked if Councillors were aware of the error included on the Council Tax Demand Notices sent to Needham Market Council Taxpayers which indicated the Town Council had raised two precepts one of which is well beyond the year-on-year increase actually resolved by the Town Council. The Clerk confirmed the error made the Demand Notices unlawful and Mid Suffolk District Council is to correct its error by printing and serving corrected Demand Notices. Cllr D Campbell commented the Town Council's year-on-year precept increase of 3.9% appears modest in comparison with some other precepting bodies.

The Meeting closed at 8:45pm.

Chairman **Date**