

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 6th April 2016 at 7:30pm.

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

Apologies for Absence:

Suffolk County Councillor Julia Truelove

In Attendance: Mid Suffolk District Councillor Wendy Marchant, 6 Members of Public and Town Clerk Kevin Hunter.

C052/16 To confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 16th March 2016.

The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held Wednesday 16th March 2016 were accepted as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C053/16 To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest for Matters on the Agenda.

Cllr BE Annis – Accounts for Payment

Cllr R Campbell – Planning Matters (3679/13)

Cllr TS Carter – Local Policing is Changing and Planning Matters

Cllr J E Lea – Planning (1041/16)

Cllr MG Norris – Accounts for Payment and Planning Matters

Cllr KMN Oakes - Accounts for Payment (Community Centre)

Cllr X Stansfield – Accounts for Payment (Community Centre)

C054/16 To receive reports from The County Councillor, District Councillors and to take questions from members of the public

There was no County Councillor's report.

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:

- Government Abolishing Their Grant To Local Council's – as a result the District Council's Executive is to discuss a "Strategic Plan Refresh 2016-2020"
- Hill House Lane Planning Appeal – the appellant has asked the Planning Inspector to consider other related planning appeal decisions

The members of public had no questions.

C055/16 To receive a report of the activities of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on behalf of the Town.

The Mayor reported attending:

Thursday 17th March - Attended Mid Suffolk South Area meeting of SALC.

Friday 18th March - Judged the Easter Bonnets at Bosmere Primary School.

Friday 18th March - Attended the Annual meeting of SSAFA.

Friday 18th March - Attended Dementia Friends workshop

Monday 21st March - Attended Area Policing Meeting

Friday 1st April - Held my Charity Fashion Show

Tuesday 5th April - Spent the morning in the town with Jo Churchill MP together with the Deputy Town Mayor and Councillor Brian Annis

The Deputy Mayor reported attending:

Friday 18th March - Attended Dementia Friends workshop

Tuesday 5th April - Spent the morning in the town with Jo Churchill MP together with the Town Mayor and Councillor Brian Annis

Cllr R Campbell said he would be happy to join the Dementia Friendly Group.

C056/16 To receive a report from the Strategic Planning Working Group.

Cllr Norris reported he has requested an update from Mid Suffolk District Council, there being still no information received from them, which is preventing the commencement of a review of the Needham Market Neighbourhood Plan.

C057/16 To consider co-option to Council's vacant seat..

Cllr Lea referred to the four applications received and the information on each applicant which had been copied to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

An initial ballot of the four applicants took place. As the result was insufficiently conclusive, a second ballot between the two applicants, who received the greater proportion of votes in the initial ballot, took place.

Adrian Morris received a majority of the votes cast in the second ballot and was duly confirmed as the successful applicant. The formal taking up of the vacant seat will occur at Council's next meeting.

C058/16 To receive a written report from the Meeting of the Trustees of Needham Market Institute held on 15th March.

Cllr Phillips, Council's nominated Trustee, presented his report, which was tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book

Cllr Phillips added some items included in the Institutes final inventory have been transferred to organisations/groups in the town.

Cllr Lea asked if any items could be stored for the future, for example, for use in the 'Community Hub' facility which is proposed in conjunction with redevelopment of the (redundant) Needham Market Middle School site. Cllr Phillips replied it is the intention currently to proceed to dispose of as many of the items on the inventory to local organisations with any remaining items then being offered for general sale, but he agreed to raise Cllr Lea's request with the Trustees.

Cllr Annis thanked the Trustees on behalf of Needham Market Community Centre for items the Centre has benefitted from.

C059/16 To receive a report from the Mid Suffolk South Area meeting of the Suffolk Association of Local Councils held 17th March 2016.

Cllr Lea presented a brief verbal report which included that the expected speaker for the meeting failed to attend.

C060/16 To receive a report from the 'Local Policing is Changing' meeting held 21st March.

Cllr Oakes presented her report, which was tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book. It outlined, in summary, the Suffolk Local Policing Review and an explanation of the implications the outcome would have on Suffolk's communities.

Cllr Lea said she is greatly concerned Needham Market is not shown as a separate community on the 'County Policing Map' and it appears the town is being subsumed within scope of Stowmarket policing. Whilst the crime statistics for the two towns may be, in numerical terms comparable, the

actual types of crimes are very different. She proposed Council write to the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner setting out that concern. Council agreed.

Cllr Mason commented that, in relation to the proposed closure of the Stowmarket Police Office, more people would have used the facility had it been open for longer hours.

Cllr Lea said she accepted the approach to policing had to change as it is true the nature of a lot of crime today is different to that in the past.

Cllr Oakes said she is concerned and disappointed the Police will not be attending Neighbourhood Watch meetings in future, unless there was a specific reason for them to do so.

Cllr Darnell said he is aware of the proposed transfer (countrywide) of parking enforcement responsibility to principal councils and expressed his concern the powers may be used by those councils predominantly as a means of raising income. Cllr Phillips added he thought the likelihood of abuse of powers would be greater should any of those councils arrange for an external contractor to undertake parking enforcement

C061/16 Clerk's Report and Correspondence to be noted.

1. Actions from Town Council Meeting 16.03.16:

None.

2. Issues:

- Needham Maltings Public Realm Area – the area was legally transferred to the Town Council on 16th March 2016 along with payment of the commuted sum of £20,876.95

3. Correspondence to be noted:

- Letter received 20th March from Jo Churchill MP requesting the display of posters showing her contact details for members of the public to use.
- Letter received 20th March from The Fire Fighters Charity giving details of its Suffolk Fire Ride taking place on 26th June from Sudbury Fire Station and requesting sponsorship, cycle team entry, raffle prizes etc.
- Emails dated 4th April from the Rural Coffee Caravan Project with invitations to its Mid Suffolk Networking event being held at Eye Community Centre on Monday 11th April from 10am to 3pm and also to its 12th Annual General Meeting to be held at the Blackbourne Community Centre, Elmswell on Thursday 5th May from 2pm. Both events are focussed on The Campaign to End Loneliness.

Cllr Oakes agreed to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Rural Coffee Caravan Project.

C062/16 SECTIONS.

C062/16/1 Finance/General Purposes

C062/16/1a 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 Phillips proposed the accounts for payment be adopted. Cllr Ward seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C062/16/1b To receive a report from the Section Leader

Cllr Annis gave a verbal report.

Cllr Annis proposed the IT equipment in the Town Council Office, which has not been updated for many years and following an up-to-date specification, be replaced in accordance with a quotation (approximately £1,500) from a local IT equipment provider. Cllr Ward seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

Cllr Annis referred to a number of issues which will be discussed by the Employment Committee at a meeting to be held on Tuesday 12th April.

C062/16/2 Recreation & Sport

C062/16/2a To receive a report from the Section Leader.

Cllr Phillips reported he is aware of a concern raised by a member of the public on Facebook regarding Crowley Park and he had advised it is far better for people to contact the Town Council direct should they have such concerns.

C062/16/3 Town Property and Services

C062/16/3a To receive a report from the Section Leader

Cllr Oakes had nothing to report.

C062/16/4 Newsletter and Communications

C062/16/4a To receive a report from the Section Leader

Cllr Lea had nothing to report.

C062/16/5 Planning.

Cllr Stansfield presented Minutes from the Planning Section Meeting held on Monday 4th April, which were tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book.

C062/16/5a To receive Planning Decisions.

Cllr Stansfield reported the following planning decisions had been received.

0744/16 - Mawes House, 141 High Street - Reduce outermost crown spread of Yew tree T1 by up to 4 metres.

Consent has been Granted.

4168/15 - 60 Stowmarket Road - Variation of condition 2 following grant of planning permission 2216/11 to raise the height of single storey side extension by 899mm and insert a new window to storeroom.

Planning Permission has been Granted.

C062/16/5b To consider Planning Applications

Cllr Stansfield reported the following planning applications had been received:

1064/16 - 83 High Street - T1 Yew tree in rear garden - Pollard to a height of 3 metres and leave the re-growth on the main stem to form a new canopy.

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

Cllr Lea, having declared an interest in the next item, left the meeting temporarily.

Cllr Stansfield took the Chair.

1041/16 - Land adjoining Mill Lane, Stowmarket (in the Parish of Creeting St Peter). Construction of a 'Link Road' access between Phase 1 and Phase 2 of The Stowmarket Business & Enterprise Park.

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

Cllr Lea returned to the meeting and resumed as Chairman.

Cllrs R Campbell and Carter, both having declared an interest in the next item, left the meeting temporarily.

C062/16/5c To receive a report from the Section Leader.

Cllr Stansfield referred to the item in the Minutes relating to the outstanding Hill House Lane Planning Appeal (subsequent to Planning Application 3679/13).

The Clerk explained the content of the letter received from the Planning Inspectorate dated 1st April and outlined the basis of a response following discussion with the Town Council's Planning Consultant.

Cllr Phillips said Council should grasp the opportunity being given to it by the Planning Inspector, to submit further comment on the sustainability of the proposed residential development at Hill House Lane, with both hands.

Cllr Stansfield proposed Council submit comments, the deadline for which is Friday 15th April, based on those outlined by the Clerk, in conjunction with advice received from Council's Planning Consultant. Cllr Mason seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

Cllr Darnell asked whether making such a submission would set a precedent as far as Council's approach to future relevant Planning Applications is concerned. Cllr Stansfield replied the principles applied to the assessing of the sustainability of relevant applications should remain consistent but each application would be more broadly considered on its own merits and in relation to planning policies including those in the future Needham Market Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllrs R Campbell and Carter returned to the meeting.

Cllr Stansfield reported the Planning Section will next meet on Monday 18th April in the Town Council Office at 7.00pm.

C062/16/6 Highways, Lighting and Footpaths

C062/16/6a 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 related information on the forthcoming temporary road closure at Barretts Lane.

Cllr Norris further reported receipt of an email from a town resident expressing concern at the possible excessive use of herbicide sprays on grass verges etc. Cllr Norris said he would be referring the email to Suffolk County Council's Highways Service.

Cllr Mason said he understood herbicides are now commonly used by the County Council around road signs etc. to make cost savings on grass cutting of verges etc.

Cllr Mason reported a streetlight on Quinton Road had been removed from one side of the road and reinstalled on the opposite side, but could see no reason why. The Clerk agreed to find out, from Suffolk County Council, why this work had taken place.

Cllr Annis said he had spoken with Cllr Norris about the reformation of grass verges in the town to create additional car parking space and suggested a town-wide survey be carried out to assess the potential to do this. Cllr Norris said he had passed the suggestion a lay-by be created in School Street to Suffolk County Council's Highways Service and he will follow up the suggestion that a survey should be undertaken. Cllr Phillips added Section Members could assist in identifying possible locations.

Cllr Ward expressed concern that a vehicle consistently parked in the same place in the High Street and being used to overtly advertise a High Street business, was causing a distraction to vehicle drivers. The Clerk said he would refer the concern to the Mid Suffolk South Safer Neighbourhood Team.

C063/16 Questions under Standing Order 40.

Cllr Annis asked if Councillors were aware of the forthcoming River Gipping Trust Annual General Meeting, the event arranged to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday being held at Needham Market Community Centre and the event being arranged to thank Eric Cross for the support he has given to numerous organisations in the town over many years.

The Meeting closed at 8:45 p.m.

Chairman **Date**