

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 7th December 2016 at 7:30pm.

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

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr D Campbell – Family Commitment
Cllr TS Carter – Family Commitment
Cllr I Mason – Holiday
Cllr D Spurling - Unwell

Suffolk County Councillor Julia Truelove (attending Somersham Parish Council)

In Attendance: District Councillor Wendy Marchant and Town Clerk Kevin Hunter.

C222/16 To confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 16th November 2016.

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

C223/16 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 M Spurling - Accounts for Payment
Cllr X Stansfield – Accounts for Payment (Community Centre)

C224/16 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:

- Devolution Debate – held at Full Council on 23rd November when the meeting agreed to seek an alternative devolution deal (to the scuttled Norfolk/Suffolk pact)
- Suffolk Libraries – reference to the County Council's intention to impose further budget reductions
- Highways Pothole Fix – Government funding increased alongside a marked increase in claims for compensation

Cllr Annis proposed an objection be sent to the County Council regarding its proposal to make further cuts in 2017/18 to its libraries budget. Cllr Ward seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

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:

- Gipsy Lane Rail Crossing – District Councillor Mike Norris was interviewed on Radio Suffolk on 25th November
- Non-Enforcement of Double Yellow Lines – the District Council is considering the potential impact of decriminalisation of enforcement

- Protracted Road Closures – suggestion the ‘rent a road’ scheme should be deployed to curtail longer than necessary closures
- Bus Stops and Bus Shelters – survey carried out by a local bus user

Cllr Phillips commented how noticeable it is that, following the conclusion of roadworks, signage and other associated equipment is often left on site for several days.

C225/16 To receive a report of the activities of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on behalf of the Town.

The Mayor reported attending:

Sunday 4th December – Needham Market Christmas Fayre

The Deputy Mayor had nothing to report.

C226/16 To receive a report from the Needham Market Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

Cllr Norris reported Mid Suffolk District Council had cancelled a meeting arranged for 29th November to discuss the hiatus position affecting progression of the Needham Market Neighbourhood Plan. An alternative date is being sought.

The Clerk referred Councillors to a recent report submitted to Mid Suffolk District Council Scrutiny Committee on Neighbourhood Plans in the District which made no mention of the impact that Council’s lack of an up-to-date Local Plan and no current 5-year Housing Land Supply Policy is having on the ability of communities, including Needham Market, to complete their Neighbourhood Plans. Cllr Phillips commented the report follows the pattern of information provided by the District Council which covers up the reality of the Neighbourhood Planning situation and which is scurrilous.

Cllr Ward asked if there is a deadline by which the community must complete a Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Norris confirmed there is no current deadline and a lot of community aspirations regarding timescales have effectively long gone due to the inefficiencies of the District Council.

C227/16 To consider the replacement of the Badley Bridge roadside railings.

Cllr Norris referred Council to his Highways, Lighting and Footpaths Section report which confirmed his current action is seeking a precise cost from Suffolk County Council for replacement of the current railings.

Cllr Stansfield asked whether it would be possible to in some way cover the existing railings thereby disguising their current very poor state. Cllr Norris agreed to follow up the suggestion.

Cllr Ward asked whether the Town Council should be at all responsible for replacing the existing railings. Cllr Norris said the railing are the responsibility of Suffolk County Council but they are evading taking any action and clearly not sharing the Town Council’s concerns regarding the affect their appearance has when entering Needham Market by the Stowmarket Road.

Cllr Darnell said Suffolk County Council has confirmed they will not repaint the railings due to the current covering being lead based paint. In view of the paint flaking off the railings is entering a watercourse, he proposed Council bring that fact to the attention of the Environment Agency. Cllr M Spurling seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C228/16 To consider a response to the Suffolk Constabulary request for feedback on the (post implementation) impact of the Suffolk Local Policing Review.

The Clerk confirmed the request is seeking feedback on how the new policing model is working.

Cllr Lea said the Suffolk Association of Local Council's has recently carried out a satisfaction survey on policing in Suffolk and its outcome is the new policing model received a passing.

Cllr Phillips raised the question as to whether any feedback provided on policing is taken account of. The consensus amongst Councillors was no.

Cllr M Spurling described the deficiencies of the new policing model as yet another outcome of the underfunding of public services.

Cllr Oakes said she was appalled by the Police admission they will not attend following house burglary.

Cllr M Spurling said he is aware cutbacks in Policing is leading to some Councils considering a private alternative, Southend Council being one example.

Cllr Phillips asked whether Suffolk's Police and Crime Commissioner is answerable to his constituents rather than, as it appears, Central Government.

Cllr Stansfield proposed Councillors canvass the view of local residents before submitting feedback and, as feedback is a continuing process, the matter be discussed further by Council in February/March 2017. Cllr Norris seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C229/16 To consider street names for future new housing developments.

Cllr Stansfield proposed Councillors submit suggested street names to the Clerk for then initial consideration by the Planning Section. Council agreed.

C230/16 To consider options for countering the breaking of the High Street speed limit by vehicles.

Cllr Stansfield referred Council to its previous discussions and considerations on this matter, including the conceivable options researched in some detail by Cllr Norris.

The Clerk confirmed only one report on the problem had been received since his article in the Town Council's Newsletter appealed for tangible evidence.

Cllr M Spurling suggested further time be given to allow for members of the public to report any actual occurrences and Council to further review the position at a future meeting. Council agreed with the suggestion.

C231/16 Clerk's Report and Correspondence to be noted.

1. Actions from Town Council Meeting 16.11.16:

C220/16/5b – Extension to consultation period (PA 4427/16) requested

C220/16/6a – Item regarding traffic speeding in High Street included in the December Newsletter

2. Issues:

- Christmas Street Lighting – I have confirmed to Suffolk County Council all street lights in Needham Market should remain on all night on Saturdays 24th and 31st December

- Dependants' Carers' Allowance – SALC is encouraging Town and Parish Councillors to support the latest work on obtaining an equal footing with principal authority councillors

Cllr Lea proposed Council support the position adopted by SALC and the Clerk be authorised to complete and return the appropriate survey accordingly. Cllr M Spurling seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

3. *Correspondence to be noted:*

- Email dated 2nd December regarding Suffolk County Council's 2017/18 Budget Consultation which runs from 8th November to 30th December. The survey form can be accessed at: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/consultations-petitions-and-elections/consultations/suffolk-county-council-budget-consultation-20172018/>

C232/16 SECTIONS.

C232/16/1 Finance/General Purposes

C232/16/1a 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 Morris seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C232/16/1b To receive a report from the Section Leader.

Cllr Annis referred Council to the 6 month accounts to 30th September 2016, a copy of which was included in each Councillors' papers. The accounts will be formally tabled for adoption at Council's 21st December meeting with any issues to be raised with he, or direct with the Responsible Finance Officer, in the interim.

C232/16/2 Recreation & Sport

C232/16/2a To receive a report from the Section Leader.

Cllr Phillips reported the Crowley Park play area is to be measured and the cost of resurfacing it with a protective material assessed plus, he is researching the availability and cost of outdoor gym equipment.

C232/16/3 Town Property and Services

C232/16/3a To receive a report from the Section Leader

Cllr Oakes reported the installation of Christmas trees and lighting on the High Street had been a success and thanked those Councillors involved. The trees are to be taken down on New Years Day to coincide with the availability of the cherry picker.

C232/16/4 Newsletter and Communications

C232/16/4a To receive a report from the Section Leader

Cllr Lea had nothing to report.

C232/16/5 Planning.

Cllr R Campbell presented Minutes from the Planning Section meeting held on 5th December, which were tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book.

C232/16/5a To receive Planning Decisions.

Cllr R Campbell reported the following planning decisions had been received:

3165 /16 - Hill House, Hill House Lane - Erection of a 3-bay cart lodge with garden room

Planning permission has been granted

0100 / 16 - Land at Shrubland Lodge, Shrubland Park, Beacon Hill, Norwich Road, Coddendam - Installation of a 25m high monopole supporting 3no. antennas, 2no. 300mm dishes and other associated equipment

Planning permission has been granted

Cllr R Campbell reported since the Section meeting the following planning decision has been received:

2902/16 – Rampant Horse Inn, Coddendam Road – Erection of extension to the rear elevation, to provide additional dining and café space. Alteration to rear projection.

Planning permission has been granted

C232/16/5b To consider Planning Applications

Cllr R Campbell reported the following planning applications had been received:

4314/16 – Brambles, Gipsy Lane - Proposed two storey side extension and associated alterations together with conservatory

The section had noted that no pre-application advice had been sought and are concerned that the extension may result in both over-looking and over development inappropriate for the site in terms of size and scale which is likely to impact on adjacent properties.

Cllr Ward proposed Council recommend refusal of the application. Cllr Lea seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

4427/16 - Lion Barn House, Maitland Road - Erection of 8 No. flats and associated vehicular access and external works following demolition of existing dwelling.

The Section had concluded the proposed development is contrary to MSDC Local Plan Policy sb2. An increase in residential accommodation on the proposal site is incompatible and inappropriate to its setting, which is adjacent to a large and vibrant industrial estate. The site is considerably more suitable for commercial or industrial use in keeping with its location. The scale of development would create an increase in traffic movement which would have an adverse impact on road safety. Safety of pedestrians would also be compromised in view of the lack of pedestrian footpaths serving the location. The Section noted a surprising statement in the accompanying 'Environmental noise Assessment' concerning acceptable/good noise levels to meet the recommendations from WHO criteria for internal noise."....This exceeds the criterion by 5 dB. Instead it will be necessary to have closed windows with trickle ventilation (although of course, windows can be opened for rapid ventilation and cooling if desired)?. The Section maintains that the site should reflect a Commercial or Industrial use similar to it's surroundings rather than any form of residential development. Historically, the original development of the site was to accommodate the need for a night watchman to be on site and provide security at the time when the initial phase of the Lion Barn Industrial development took place.

Cllr M Spurling proposed Council recommend refusal of the application. Cllr Darnell seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

4494//16 - Land at Field Quarry (Known as Masons Quarry), Bramford Road, Great Blakenham, IP6 0XJ - Application for approval of Reserved Matters (phases 1 - 8), pursuant to Outline Permission ref. 1969/10

The Section had noted both the size and complexity of the Reserved Matters in relation to this application (known as the SnOasis project) and felt that a development of this magnitude with regional implications both in terms of access, local impact and environmental concerns is both beyond the scope of the Town Council and indeed the Planning Authority Mid Suffolk District Council.

Cllr Stansfield reported attending a briefing on the application for approval of Reserved Matters held at Mid Suffolk District Council and endorsed the concerns expressed by the Section. The risk is the application will be assessed from a narrow planning perspective when the implications of the development, should it take place, will be far reaching and impact on thousands of people. There is also no 'vision' which expresses what the impact of the development would be, during its construction stage, when completed and subsequently in years to come. This is vital to allow a non-technical view on the benefits or otherwise of the development to be formed.

Cllr Stansfield proposed Council's concerns be reported to Mid Suffolk District Council and other primary agencies which are, or should be, involved in assessment of the SnOasis proposal. Cllr Ward seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

Cllr R Campbell reported since the Section meeting the following planning application has been received:

4763/17 – Unit 2a Maitland Road, Lion Barn Industrial Estate – Change of use from B2 to Sui Generis. Erection of a 5ft fence in courtyard

Cllr R Campbell described the detail of the application.

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

C232/16/5c To receive a report from the Section Leader.

Cllr R Campbell reported the Planning Section had expressed concern that Mid Suffolk District Council has, on several occasions, failed to inform owners of properties adjacent to a planning application of its existence or in other cases have done so too late for representations to be made.

Cllr R Campbell proposed the concerns expressed by the Section be relayed to Mid Suffolk District Council. Cllr Ward seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

The Clerk reported a letter had been received from a resident of Foxglove Avenue regarding the proposed development of new housing off Barking Road. The letter expressed a view on the approach taken by the Town Council and objections to the development taking place. Councillors commented the approach taken has had to be pragmatic considered alongside Mid Suffolk District Council's failure to keep its Local Plan up to date also not having a current 5-year Housing Land Supply Policy.

Cllr R Campbell reported the Planning Section will next meet on Monday 19th December 2016 in the Town Council Office at 7pm. Unless Section Members are informed by email of a cancellation.

C232/16/6 Highways, Lighting and Footpaths

C232/16/6a 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:

- Badley Bridge Railings (see Minute C227/16 above)
- Parking Issues, Enforcement of double yellow lines – references to transfer of parking enforcement powers, particular problems in the High Street and where additional kerb markings may improve the situation

Cllr Lea said the roadworks taking place on Stowmarket Road have clearly disrupted the verges where flower bulbs have been planted and where there has always been a seasonal and attractive flower display. She recommended the contractors carrying out the works should be notified to ensure the flower bulbs are reinstated.

Cllr Ward commented it appears the recently installed signage at Council's High Street car park has led to an immediate improvement in parking space availability by reducing the number of vehicles overstaying the two-hour limit

C233/16 Questions under Standing Order 40.

Cllr M Spurling asked Councillors if they were aware three men had been cold calling around the town and appeared to what has been described as 'Nottingham Knockers'. Cllr Norris said he had reported their presence to Police using the 101 telephone reporting system.

The Meeting closed at 8:54pm.

Chairman **Date**