

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 1st March 2017 at 7:30pm.

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

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr BE Annis – Hospital Appointment
Cllr D Campbell – Family Commitment
Cllr I Mason – Holiday

Suffolk County Councillor Julia Truelove (Attending Somersham Parish Council)

Absent: Cllr RP Darnell

In Attendance: District Councillor Wendy Marchant, one member of public and Town Clerk Kevin Hunter.

C027/17 To confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 15th February 2017.

The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held Wednesday 15th February 2017 subject to a minor non-material amendment were accepted as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C028/17 To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest for Matters on the Agenda.

Cllr MG Norris – Planning Matters

C029/17 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:

- Children's Special Educational Needs Not Met – Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission report needs of children in Suffolk are not being effectively met.
- Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) – Suffolk County Council, with District Councils but excluding Mid Suffolk and Babergh, now intend to take over CPE across the County. This may result in parking facilities in Needham Market having to be paid for.
- Suffolk Libraries to Stay Open – despite the £200,000 reduction in Suffolk County Council's grant to the Library Service.
- Rogue Fish Sellers in our Bosmere Division – fish of poor quality etc. being sold and people encouraged to report this activity to Suffolk Trading Standards.

Cllr Phillips asked what the consultation process would be prior to the introduction of any charges to use parking facilities in Needham Market?

Cllr Lea commented how it is ironic there may be moves to introduce car parking charges in Needham Market at the time when Mid Suffolk District Council's move to Ipswich is imminent bearing in mind District Council staff have enjoyed the free use of a public car park for many years.

Cllr D Spurling said the problem caused by long-term parking in the High Street may be eased should on-street parking charges be introduced there.

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:

- Neighbourhood Plans – a summary of the experiences of several Parishes/Towns either involved in or contemplating a Neighbourhood Plan.
- Mid Suffolk District Council’s Move to Endeavour House, Ipswich – details of some of the practical arrangements and questions raised at the Scrutiny Committee.
- Number of District Councillors – submission made to the Boundary Commission including, for Mid Suffolk, a reduction in its number of Councillors from 40 to 34.

Cllr Phillips asked if the question raised at the Scrutiny Committee, regarding the position should the District Council’s office building have to be mothballed, had been answered. District Councillor Marchant said no answer had been provided to that question or to the questioning of the intention of Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils to merge when the public referendum on that matter had clearly rejected that proposal.

Cllr M Spurling asked how the District Council’s move to Endeavour House, Ipswich would affect its Business Rates liability. District Councillor Marchant agreed to try and find out.

The member of public present had no question to raise.

C030/17 To receive a report of the activities of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on behalf of the Town.

The Mayor reported attending:

Tuesday 21st February – Suffolk Police Liaison Meeting held at Stowmarket Police Station.

The Deputy Mayor had nothing to report.

C031/17 To receive a report from the Needham Market Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

Cllr Norris provided a brief report which was tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book. It included reference to the recent Needham Market Visitor Survey, the results of which are awaited from Mid Suffolk District Council.

C032/17 To consider compiling and arrangements for production of the Town Council’s Annual Report 2016/17.

Councillor Oakes said she would be prepared, having carried out the necessary compiling and arrangements for printing over the past few years, to do so again this year.

Cllr Lea proposed Cllr Oakes lead the process again this year. Cllr Ward seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

Cllr Oakes asked for all Section Annual Reports to be sent to her within the next three weeks.

C033/17 Clerk’s Report and Correspondence to be noted.

1. *Actions from Town Council Meeting 15.02.17:*

None.

2. *Issues:*

None.

3. *Correspondence to be noted:*

- Email dated 24th February received from the National Plant Monitoring Scheme seeking volunteers to assist with surveying for wild plants

- Email 28th February giving notice of the Annual General Meeting of the River Gipping Trust, 7:30pm on 12th May 2017 at the Community Centre, Hillside, Stowmarket - Guest Speaker Dr Therese Coffey MP

C034/17 SECTIONS.

C034/17/1 Finance/General Purposes

C034/17/1a Accounts for Payment and Confirmation.

Cllr Ward presented the accounts for payment, which were tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book.

Cllr Ward referred to the annual costs invoiced by Suffolk County Council for street lighting in the town and asked whether it was the amount anticipated. Cllr Norris replied that Suffolk County Council, when asked for an estimate prior to Council's budget setting exercise, had indicated a modest increase on the 2015/16 charge was anticipated.

The Clerk said he had made comparison between the street lighting invoice for the current 2016/17 period to that charged for 2015/16. The energy element of the charge has increased by 20% and the administration costs by 11%, far higher than was predicted. The Clerk said he had contacted the County Council for an explanation and is awaiting a response.

Cllr R Campbell asked whether Suffolk County Council adopted methods of reducing its energy costs, such as pre-purchasing cheaper energy when that is possible.

Cllr Ward proposed the accounts for payment be adopted. Cllr Phillips seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C034/17/1b To receive a report from the Section Leader.

There was no report.

C034/17/2 Recreation & Sport

C034/17/2a To receive a report from the Section Leader.

Cllr Phillips expressed his thanks to Cllr Annis for arranging the hedge trimming along Barretts Lane which has greatly improved the appearance of the boundary of Crowley Park.

Cllr D Spurling asked whether the dog-poo vacuum kept at Crowley Park was proving useful. Cllr Phillips said he would find out.

C034/17/3 Town Property and Services

C034/17/3a To receive a report from the Section Leader

Cllr Oakes had nothing to report.

C034/17/4 Newsletter and Communications

C034/17/4a To receive a report from the Section Leader

Cllr Lea presented Notes from the Newsletter and Communications Section meeting held on Tuesday 7th February, which were tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book.

Cllr Lea referred to the item in the meeting notes which listed the call on the front covers of the Needham Market Newsletter up to March 2018 and asked if Councillors could pass on to her any enquiries they may receive in relation to those months where the front cover is currently unallocated.

Cllr Ward suggested Needham in Bloom may be helped by using a front cover towards raising their profile and encouraging new members to join. Cllr Lea gave a brief description of the background to

Needham in Bloom's activities and how the Town Council would need to fill the void should that organisation be unable to continue.

C034/17/5 Planning.

Cllr R Campbell reported no Planning Section meeting had been convened on Monday 27th February due to insufficient business.

C034/17/5a To receive Planning Decisions.

Cllr R Campbell reported no planning decisions had been received.

C034/17/5b To consider Planning Applications

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

SCC\0019\17 – Bosmere Primary School, Quinton Road – Single Storey extension to front entrance of Primary School, to form new secure entrance lobby, additional staff accommodation and reception office.

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

C034/17/5c To receive a report from the Section Leader.

Cllr R Campbell reported the Planning Section will next meet on Monday 13th March 2017 in the Town Council Office at 7pm. Unless Section Members are informed by email of a cancellation.

C034/17/6 Highways, Lighting and Footpaths

C034/17/6a 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 – detailed estimate received of £10,948.50 for Suffolk County Council to contract for replacement
- Drainage Works, Ipswich Road – to take place from 13th March for 5 days
- Road Repairs Coddenham Road/Lion Lane junction – road surface repairs have taken place

Cllr Norris added he had reported the road surface subsidence, which is evident where the High Street ends and Stowmarket Road begins, to Suffolk County Council Highways.

C035/17 Questions under Standing Order 40.

There were no questions.

The Meeting closed at 8:04pm.

Chairman Date