

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 15th March 2017 at 7:30pm.

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

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr MG Norris – Day Trip

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

Cllr Stansfield asked if Councillors were happy to add two items to the agenda, the first being a report from the Needham in Bloom Annual General Meeting and the second, an update on the provision of improved access to the Needham Lake side platform at Needham Market Railway Station. Councillors agreed.

C036/17 To confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 1st March 2017.

The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held Wednesday 1st March 2017 were accepted as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C037/17 To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest for Matters on the Agenda.

Cllr S Phillips – Planning Matter (24 Crowley Road)

Cllr M Spurling – Accounts for Payment

C038/17 To receive reports from The County Councillor, District Councillors and, to take questions from members of the public.

County Councillor Julia Truelove presented her report, which was tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book. It included reference to:

- Full Suffolk County Council Meeting – a selection of agenda items for the meeting taking place on 16th March
- On-call Firefighter Recruitment – recruitment information being promoted
- Debrac Proposals – anticipated the proposals will go before the Rights of Way Committee on 19th April

County Councillor Truelove added that since writing her report, she has learnt the Rights of Way Committee is not now likely to take place in April.

Cllr Ward questioned whether the Debrac proposals are pertinent to the County Council's Rights of Way Committee. County Councillor Truelove said it may be the proposals will go to a Development Planning Committee.

Cllr Darnell asked, in relation to the County Council's proposal to introduce a Highways Maintenance Permit Scheme, whether work carried out currently on highways is subject to a legal process. County Councillor Truelove said she did not know whether that was the case.

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:

- Answers to Town Councillors' Questions – response 'we don't know yet' to various questions raised at a prior Town Council meeting regarding the District Council's intended relocation to Endeavour House, Ipswich
- Planning for Growth – presentation received by District Councillors
- Health & Safety Committee – Members provided with a list of 'accidents'
- Housing Revenue Account 30-year Business Plan – special Scrutiny meeting called to review the plan

Councillors commented on the response to the various questions raised regarding the District Council's intended relocation to Endeavour House, Ipswich describing it as wholly unsatisfactory.

Cllr Phillips said with the news the District Council has made further acquisitions, including the former Stowmarket Middle School site, there would now be the potential for the 'mothballing' of four key locations locally and he asked what costs would be entailed, including those for making the locations secure. District Councillor Marchant said she would attempt to find out.

The member of public present had no question to raise.

C039/17 To receive a report of the activities of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on behalf of the Town.

The Mayor reported attending:

Thursday 2nd March – Suffolk Association of Local Councils' 'Planning for All' Conference, Mildenhall

Friday 10th March – Quiz Night held at the Community Centre (over £600 raised towards Mayor's Charities)

Sunday 12th March – Choral Evensong for Her Majesty's Courts of Justice, St Edmundsbury Cathedral

The Deputy Mayor reported attending:

Thursday 2nd March – Suffolk Association of Local Councils' 'Planning for All' Conference, Mildenhall

Cllr R Campbell added, due to employment pressures, he would not be seeking nomination to the Town Mayor/ Chairman of Council role at the forthcoming Annual Town Council Meeting (3rd May).

Cllr Stansfield said he understood Cllr R Campbell's reason for his decision and thanked him for raising the issue prior to the Annual Town Council Meeting which will allow Councillors time to consider alternative ways forward. He added that he hoped Cllr R Campbell would be able to re-establish his position as soon as possible.

Cllr Stansfield advised, in the changed circumstances, he would be seeking a second year in the role of Town Mayor and Chairman of Council.

C040/17 To receive a report from the Needham Market Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

Cllr Norris had provided brief notes for the Clerk to relay to Council, as follows:

- The Clerk is meeting with Officers from Mid Suffolk District Council on Thursday 16th March, to review the Needham Market Neighbourhood Plan, the outcome of which will be considered by a meeting of the Working Group.
- The analysis of the outputs from the recent Needham Market Visitor Survey have been received from Mid Suffolk District Council and the next proposed step is to carry out a similar survey this time involving residents and businesses in the town.

C041/17 To receive a report from the Suffolk Association of Local Councils meeting held 9th March.

Councillor Lea gave a brief verbal report which included that SALC is to take up, with the relevant authorities, the problems which ensue whenever the Orwell Bridge is closed to traffic

Cllr Stansfield said he had seen recent local newspaper reports suggesting further crossings over the River Orwell are to be constructed.

C042/17 To receive a report from the Needham in Bloom Annual General Meeting.

Cllr Lea presented her report, which was tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book. It included reference to:

- A brief history of NIB
- Projects Undertaken by NIB
- Approximate Annual Costs
- Income
- Difficulties Faced by NIB
- What is Needed by NIB

Cllr Ward said the Town Council should consider how best to support the excellent work which NIB undertakes, which is of significant benefit to Needham Market.

Cllr Oakes said that in recognising the difficulty members of NIB, many of whom are in their later years, have in transporting water to the flower containers, the Town Council had offered to buy wheeled bowsers to make water carrying easier. Cllr Lea replied that most NIB members now use their vehicles to transport water containers and they have an arrangement with some local businesses that kindly water flower containers located near to them.

C043/17 To receive an update on the provision of improved access to the Needham Lake side platform at Needham Market Railway Station.

Cllr Carter reported a petition has been started which insists any new rail operator franchisee has to provide access to the Needham Lake side platform at Needham Market Railway Station and, that District Councillor Wendy Marchant is supporting the cause.

C044/17 Clerk's Report and Correspondence to be noted.

1. Actions from Town Council Meetings 01.03.17:

C029/17 – Question regarding consultation on Civil Parking Enforcement referred to County Councillor Truelove

C034/17/1a – Suffolk County Council contacted regarding increase in street lighting costs

2. Issues:

Land Off Barking Road, Hopkins Homes Proposed Development – current position

3. Correspondence to be noted:

- 2 Letters dated 5th March received from St John the Baptist Church Parochial Church Council – one requesting financial support for upkeep of the Town's Burial Ground, the other is regarding the delay in the project to improve the Town's War Memorial.

The Clerk said he is investigating the Town Council's obligations towards the Town's Burial Ground and will be reporting to Cllr Annis with advice on how best to manage the approach to providing financial support for its upkeep.

- Letter dated 7th March from Network Rail asking for confirmation of preferred delivery method of documents regarding the submitting of a Transport and Works Act Order to the Secretary of State for Transport in March 2017 seeking permission to close or change the use of around 130 level crossings in the Anglia area, including Suffolk but excluding the Gypsy Lane crossing which is separately identified in scope of the crossings closure programme – the Network Rail website has the following heading 'We are currently exploring potential options for the closure of the Public Footpath level crossing at Gypsy Lane, Needham Market' plus, the latest information received from Network Rail is – "the Gypsy Lane & FP6 Needham Market crossings are not included in the TWAO and will be the subject of a s119A/s118A Highways Act application by NR to SCC. Prior MSDC planning permission will also be required for the culvert structure".
- Email dated 14th March from Communities Officer, Mid Suffolk District Council advertising a 'Funding Fair' to be held at Metfield on Wednesday 12th April.
- Email dated 15th March from the Public Realm Officer, Mid Suffolk District Council regarding dog fouling.

Cllr R Campbell asked whether there is any current dog fouling enforcement process in place locally. Cllr Lea said Mid Suffolk District Council had a process in place several years ago, when they employed a Dog Warden. The Clerk agreed to contact the District Council to find out whether the dog fouling enforcement process it adopted still exists.

C045/17 SECTIONS.

C045/17/1 Finance/General Purposes

C045/17/1a 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 the accounts for payment be adopted. Cllr Ward seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C045/17/1b To receive a report from the Section Leader.

There was no further report.

C045/17/2 Recreation & Sport

C045/17/2a To receive a report from the Section Leader.

Cllr Phillips reported a quotation, in the sum of £2,838, had been accepted for the replacement of the roof on the shelter located near the play area on Crowley Park.

C045/17/3 Town Property and Services

C045/17/3a To receive a report from the Section Leader

Cllr Oakes reported the remaining two replacement notice boards in the town will be installed within the next couple of weeks and the one remaining old notice board located on Foxglove Avenue will be removed.

Cllr Oakes added a Section meeting will be arranged for April.

C045/17/4 Newsletter and Communications

C045/17/4a To receive a report from the Section Leader

Cllr Lea had nothing to report.

Cllr Annis asked if there is any opportunity to assist the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service with its campaign to recruit additional on-call staff. Cllr Lea replied this had been done previously through the Newsletter and asked the Clerk to contact the SFRS to see if they wished to use that facility again.

C045/17/5 Planning.

Cllr R Campbell presented Minutes from the Planning Section meeting held on Monday 13th March, which were tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book.

C045/17/5a To receive Planning Decisions.

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

0022/17 – 20 High Street - Installation of 2 no. fixed hanging signs and 1 no. arched sign between existing facing masonry brick piers.

Planning permission has been granted

C045/17/5b To consider Planning Applications

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

0326/17 – Needham Market Football Club, Quinton Rd - Erection of additional spectator facilities and changing rooms including reprofiling of second pitch, installation of floodlighting and increased area of car parking with all associated fencing

Cllr Ward proposed Council recommend approval of the application. Cllr M Spurling seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

0656/16 – Land adj. 24 Crowley Road, Needham Market - Erection of 2 no. one bedroom dwellings and 1 No. two bedroom dwelling, (following demolition of extension to 24 Crowley Road) Widening of existing lay by to provide additional parking spaces.

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

C045/17/5c To receive a report from the Section Leader.

Cllr R Campbell reported Cllr Stansfield has volunteered to attend the Mid Suffolk District Council Planning Committee for the proposed housing on the Lion Barn Industrial Estate (Lion Barn House). All Section members were in favour of this as, having previously been involved, Cllr Stansfield has knowledge of the proposed scheme. Council endorsed Cllr Stansfield to attend the Planning Committee.

Cllr Annis read out a statement received from the Snoasis Parish Alliance and added that a meeting of the Alliance will take place on Tuesday 21st March when members will be asked to consider taking on one or more of the range of topics included in the Snoasis Project.

Cllr R Campbell reported the Planning Section will next meet on Monday 3rd April 2017 in the Town Council Office at 7pm. Unless Section Members are informed by email of a cancellation.

C045/17/6 Highways, Lighting and Footpaths

C045/17/6a To receive a report from the Section Leader

Cllr Norris had provided a report, which was tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book. It included reference to:

- Badley Bridge Railings – detailed quotations awaited

- Temporary Road Closure, Barretts Lane – Legal Order Notice received for closure taking place from 20th March to 7th April plus details of alternative route and bus arrangements

Cllr Annis reported traffic lights set up to manage traffic flow where road works are taking place at the Ipswich Road/Barking Road junction were poorly placed and are creating a potentially dangerous situation. Cllr Stansfield volunteered to visit the location to provide a warning to the roadworks contractor.

C046/17 Questions under Standing Order 40.

Cllr Darnell asked if Councillors were aware that, with vehicle pollution being a topical issue, they had not had sight of pollution reports relating to Needham Market High Street for many years. District Councillor Marchant agreed to ask within the District Council whether recent reports are available.

The Meeting closed at 8:45pm.

Chairman **Date**