

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 19th July 2017 at 7:30pm.

Present: Cllr X Stansfield (In the Chair), Councillors; BE Annis, D Campbell, JE Lea, I Mason, MG Norris, KMN Oakes, S Phillips and AL Ward.

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr R Campbell – Work Commitment
Cllr TS Carter - Unwell
Cllr RP Darnell – Holiday
Cllr A Morris – Work Commitment
Cllr D Spurling – Holiday
Cllr M Spurling - Holiday

In Attendance: County Councillor Anne Whybrow, District Councillor Wendy Marchant, two members of public and Town Clerk Kevin Hunter.

C126/17 To confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 5th July 2017.

The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held Wednesday 5th July 2017 were accepted as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C127/17 To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest for Matters on the Agenda.

Cllr BE Annis - (Community Centre)
Cllr JE Lea – Planning (Application 1850/17)
Cllr KMN Oakes – Accounts for Payment (Community Centre)
Cllr X Stansfield – Accounts for Payment (Community Centre and Mayoral Expenses)

C128/17 To receive reports from The County Councillor, District Councillors and, to take questions from members of the public.

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

- HGV Traffic using Residential Roads – County Councillor Whybrow has agreed to fund (from her Locality Budget) the moving of the vehicle weight limit signs on Barking Road to make them more effective
- Lion Lane Junction Visibility – this is again under review
- NM Internet Café – congratulations to the new operators on their impressive diary of events
- MSDC Relocation to Ipswich – concerns for the future economy of Needham Market

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:

- More and More Dwellings Approved in Mid Suffolk – details of various sites and number of dwellings proposed
- Needham Market Internet Café – well done to Dawn and Martin Spurling who have managed an unbelievable transformation
- Noisy HGV's Going Through the Town – District Councillor Mike Norris achieves success in stopping the unbearable noise that was occurring throughout the night

The Members of Public present had no question to raise.

C129/17 To receive a report of the activities of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on behalf of the Town.

The Mayor reported attending:

Sunday 9th July – Diss Civic Service

Tuesday 11th July – Police Liaison Meeting at Stowmarket

Wednesday 19th July – MSDC Planning Committee Site Visit (Land off Barking Road)

The Deputy Mayor had nothing to report.

C130/17 To receive a report from the Needham Market Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

Cllr Norris reported he and Councillors Annis, Lea and Stansfield will be attending a Mid Suffolk District Council briefing on the Mid Suffolk/Babergh Joint Local Plan on 20th July.

C131/17 Clerk's Report and Correspondence to be noted.

1. *Actions from Town Council Meeting 05.07.17:*

C123/17 – Quotation received from Planning Agent, in respect of the proposed new public toilet facilities, accepted.

2. *Issues:*

- Suffolk Libraries Service – Information received regarding the forthcoming AGM, nominations to the Board of Suffolk Libraries and progress of the Suffolk Libraries Review.

Cllr Oakes confirmed she would be attending the Suffolk Libraries AGM.

3. *Correspondence to be noted:*

Email (copy) received from the MSDC Chief Executive dated 13th July responding to numerous issues raised by a Needham Market resident.

The Clerk added that despite the resident raising numerous issues and questions in their email, the MSDC Chief Executive's response had addressed none of them.

C132/17 SECTIONS.

C132/17/1 Finance/General Purposes

C132/17/1a 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 provided some background information on the Community Centre's invoice for the Town Council's hire of its office premises, confirming the period for the charge related to 2016.

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

C132/17/1b To receive a report from the Section Leader.

There was no further report.

C132/17/2 Recreation & Sport

C132/17/2a To receive a report from the Section Leader.

Cllr Phillips reported:

- A quotation of £7,168.40 (net) has been received from HAGS for the supply and installation of outdoor gym equipment at Crowley Park. The suggested location for the equipment has been forwarded to a ROSPA Inspector for their opinion on suitability.
- A meeting has been arranged with parents to discuss the request received for a skate park facility in the town. The meeting will seek to establish expectations and also what support parents are willing to provide.

Various Councillors commented on past occasions when requests for a skate park facility have been received, when the conclusion has been there is nowhere suitable in the town to locate it. The Town Council agreed to finance transport for youngsters to use the skate park at Stowmarket, but this offer was not taken up.

Cllr Oakes said she was aware of comments on Facebook where members of the public suggested what they deemed as suitable locations. Cllr Phillips added he is aware the item on Facebook had attracted over 100 responses.

Cllr Phillips said he is keen to open a dialogue with parents also to consider the hiring of skate park equipment on a temporary basis to test the 'noise nuisance' factor. He confirmed the cost of a day hire of the appropriate equipment is approximately £700.

Cllr Stansfield proposed the issue be taken forward as Cllr Phillips suggested. Cllr Mason seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C132/17/3 Town Property and Services

C132/17/3a To receive a report from the Section Leader

Cllr Oakes reported the numerous projects being undertaken were progressing well and she would shortly be calling a Section meeting.

C132/17/4 Newsletter and Communications

C132/17/4a To receive a report from the Section Leader

Cllr Lea reported the August edition of the Newsletter is to include a 'Poetry Corner' item and the September edition will include an article written by a young person.

C132/17/5 Planning.

Cllr Stansfield reported no Planning Section Meeting had taken place on Monday 17th July due to insufficient business.

C132/17/5a To receive Planning Decisions.

Cllr Stansfield reported no planning decisions had been received.

C132/17/5b To consider Planning Applications

Cllr Stansfield reported the following planning application had been received:

Having declared an interest, Cllr Lea left the meeting temporarily.

1850/17 – Unit 4, 3 Station Yard – Change of Use of Commercial Land to Residential and Erection of 2 no. 2.5 storey Attached Dwellings Following Demolition of Existing Buildings.

Cllr Stansfield explained the application (originally considered by Council at its 21st June meeting), has been resubmitted with an amendment and therefore a further consultation process has been necessary. The amendment is the application now includes a Certificate B on which the applicant certifies the owners of affected property have been informed of the proposed development.

Cllr Stansfield proposed Council's comments already submitted be reiterated in response to the further consultation. Cllr Oakes seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

Cllr Lea returned to the meeting.

1841/17 – Cart Lodge to the Rear of Bosmere Mill, Coddendam Road – Conversion of Cart Lodge to dwelling.

Councillors referred to past planning applications relating to the property.

Cllr Mason proposed Council object to the application on the grounds it would be an unsuitable redevelopment and would result in a change of use of an historic building which would irretrievably damage its integrity. Cllr Phillips seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

DC/17/02065 – 23 King William Street – Application for Listed Building Consent to construct ground floor shower room internally with raised roof at eaves and new door and window.

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

C132/17/5c To receive a report from the Section Leader.

Cllr Stansfield reported, that morning he had attended the Mid Suffolk District Council site visit to land off Barking Road which is subject to a Hopkins Homes planning application (3506/16) to develop 152 dwellings. He added the District Council Members appeared concerned by reports of flooding issues in the vicinity. He confirmed he could only listen to what was being said as no participation with District Council Members is allowed when they are on site visits. The Planning Committee is due to reconvene on Wednesday 26th July.

Cllr Stansfield reported the Planning Section will next meet on Monday 31st July 2017 in the Town Council Office at 7pm. Unless Section Members are informed by email of a cancellation.

C132/17/6 Highways, Lighting and Footpaths

C132/17/6a 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:

- A14 roadworks diversion through Needham Market – impact of the recent A14 closure and action taken to successfully limit the period the diversion was in place
- Flooding on the B1078 at Coddendam Road – The County Council is taking initial action to alleviate the potential for flooding and is to investigate the possibility of a longer-term solution

Cllr D Campbell thanked Cllr Norris for his efforts in getting the extended period of traffic diversion off the A14 cancelled.

Cllr Phillips referred to the ineffective drainage on the B1078 Coddendam Road as an example of where such infrastructure needs to be improved prior to new housing developments being approved for the town.

C133/17 Questions under Standing Order 40.

Cllr Annis asked if Councillors were aware residents are calling for a 'No Cold Call Zone' to be established on Chainhouse Road and added he is satisfied, in view of Councillors past espousal for the setting up of such zones, they would add their support on this occasion.

The Meeting closed at 8:31pm.

Chairman Date