

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 18th October 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, MG Norris, KMN Oakes, S Phillips and AL Ward.

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr A Morris – Work Commitment
Cllr D Spurling – Family Commitment
Cllr M Spurling – Family Commitment

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

C181/17 To confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 4th October 2017.

The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held Wednesday 4th October 2017 were accepted as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C182/17 To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest for Matters on the Agenda.

Cllr BE Annis – Accounts for Payment (Community Centre)
Cllr KMN Oakes – Accounts for Payment (Community Centre)
Cllr X Stansfield - Accounts for Payment (Community Centre)

C183/17 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:

- Highways – update on various highways issues including the repainting of the railings at Badley Bridge and repositioning of HGV/Weight Limit signage
- Gipsy Lane – proposed diversion of the Gipsy Lane footpath agreed by the County Council's Development and Regulation Committee
- Future of the Mid Suffolk District Council Headquarters Site – first meeting of the 'Sounding Board' to take place on 14th November

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:

- Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils dissolving and creating a new larger district council – Cabinets of both Councils met simultaneously on 13th October not to debate the matter but to endorse the decision that had already been made

Cllr Phillips commented the telephony 'consultation' proposed by the District Council on its merger with Babergh is a waste of money when the decision has already taken place. District Councillor Marchant said the consultation exercise is to be used by the District Councils as an endorsement of their decision. Cllr Mason added that whilst the original referendum on the Councils proposal to merge resulted in an overall no vote, the Councils were never legally bound by the outcome.

District Councillor Marchant said the Cabinet meetings had no purpose as the cat was let out of the bag at their beginning when a Council Member revealed the decision to merge was prior agreed by the Controlling Group at their pre-meeting.

Cllr Darnell asked who is to carry out the telephony consultation to which District Councillor Marchant replied consultants are to be used.

C184/17 To receive a report of the activities of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on behalf of the Town.

The Mayor reported attending:

Friday 6th October – Meeting with Mid Suffolk District Council regarding s.106 (Developer Contribution) funding

Thursday 12th October – Needham Market & Barking Welfare Charities Annual General Meeting

Sunday 15th October – Needham Market Civic Service

Tuesday 17th October - Needham Market Dementia Action Alliance Coffee Morning

Wednesday 18th October – Stowmarket Citizen's Advice Annual General Meeting

The Deputy Mayor reported attending:

Sunday 15th October – Needham Market Civic Service

Sunday 15th October – Ipswich Civic Service

C185/17 To receive a report from the Needham Market Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

Cllr Norris gave a verbal report on progress on engagement with the technical support company (AECOM) who have been appointed by the Department for Communities and Local Government to enable a viability/feasibility exercise to be carried out on possible development beyond the existing southern boundary of the town, which would include a through road route from Barking Road to Stowmarket Road.

C186/17 Clerk's Report and Correspondence to be noted.

1. Actions from Town Council Meeting 04.10.17:

C177/17 – Confirmatory email sent 10th October to the Needham Market Christmas Fair organisers

2. Issues:

- Future of the Internet Café – update

Cllr Annis proposed, as the Internet Café is a Community Interest Company and due to the lack of clarity regarding its financial position, a request be sent to its Treasurer for accounts up to the date the former operators ceased their activities. Cllr Mason seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

- Police response to 101 and report of Anti-Social Behaviour in the town – references received

Cllr Annis proposed a communication be sent to the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the failure of the Police 101 service. Cllr Ward seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

- The General Data Protection Regulation – Comes into force 25th May 2018
- Council's Insurer – WPS (Broker), following an extensive review, has chosen to move its 'Council Guard' insurance scheme from Aviva Insurance Plc to Royal & Sun Alliance effective from 1st January 2018

3. *Correspondence to be noted:*

- Letter received 6th October from the Local Government Boundary Commission regarding its Electoral Review of Mid Suffolk - draft recommendations are on their website and the consultation closes on 11th December

Cllr Annis congratulated the Clerk on his organisation of the recent Needham Market Civic Service.

C187/17 SECTIONS.

C187/17/1 Finance/General Purposes

C187/17/1a 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 Phillips proposed the accounts for payment be adopted. Cllr Ward seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C187/17/1b To receive a report from the Section Leader.

Cllr Annis reported the Finance & General Purposes Section meeting, to be held at 10am on Tuesday 5th December 2017 in the Town Council Office, will be concerned with the setting of the Council's Annual Budget for 2018/19. He encouraged other Section Leaders to work up their budget requirements in more detail than in past years for reporting to that meeting.

C187/17/2 Recreation & Sport

C187/17/2a To receive a report from the Section Leader.

Cllr Phillips reported he intends to call a Recreation & Sport Section meeting following the meeting with Mid Suffolk District Council, scheduled for Friday 20th October, which is to discuss s.106 (Developer Contributions) funding.

C187/17/3 Town Property and Services

C187/17/3a To receive a report from the Section Leader

Cllr Oakes had nothing to report.

C187/17/4 Newsletter and Communications

C187/17/4a To receive a report from the Section Leader

There was no report.

C187/17/5 Planning.

Cllr X Stansfield reported no Planning Section meeting had taken place on Monday 16th October due to insufficient business.

C187/17/5a To receive Planning Decisions.

Cllr X Stansfield reported the following planning decisions had been received:

DC/17/03905 - Former Quintons, Station Yard - Installation of wall mounted air conditioning units to rear of property.

Planning Permission has been Granted.

DC/17/04043 - 3 Freehold Road - Erection of 2no. single storey dwellings

The Planning Application has been Withdrawn.

C187/17/5b To consider Planning Applications

Cllr M Spurling reported the following planning applications had been received:

DC/17/05216 – 27 Quinton Road – Erection of two storey side extension (following demolition of existing single storey side extension)

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

DC/17/04906 – Unit 4 Plot 11, Lion Barn Industrial Estate – Change of use of unit from B1 Light Industrial to D1 Education & Training (Full and part time training/tuition/classes in speech and drama/dance/singing/acting)

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

C187/17/5c To receive a report from the Section Leader.

Cllr X Stansfield reported the Section will next meet on Monday 30th October 2017 in the Town Council Office at 7pm. Unless Section Members are informed by email of a cancellation.

C187/17/6 Highways, Lighting and Footpaths

C187/17/6a To receive a report from the Section Leader

Cllr Norris gave a verbal report which included an update on discussions held with Mid Suffolk District Council regarding the re-routing of the Gipsy Lane footpath and, in respect of the fence placed across a footpath on Barking Road, where the landowner has submitted an appeal to Suffolk County Council, the process for which may run for some time.

Cllr Annis, with reference to HGVs turning off Barking Road into Foxglove Avenue, said he found it difficult to understand why signage simply warning ‘No HGV’s’ cannot be positioned at the junction. Cllr Norris said Highways signage is no simple matter and described the issues involved.

C188/17 Questions under Standing Order 40.

Cllr Lea asked if Councillors were aware the Needham Market Dementia Action Alliance has just been awarded £500 from the Co-Op shoppers token scheme, which is a substantial boost for them. Cllr Stansfield asked if Councillors were aware Stowmarket Road will be partially obstructed between the hours of 7:30pm and 10:30pm on Thursday 19th October to allow for the jet flushing of drains.

The Meeting closed at 8:39pm.

Chairman **Date**