

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 16th May 2018 at 7:30pm.

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

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr TS Carter – Holiday
Cllr RP Darnell – Sick
Cllr JE Lea - Holiday
Cllr A Morris - Work Commitment
Cllr KMN Oakes Holiday

County Councillor Anne Whybrow

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

C092/18 To confirm the Minutes of the Annual Town Council Meeting held 2nd May 2018.

The Minutes of the Annual Town Council Meeting held Wednesday 2nd May 2018 were accepted as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C093/18 To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest for Matters on the Agenda.

Cllr BE Annis - Accounts for Payment (Community Centre Payment)
Cllr MG Norris – Accounts for Payment (Expenses)
Cllr M Spurling - Accounts for Payment (Community Centre Payment)
Cllr X Stansfield - Accounts for Payment (Community Centre Payment)

C094/18 To receive reports from The County Councillor, District Councillors and, to take questions from members of the public.

County Councillor Whybrow was unable to attend.

District Councillor Wendy Marchant congratulated the new Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor on their appointments and presented the District Councillors report, which was tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book. It included reference to:

- Needham Lake – response to a report raised regarding litter left following use of the area designated for barbeques suggesting cuts in Mid Suffolk Countryside Team staffing may be contributing to the problem
- Christmas and New Year Wheely Bin Collections – details of amounts of waste and recyclable materials collected
- Charging Points for Electric Cars – possibility a charging point may be located at Needham Lake
- Scrutiny Training – emphasis on looking at the wider community and finding out what is happening at the 'coal face'

Cllr Phillips questioned the accuracy of the visitor numbers to Needham Lake shown in the report. District Councillor Marchant confirmed the figure is an estimate.

Cllr Campbell commented, in view of the situation regarding lack of staff resources at Needham Lake, perhaps the District Council should be looking to another organisation to manage it. District Councillor Marchant said she feels the District Council should continue to increase staff levels seasonally as has been the case in past years. Cllr Mason added he remembered the staffing at Needham Lake when the facility was first opened being concentrated on busy periods and asked whether visitor numbers had declined as previous estimates had been as high as 500,000 annually. District Councillor Marchant said her recollection of an earlier visitor number estimate had been 200,000 and agreed District Council staff should be on site to coincide with busy periods, a question

she will raise within the District Council. She concluded the merger with Babergh District Council has led to Countryside staff being spread more thinly over an increased number of locations.

The member of public had no question to raise.

C095/18 To receive a report of the activities of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on behalf of the Town.

The Mayor reported attending:

Tuesday 15th May – Christian Aid Coffee Morning

The Deputy Mayor reported attending:

Tuesday 15th May – Haverhill Town Council Mayor Making and Annual Council Meeting

C096/18 To receive a report from the Needham Market Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

Cllr Norris reported the following day, he, Cllr Stansfield and the Clerk would be attending a meeting at the AECOM (Masterplanning Consultants) office in London to finalise the detail of the Needham Market Neighbourhood Plan Feasibility Study and agree next steps.

C097/18 To consider the future use of the former Needham Market Middle School Playing Field

The Clerk reported on the response received from the Suffolk County Council Schools Infrastructure Officer on issues raised by Town Councillors.

Cllr Annis, who was present at the recent meeting held with the Suffolk County Council Schools Infrastructure Officer, described the response as inadequate in view of the importance of the discussion that had taken place and the lack of preparation apparent on the part of the Officer. Nothing in the response related to the Town Council's interest in assisting Bosmere Primary School with the problem of funding facilities, which could allow expansion of the Primary School onto part of the former Middle School playing field, whilst maintaining the safety and security of primary school pupils.

Cllr Stansfield, who was also present at the recent meeting held with the Suffolk County Council Schools Infrastructure Officer, said he felt the response indicated a lack of willingness on the part of Suffolk County Council, to take responsibility for the future of their former Middle School playing field.

Cllr Norris, the remaining Town Councillor representative at the recent meeting held with the Suffolk County Council Schools Infrastructure Officer, said he felt the response reflected the meeting itself. All the background information and ideas had come from the Town Council, not the County Council, and the County Council appeared ready to totally disregard outcomes from community consultation.

Cllr D Spurling suggested the County Council should consider whether the building used as the Sure Start Children's Centre could be used to extend the primary school space, with the Children's Centre being relocated.

Cllr Stansfield said his impression from the meeting is the primary school is quite isolated in relation to its ability to deal with the challenge of growth and, the County Council's approach is indecisive, a combination which portrays a lack of effectiveness.

C098/18 To consider a response to the 'Stowmarket Vision for Prosperity' draft Action Plan

Cllr Annis referred to the many occasions on which Mid Suffolk District Council has produced plans and reports meant to stimulate improvements to Stowmarket, none of which have come to fruition. Despite input to consultation, Needham Market is omitted from the scope of the plan.

Several Councillors endorsed the comment regarding the District Council's past failures and questioned the quality of the information contained in the Engagement Report and Action Plan.

C099/18 Clerk's Report and Correspondence to be noted.

1. *Actions from Annual Town Council Meeting 02.05.18:*

C078/18 – Invoice sent 11th May to Needham Market Institute Trustees requesting repayment of loans made

C089/18 – Former NMMS playing field issue on agenda

2. *Issues:*

- Town Councillor Vacancy – advertised from 9th May to 30th May
- Planning Application for temporary toilets building – remains unresolved

Cllr Stansfield proposed Council request formal approval of the planning application albeit with the anticipated restrictions. Cllr Norris seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

- Needham Market Football Club – requests received regarding funding and edge of town signage

Councillors considered the request for access to funding should be referred to Mid Suffolk District Council and/or other appropriate organisations such as Community Action Suffolk.

Councillors agreed the request regarding edge of town signage should be considered by Council's Town Property and Services Section.

3. *Correspondence to be noted:*

- Email 10th May from the Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive, Mid Suffolk/Babergh District Councils asking if the Town Council is interested in meeting with their Directors in June or July.

The Clerk reminded Councillors of the same offer being received from the District Council earlier in the year. The purpose of the suggested meeting (which extended to include the other Mid Suffolk Town Councils on a quarterly cycle) could not be established plus, at least one Town Council had questioned the value of meeting 'en bloc'. Councillors requested the Clerk to try again to obtain more advice from the District Council on its intentions.

C100/18 SECTIONS.

C100/18/1 Finance/General Purposes

C100/18/1a 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 Mason questioned the payment of Business Rates on the High Street car park. The Clerk said an application for rate relief had been submitted to the local authority but, in accordance with the rules which now prevail, the application had been refused.

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

C100/18/1b To receive a report from the Section Leader.

There was no report.

C100/18/2 Recreation & Sport

C100/18/2a To receive a report from the Section Leader.

Cllr Phillips presented notes from the Section meeting held on 9th May, which were tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book. The meeting had endorsed Cllr Phillips continuation as Leader of the Section with Cllr Carter agreed as Deputy Leader.

Cllr Mason proposed adoption of the Section meeting notes. Cllr Stansfield seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C100/18/3 Town Property and Services

C100/18/3a To receive a report from the Section Leader

There was no report.

C100/18/4 Newsletter and Communications

C100/18/4a To receive a report from the Section Leader

There was no report.

C100/18/5 Planning.

Cllr M Spurling presented notes from the Planning Section meeting held on Monday 14th May, which were tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book.

C100/18/5a To receive Planning Decisions.

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

DC/18/01077 – 133 High Street – Listed Building – Insertion of 2No window openings in side elevation

Listed Building Consent has been refused.

C100/18/5b To consider Planning Applications

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

DC/18/01698 - 59 Pinecroft Way - Erection of two storey side extension

The Section recommended approval.

Cllr Mason proposed Council support approval of the application. Cllr M Spurling seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

DC/18/01925 - Land North East of Gipping View Hill House Lane - Erection of single storey residential dwelling using approved shared vehicular access.

The Section recommended approval.

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

DC/18/01856 - 13 Ipswich Road - Erection of single storey side extension and single storey garage.

The Section recommended approval.

Cllr Mason proposed Council support approval of the application. Cllr M Spurling seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

DC/18/02043 - The Institute Club 122 High Street Needham Market - Conversion of two storey element into two dwellings. Demolition of single storey structure to the rear and erection of a pair of semi-detached dwellings at the rear. Includes vehicular access and parking via Luff Meadow.

The Section recommended approval.

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

DC/18/01985 - 3 Foxglove Avenue - Erection of a single storey and two storey rear extensions, first floor side extension and single storey front extension; convert garage to additional living accommodation; replace external cladding

The Section recommended approval.

Cllr M Spurling proposed Council support approval of the application. Cllr Campbell seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

DC/18/01965 - Colchester Barn Needham Road Barking – (Outline Application) Erection of 2 No. dwellings and conversion of barn to form an additional dwelling.

The Section recommended refusal on the grounds the development proposal is on a flood plain and although steps have been taken to mitigate the impact there would still be considerable risk to flooding. There was also concern for the increase in water going to an already stretched drain network and it was felt that a containment pond or the like would benefit further development in this area. It was also noted that this proposed development is outside the settlement boundary.

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

The following planning application was received since the Planning Section meeting:

DC/18/01998 – Fir Trees, 13 School Street – Erection of two-storey rear extensions

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

C100/18/5c To receive a report from the Section Leader.

Cllr M Spurling reported the Section will next meet on Monday 4th June in the Town Council Office at 7pm. Unless Section Members are informed by email of a cancellation.

C100/18/6 Highways, Lighting and Footpaths

C100/18/6a To receive a report from the Section Leader

Cllr Norris presented notes from the Section meeting held 8th May, which were tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book. The meeting had endorsed Cllr Norris continue as the Section Leader along with Cllr Carter as Deputy Section Leader.

Cllr Mason proposed adoption of the report. Cllr Campbell seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C101/18 Questions under Standing Order 40.

Cllr Campbell asked if there is the opportunity for Council to promote more greenery in the centre of the town, particularly where High Street property boundaries would allow for it.

The Meeting closed at 8:46pm.

Chairman **Date**