

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 July 2018 at 7:30pm.

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

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr RP Darnell - Holiday
Cllr A Morris – Work Commitment
Cllr D Spurling – Mayoral Duties
Cllr M Spurling – Consort Duties
Cllr AL Ward – Family Commitment

County Councillor Anne Whybrow
District Councillor Wendy Marchant

In Attendance: The Leader of 1st Needham Market Scout Group, two members of public and the Town Clerk.

C127/18 To confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 4th July 2018.

The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held Wednesday 4th July 2018 were accepted as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C128/18 To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest for Matters on the Agenda.

There were none.

C129/18 To receive an update on the replacement of the 1st Needham market Scout Group premises, reports from The County Councillor, District Councillors and, to take questions from members of the public.

The Leader of 1st Needham Market Scout Group reported, following discussions with Town Councillor Steve Phillips, Mr Tony Bass (Mid Suffolk District Council) and the Town Clerk, the Scout Group is keen to explore the possibility of replacing its current dilapidated premises at the same time relocating from the Camping Land to the adjacent Town Council owned former gasworks site, off Crown Street. The Group were also in agreement a modern energy efficient and sustainable sectional building would allow for an affordable and feasible approach. The Group is aware of the availability of s.106 (Developer Contributions) funds to support delivery of the project and the need to move as quickly as possible to move to and through the formal planning application process. In respect of the latter, the Group Leader is to meet with an architect on site on Wednesday 25th July.

Cllr Mason referred to the terms under which the Town Council owns the former gasworks site and urged that the terms of ownership are checked to ensure there is no covenant, easement or other impediment which would thwart any proposal to allow the Scouts to relocate to the site. The Clerk agreed to obtain the necessary documentation from the Land Registry and engage with the Town Council's solicitor, as appropriate.

Cllr Phillips acknowledged the Scout Leader's pulling together of the basis of the project, which has been in train for several years. He reiterated the Town Council is fully supportive of the Scout Group's ambition and will facilitate the delivery of the project where applicable and apposite.

County Councillor Whybrow was unable to attend.

District Councillor Mike Norris presented the District Councillors report, which was tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book. It included reference to:

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER FOR NEEDHAM MARKET There are 9 newly appointed Community Engagement officers, and the one designated to deal with Needham Market is P.C. 1433 Stefan Henriksen Stefan.Henriksen@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

NOW IS THE TIME TO INVEST IN SOLAR PANELS FOR YOUR HOME. Register your interest to buy high quality, low-cost solar panels which will reduce electricity bills and help Suffolk become the Greenest County.

Solar Together Suffolk is a pioneering bulk-buying project, supported by Suffolk County Council and local borough and district councils. It aims to bring affordable solar power to Suffolk and boost the county's renewable energy.

How does it work?

- Homeowners, schools, small businesses and community groups have until 21 August to register for free and without obligation at www.solartogethersuffolk.co.uk
- 22 August: pre-vetted UK solar PV suppliers participate in an auction. A large bulk order means they can pass on better savings to registered users.
- From 10 September registered users will receive a personalised offer from the winning supplier.
- 19 October: your deadline to make a decision.
- After accepting your offer, a technical survey will be arranged after which an installation date will be confirmed.
- Telephone and email support is available throughout the whole process and information sessions will allow registered users to make an informed decision in a safe and hassle-free environment
- Find out how you could save money, visit solartogethersuffolk.co.uk and register your interest today.

A VISITOR CENTRE FOR NEEDHAM LAKE? This has been on the cards for many years, but never come to fruition. However, it is being looked into again, so we wait to see how it progresses.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SITE, NEEDHAM MARKET, POSSIBLY NEW LIBRARY BUILDING, DISPLAY AREA FOR ARTEFACTS, INTERNET CAFÉ & TOILETS, AND HOUSING.

Public consultation at the Internet Café, School Street, Needham Market, 3 pm to 7 pm Tuesday 10.7.2018

GRANT SCHEME WORKSHOP For money possibly for High Street shop fronts and disability access improvements for Market Towns and across the District, Mike will be attending this at The Cedars, Best Western, Stowmarket on Tuesday 17.7.18, 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm.

District Councillor Norris added; the Grant Scheme Workshop had looked at how the scheme might operate in principle and not at individual properties, at this stage and; Mid Suffolk District Council has announced it is able to demonstrate a 5-year Housing Land Supply.

Cllr Stansfield said one of the outcomes from the Grant Scheme Workshop was an apportionment of the total funding available under the scheme, 50% to Stowmarket, 20% to Needham Market and 20% to Eye with the balance available to other communities in the Mid Suffolk District. This would mean £70,000 being available to Needham Market over the 3-year scheme period.

Cllr Lea asked whether there is any prospect, following years of deliberation, of a visitor centre being created at Needham Lake. District Councillor Norris confirmed it is on the District Council's priority list for community projects. Cllr Mason described some of the background to the District Council's ambition to create a visitor centre at Needham Lake which started many years ago.

The members of public had no question to raise.

C130/18 To receive a report of the activities of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on behalf of the Town.

The Mayor was not present

The Deputy Mayor had nothing to report.

C131/18 To receive a report from the Needham Market Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

Cllr Norris presented his report, which was tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book. The report referred to the AECOM presentation on Friday 13th July to MSDC Officers, Town Councillors and Barking Parish Council representatives on the concept of a new southern town boundary and a relief road connecting Barking Road with Stowmarket Road. It will now be necessary to consider the next steps, including issuing a public statement as soon as possible and the holding of a community engagement event.

Cllr Norris said he therefore wished to arrange a Neighbourhood Planning Working Group meeting and members of the Group agreed for it to take place on Tuesday 31st July at 8pm in the Town Council office.

C132/18 To consider proposals for the future development of the former Needham Market Middle School site.

Cllr Annis read out a statement he had prepared relating to the Mid Suffolk District Council proposal for redevelopment of the former Needham Market Middle School site, summarised as follows:

- 1) Mid Suffolk District Council failed in its obligation to ensure the public were aware of the public engagement event held at Needham Market Community Café on 10th July – after yet again missing the deadline for advertising the event in the Needham Market Newsletter, the District Council purports to have arranged the delivery of a flyer to all residential properties in the town – there is no evidence whatsoever the delivery of flyers took place.
- 2) The Business Case created between Suffolk County Council, Mid Suffolk District Council and the Town Council has been dismissed by the District Council in relation to its redevelopment proposal – the Business Case concluded a feasible and viable approach to redevelopment of the site inclusive of a ‘Community Hub’ building – the District Council has reneged on its commitment and states it has no obligation other than to include a building to house the town’s Library in scope of the redevelopment
- 3) The District Council’s redevelopment proposal shows no regard for the importance of the redevelopment site location – recent discussion held by the Town Council with Suffolk County Council confirms the two principal Councils are not at all considering the future of the entire former Middle School area which the Town Council believes is essential to delivering a sensible and cohesive solution for redevelopment/reuse, with benefit to the community being at the heart of any proposal, rather than a proposal aimed at raising money

The statement also referred to the feedback from those who attended the public engagement event which confirms substantial concerns relating to the impact additional traffic will have on School Street, its junction with The Causeway and subsequently the High Street, all of which are totally unsuited to additional traffic.

Councillors thanked Cllr Annis for his concise and considered statement which effectively reflected their views.

Cllr Phillips said he felt the District Council was restricting public consultation. The consultation survey on the redevelopment proposal was not available on the District Council’s website, for example. He asked whether the consultation survey document could be distributed.

Cllr Lea said she is interested in where the Business Case featured, if at all, in the lead up to the contract between Suffolk County Council and Mid Suffolk District Council for the sale of the Middle School site from the former to the latter. Cllr Carter said in direct contact with Mid Suffolk District Council, they have denied any commitments being made towards the Business Case. Cllr Lea said that is absolute nonsense as the District Council were an integral part of the creation of the Business Case which had cost the public purse tens of thousands of pounds.

Cllr Phillips proposed a letter be sent to Mid Suffolk District Council, copied to Suffolk County Council, setting out the points raised in Cllr Annis’s statement and any further matters relevant to the Town Council’s and the local community’s concerns. Cllr Carter seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C133/18 Clerk’s Report and Correspondence to be noted.

1. *Actions from Town Council Meeting 04.07.18:*

- **C123/18** – Pre-consultation issue on agenda
- **C124/18** – 1st Needham Market Scouts Leader invited to attend
- **C124/18** – email sent 10th July to Mid Suffolk District Council regarding hosting a Stowmarket VFP Roadshow
- **C124/18** – Recycling/HRWC item outstanding
- **C125/18/6a** – Response to report sent to Suffolk County Council received

Cllr Mason, in relation to the response received from Suffolk County Council regarding the overgrowth on the roadside verge of Barking Road, referred to the condition of the roadside pathway towards Barking which is nowhere close to the 1m width it should be due to incursion of overgrowth and lack of attention to cutting back the field edge adjoining the pathway.

2. *Issues:*

- PCSO Karen Murton Advice on ASB – Harassment/Alarm/Distress phone 101 take images only when applicable (e.g. if somebody is in the act) – consider support for PCSO (e.g. body cameras)

The Clerk reported that when speaking with PCSO Karen Murton, she had referred to the usefulness of body cameras but these were only available to Suffolk Police Constables. Suffolk Police is repeatedly appealing for match-funding for PCSOs from local councils, which is largely either not desired and/or unaffordable and, it was suggested, why does Suffolk Police not request perhaps more realistic support from local councils, such as funding body cameras for PCSOs?

Cllr Lea said she supported the suggestion regarding body cameras for PCSOs and proposed Council take up it up with Suffolk Police. Cllr Carter seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

- Disabled Space Line Repainting – Suffolk County Council charge £150

The Clerk said the charge had been brought to his attention by a Needham Market resident who had been waiting 18 months for the disabled parking space outside her property to be relined by the County Council only to be now told she would have to pay as they will only carry out emergency relining without imposing a charge. The resident relies on the marked space in relation to her disabled son and the lines are so worn they are not seen by other drivers looking to park.

Councillors were shocked to learn of another example of the way the County Council now operates and agreed the resident should be assisted one way or another.

3. *Correspondence to be noted:*

- Emails dated 2nd July and 6th July from Suffolk Libraries regarding the Suffolk Libraries Central Services restructure and, inviting nominations for Directors of the Suffolk Libraries Industrial and Provident Society Limited Board

C134/18 SECTIONS.

C134/18/1 Finance/General Purposes

C134/18/1a Accounts for Payment and Confirmation.

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

Cllr Lea proposed the accounts for payment be adopted. Cllr Annis seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C134/18/1e To receive a report from the Section Leader.

There was no report.

C134/18/2 Recreation & Sport

C134/18/2a To receive a report from the Section Leader.

Cllr Phillips reported having discussed proposals for the future of the Pavilion building with its users which will now progress towards the drawing together of a specification and consideration of feasibility/viability, including the s.106 developer contribution funding specifically identified for this project.

C134/18/3 Town Property and Services

C134/18/3a To receive a report from the Section Leader

Cllr Lea, the newly appointed Section Leader, confirmed a Section meeting will be held on Tuesday 31st July at 7:30 in the Town Council office.

Cllr Phillips reported constructive discussion had taken place with Needham Market Football Club regarding the placing of edge of town signage advertising the club's forthcoming fixtures. He described the type of signage requested and recommended edge of town locations. Cllr Mason suggested planning permission may be required. Cllr Phillips undertook to ensure that aspect of the project was looked into. Councillors expressed their support for the proposed signage.

C134/18/4 Newsletter and Communications

C134/18/4a To receive a report from the Section Leader

There was no report.

C134/18/5 Planning.

Cllr Stansfield reported no Planning Section meeting had taken place on Monday 2nd July due to lack of relevant business.

C134/18/5a To receive Planning Decisions.

Cllr Stansfield reported the following planning decisions had been received:

DC/17/05549 – Land North West of Hill House Lane - Outline Application – Erection of 64 No. dwellings (including 22 No. affordable homes) with vehicular access from Stowmarket Road together with 2 No. dwellings accessed from Hill House Lane.

Outline Planning Permission has been granted.

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

Planning Permission has been granted.

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

Planning Permission has been granted.

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.

Planning Permission has been granted.

DC/18/02307 – 4 Ranson Road - Erection of a two storey rear extension (following demolition of existing conservatory)

Planning Permission has been refused.

C134/18/5b To consider Planning Applications

Cllr Stansfield reported the following planning applications had been received:

DC/18/02900 – Lion Barn House, Lion Lane –Erection of a two storey extension and single storey front entrance porch

Cllr Stansfield described the detail of the application.

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

DC/03116/18 & DC/18/03119 – 54 Quinton Road – Conversion of existing integral garage to additional living accommodation, including replacement of existing garage door with glazed screen & Erection of rear extension

Cllr Stansfield described the detail of the applications.

Cllr Stansfield proposed Council support approval of the applications. Cllr Mason seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C134/18/5c To receive a report from the Section Leader.

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

C134/18/6 Highways, Lighting and Footpaths

C134/18/6a 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:

Drainage Works, Ipswich Road/Grinstead Hill/Lion Lane.

With reference to the email I previously circulated, please note that the above works are scheduled to start week commencing 30th July for 6 weeks, to resolve a long-standing internal flooding problem which The Lion public house experiences. The traffic management for these works will be a combination of three-way traffic signals and a road closure of Lion Lane to enable a new drainage pipe to connect into an existing manhole in Maitland Road. The length of time for the works and traffic management on Ipswich Road is scheduled to be for 3 weeks but this is subject to change due to the complexity of the works, and a further 3 weeks for the works in Lion Lane.

Apparently it has not been possible to co-ordinate this work with the current work in Grinstead Hill 'due to different operations and too close a proximity of different parties works and considerable underground apparatus'.

I have requested a condensed version of this notification, to be put on the Town Council's website.

Misleading 'Road Closure' and 'Diversion' signs in Needham Market.

I have contacted SCC Highways Dept. and Mervyn Lambert Traffic Management concerning the above. Apparently the road closure relates to Bramford Road, Great Blakenham, although this is not clear from the signs – a point I have made.

There are numerous other 'Diverted Traffic' signs, particularly at the Barking Road/Ipswich Road junction where the signs are contradictory as they divert traffic in opposite directions, which it appears are the responsibility of a different traffic management company. I am awaiting a response from SCC Highways, having copied in the new Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways, County Cllr. Mary Evans, on my email.

Cllr Norris added he had received, earlier in the day, a further notification in relation to the proposed Lion Lane roadworks which indicates work starting on 30th July and lasting 8 weeks. He said he will now have to check whether the most recent notice replaces the original or refers to work which will take place in parallel with that shown on the original notice.

Cllr Annis referred to the roadside kerb which protrudes onto Lion Lane which constantly causes issues for vehicles passing each other and suggested Suffolk County Council should resolve that problem whilst carrying out the planned works on Lion Lane. Cllr Norris agreed to approach Suffolk County Council with that very sensible suggestion.

Cllr Mason thanked Cllr Norris for his dedication towards making some sense of the numerous local roadwork schemes currently ongoing and proposed, which added up to a complex and very confusing situation which most people would struggle to comprehend. Cllr Mason added he is aware roadworks are being mooted to take place which will require the closure of Quinton Road.

Cllr Phillips said the inappropriate and confusing road closure signage currently in situ at the Cedars Link junction, Stowmarket, is dissuading drivers coming to Needham Market which will undoubtedly affect the economy of businesses in the town. Cllr Norris confirmed that is a priority issue in his following up the placement of signage with Suffolk County Council.

C135/18 Questions under Standing Order 40.

There were no questions.

The Meeting closed at 8:44pm.

Chairman **Date**