

## **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 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018 at 7:30pm.

**Present:** Cllr D Spurling (In the Chair), Councillors; D Campbell, TS Carter, RP Darnell, JE Lea, I Mason, A Morris, MG Norris, S Phillips, X Stansfield and AL Ward.

**Apologies for Absence:**

Cllr BE Annis – Work Commitment  
Cllr M Spurling – Work Commitment

County Councillor Anne Whybrow

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

The Chairman read out a letter of resignation received from Town Councillor Kay Oakes. Councillors expressed their thanks for the time and effort Councillor Oakes had put into the work of the Council during her service as a Town Councillor.

**C118/18 To confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 20<sup>th</sup> June 2018.**

The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2018 were accepted as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**C119/18 To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest for Matters on the Agenda.**

Cllr JE Lea – Accounts for Payment (Community Centre)  
Cllr S Phillips – Accounts for Payment (Expenses)  
Cllr D Spurling – Accounts for Payment (Expenses)  
Cllr X Stansfield – Accounts for Payment (Community Centre)

**C120/18 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 presented the District Councillors report, which was tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book. It included reference to:

MID SUFFOLK LOCAL HEROES AWARDS. Call for nominations for a Community Achievement Award, which will be presented at St. Mary's Church Hadleigh, on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

LOCALITY GRANT. Mike and Wendy have been allocated funding for their Locality Grant. Any local organisation who would like to apply contact Mike or Wendy for an application form.

ACCESS FOR ALL NEEDHAM MARKET RAILWAY STATION. On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June, Town Cllr. Terence Carter, Dis. Cllr. Wendy Marchant and other community representatives met with Nusrat Ghani, Minister of State, to put the case for better access for Needham Market Railway Station.

DEVELOPMENT ON THE EX COUNCIL OFFICES SITE IN NEEDHAM MARKET – RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL. The redevelopment proposal was considered and approved by Mid Suffolk's Full Council on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June and will now go to the Planning Committee.

INCREASE IN MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCES. This was also debated at Full Council where Mike and Wendy voted against it. The voting figures were: 16 for, 12 against, and 12 councillors absent. So, it wasn't overwhelming. A lot of councillors from the ruling group were absent.

SAXON PARK HOME SITE. On 26<sup>th</sup> June Mike & Wendy attended a meeting at Saxon Park with residents and a senior Mid Suffolk Housing Management Officer, also a Private Sector Mid Suffolk

Housing Officer, so that they could listen to residents' concerns and try to find solutions. Mid Suffolk District Council is to write to the site's management, and if necessary will take legal action if site problems are not addressed.

NEEDHAM MARKET INTERNET CAFÉ AND LIBRARY. On 26<sup>th</sup> June Mike and Wendy attended a meeting in the Internet Café along with Town Councillors plus two senior Executive Directors from Mid Suffolk. Mike and Wendy had been advised by the officers of this proposed meeting and discussed it with them. The outcome was that it is proposed we have something like a 'Community Hub' – which we hoped for long ago – a new library building, and internet café building with a display area in the centre for local artefacts (maybe public toilets too!). Mid Suffolk have a legal obligation with SCC to build a new library, now that they have bought the Middle School site, but a moral obligation to provide a new internet/community café and display area. There is to be a public consultation on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July, 3pm to 7pm In the Internet Café.

The member of public had no question to raise.

**C121/18 To receive a report of the activities of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on behalf of the Town.**

The Mayor reported attending:

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June – Suffolk Day, Sudbury

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June – Raft Race, Needham Lake

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June - West Suffolk College Awards Ceremony, Bury St Edmunds Cathedral

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June – Bosmere Community Primary School Fete

The Deputy Mayor reported attending:

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June – Mayor of St Edmundsbury Civic Service, Haverhill

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June – Armed Forces Day, Bury St Edmunds

**C122/18 To receive a report from the Needham Market Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.**

Cllr Norris reminded Councillors of arrangements made for AECOM (Master-planning Consultants) to present the Neighbourhood Plan Feasibility Study Report to the Town Council and representatives from Mid Suffolk District Council and Barking Parish Council at 3:30pm on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July in the Green Room, Needham Market Community Centre.

**C123/18 To receive an update on the future development of the former Needham Market Middle School site.**

Cllr Stansfield reminded Councillors that £70,000 of public funds had been spent in the recent past, when Suffolk County Council commissioned a business case on the need for a community hub building, which would be delivered as part of the redevelopment of the former Needham Market Middle School site. The business case validated the need for a community hub and its feasibility/viability. The former Needham Market Middle School site was then sold by the County Council to Mid Suffolk District Council with the commitments made by those Councils to deliver a community hub building completely neglected in the sale/purchase contract between the two Councils. Resulting from this neglect, the District Council has confirmed it has a legal obligation to provide a building to rehouse the Library only. This raises the question 'how and why, did the business case get lost between the two Councils?'. Recent discussion held between the Town Council and Mid Suffolk District Council may lead to a rethink by the District Council on the scope of their commitment, but this is to be confirmed. Town Councillors due to attend the District Council's hastily arranged public engagement event on its proposal for the redevelopment of the former Needham Market Middle School site, being held at the Community/Internet Café on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July, were encouraged to raise the business case for the inclusion of a community hub building in redevelopment plans.

Cllr Darnell questioned the traffic access/exit proposal for the site bearing in mind the 40+ residential units planned. Cllr Stansfield confirmed whilst the most up-to-date information available to the Town Council showed the redevelopment included a relocated road access/exit to the site, it still meant all additional traffic will have to use the existing School Street route. Cllr Lea added, if

that remained the case, people attending the forthcoming public engagement event are bound to raise the traffic access/exit issue as a potentially serious problem.

Cllr Mason suggested that as Mid Suffolk District Council own the former Needham Market Middle School site and are the relevant Planning Authority, they can simply grant themselves planning consent.

Cllr D Spurling, referring to recent discussions held with Mid Suffolk District Council, said she understands the District Council's response to including community facilities in the redevelopment is to build them with residential accommodation above.

Cllr Norris reported the latest redevelopment plan he has seen indicates slightly fewer residential properties proposed than the original 47 previously indicated.

Cllr Ward proposed a letter be sent to the District Council demanding pre-consultation on its proposals for redevelopment of the former Needham Market Middle School site. Cllr Darnell seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

### **C124/18 Clerk's Report and Correspondence to be noted.**

#### *1. Actions from Town Council Meeting 20.06.18:*

None

#### *2. Issues:*

- Needham Market Scout Hut – update

Cllr Phillips reported he is aware of a change in the leadership of the proposal to replace the existing Scout Hut and, in discussion with the appropriate Scout Leader, has suggested contact be made with the relevant Mid Suffolk District Council (Communities) Officer, also to consider the availability of the former gasworks site adjacent to the existing scout hut as a potential new location for its replacement. Cllr Ward proposed the Scout Leader be invited to attend the next Town Council meeting to allow for a full informed update to take place. Cllr Phillips seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

- Insurance Claim - update

#### *3. Correspondence to be noted:*

- Email dated 26<sup>th</sup> June from Suffolk Constabulary regarding joint venture funded PCSOs
- Email dated 29<sup>th</sup> June from Mid Suffolk District Council regarding the District Council's new Joint Housing Strategy
- Email dated 29<sup>th</sup> June from Mid Suffolk District Council regarding the 'Stowmarket – Vision for Prosperity' roadshow

Cllr Phillips proposed, in view of its many reservations regarding the Stowmarket VFP proposals, it is the least cause the Town Council would wish to be associated with and therefore the request from Mid Suffolk District Council to host a roadshow should be refused. Cllr Lea seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

- Email dated 2<sup>nd</sup> July from Suffolk County Council reminding consultees the current Suffolk Minerals & Waste Local Plan consultation ends on 23<sup>rd</sup> July

Cllr Lea asked if anything further had been received in relation to the proposed relocation of the Hurstlea Road car park recycling facility. The Clerk confirmed nothing further to the recent reported communication had been received. Cllr Darnell suggested the existing waste management operations situated on the town's Lion Barn Industrial Estate would be an ideal location for establishing a comprehensive Household Waste Recycling Centre, particularly in view of the increasing inadequacy of the nearest HWRC facility in Stowmarket. Cllr Phillips proposed a request be sent to Suffolk County Council to consider creating a HWRC on the Lion Barn Industrial Estate (copy to Mid Suffolk District Council). Cllr Darnell seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

## **C125/18 SECTIONS.**

### **C125/18/1 Finance/General Purposes**

#### **C125/18/1a Accounts for Payment and Confirmation.**

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

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

#### **C125/18/1e To receive a report from the Section Leader.**

There was no report.

### **C125/18/2 Recreation & Sport**

#### **C125/18/2a To receive a report from the Section Leader.**

Cllr Phillips reported, to provide additional storage and mitigate the risk of further theft of Town Council property, an additional storage container is to be purchased and sited on the car park at the top of Crowley Park. Councillors agreed the need for further secure storage following the recent theft of the Town Council's car trailer.

### **C125/18/3 Town Property and Services**

#### **C125/18/3a To receive a report from the Section Leader**

Cllr Phillips reported, in view of the resignation from Council of the Section Leader, a Section meeting is necessary to elect a replacement. The meeting to take place on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm in the Town Council Office.

### **C125/18/4 Newsletter and Communications**

#### **C125/18/4a To receive a report from the Section Leader**

There was no report.

### **C125/18/5 Planning.**

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

#### **C125/18/5a To receive Planning Decisions.**

Cllr Stansfield reported the following planning decisions had been received:

**DC/18/01423 – The Coach House, The Causeway – Erection of steel supported decking area; conversion of window to door; creation of break-through in ground floor garages**

Listed Building Consent has been granted.

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

Planning Permission has been granted.

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

Outline Planning Permission has been granted.

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

Application Withdrawn.

**SCC\0006\18MSVOC and SCC\0007\18MS – Debtrac Centre, Ipswich Road -**

**a) Variation of Condition 4 - Operations & Condition 5 - Relocation of Glass Cullet Bays of permission MS\13\3192**

**b) Retrospective planning permission for the use of land for the storage, processing and recycling of metals, within approved existing waste transfer site**

Permission Granted.

#### **C125/18/5b To consider Planning Applications**

Cllr Stansfield reported no planning applications had been received.

#### **C125/18/5c To receive a report from the Section Leader.**

Cllr Stansfield reported the Section will next meet on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July in the Town Council Office at 7pm. Unless Section Members are informed by email of a cancellation.

#### **C125/18/6 Highways, Lighting and Footpaths**

##### **C125/18/6a 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:

##### **Overgrowth on The Drift.**

Vertas has quoted as follows:

To flail hedges and small branches which overhang the pathway on one occasion (Winter), and to strim/cut the verges on 12 occasions per year. £666.60 + VAT

Keeping on top of the problem of overgrowth on this pathway will send a positive message to the many that use it and it is the recommendation of the Section that Council accepts the quotation. There is provision within the section budget for contingencies, which will cover this.

##### **Burstall Bridge repairs, A1071 near Hintlesham.**

Further to the emails that I have already circulated. As the repairs will necessitate road closures on the A1071, this is a reminder that due to the lengthy diversion route involved which entails a suspension of the weight limit on the B1113 through Needham Market, there is a possibility of overnight HGV traffic travelling through Needham Market on 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> July

##### **Road Closure, Grinstead Hill.**

I have contacted Triio, the contractors, concerning the closure from 18.06.18 for 4 weeks for gas pipe replacement, where neither the Town Council nor residents, appear to have been notified and am awaiting their response.

Cllr Norris proposed Council accept the quotation received from Vertas, as above. Cllr Darnell seconded the proposal.

Cllr Mason questioned the ownership of The Drift and stated it is the responsibility of Suffolk County Council to maintain. Cllr D Spurling said irrespective of ownership, overgrowth on The Drift is a perennial problem for users of the pathway. Cllr Lea added she feels distressed by the condition of many areas of the town where it is known either the County Council or District Council are responsible for maintaining pathways etc. but that just doesn't take place these days.

The Clerk explained he had asked the Community Payback team to tidy up The Drift but it now required regular attention to prevent the overgrowth recurring and had hence, in agreement with Cllr Norris, sought a quotation from Vertas, who carry out routine work on Town Council owned land in the town, for carrying out regular cutting back of plant growth along The Drift.

Cllr Lea referred to articles in the Town Council Newsletter that advise the public the Town Council is having to step in to deliver works previously carried out by the principal authorities as those authorities have simply decided to reduce or cease relevant activities.

Cllr Phillips proposed an amendment to the original proposal that, Council accept the quotation received from Vertas, as above **and**, send the invoice for the work to Suffolk County Council. Cllr Ward seconded the amended proposal. Council agreed the amended proposal.

Cllr Carter proposed the Town Council cuts the grass on the roadside near to the entrance to the Needham Market County Practice, Barking Road and send Suffolk County Council an invoice for resources deployed, along with photographs of before/after. Cllr Darnell seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

**C126/18 Questions under Standing Order 40.**

Cllr Phillips asked Councillors if they were aware of the proliferation of A4 size advertising notices being put up around the town and questioned whether they could just be removed.

Cllr Mason asked if Councillors were aware a Needham Market resident had received a British Empire Medal in the most recent Honours List.

**The Meeting closed at 8:34pm.**

**Chairman** ..... **Date** .....