

## **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 21<sup>st</sup> August 2019 at 7:30pm.

**Present:** Cllr Phillips (In the Chair), Councillors; BE Annis, C Campbell, D Campbell, JE Lea, I Mason, MG Norris, M Ost, P Potter, M Spurling and X Stansfield.

### **Apologies for Absence:**

Cllr RP Darnell – Family Commitment  
Cllr M O’Shea - Vacation  
Cllr D Spurling – Unwell

**In Attendance:** Suffolk County Councillor Kay Oakes, Mid Suffolk District Councillors Mike Norris, Steve Phillips and the Town Clerk.

The Chairman announced he had received notice of resignation from Cllr Nigel Andrews.

### **C142/19 To confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 7<sup>th</sup> August 2019.**

The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2019 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

### **C143/19 To receive Councillors’ Declarations of Interest for Matters on the Agenda.**

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

### **C144/19 To receive reports from the County Councillor, District Councillors and to take questions from members of the public**

County Councillor Kay Oakes presented a verbal report that included reference to:

- Schools Transport – information provided from Suffolk County Council on the detail and impact of the changes to School Transport arrangements
- HGV Signage – report on a meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> July between the Suffolk County Council Highways Engineer and Town Councillor Mike Norris regarding the locating of signage proposed for the Barking Road/Foxglove Avenue junction area and, the specification for the installation of the renewed edge of town signs was agreed
- 20mph Restrictions – explanation of where and in what circumstances 20mph traffic restrictions can be applied confirming the restriction scheme is only available for residential areas unless exceptional circumstances prevail

Cllr Lea referred to the recent A140 night-time road closure which was due to start at 8pm but which had been brought forward, according to the road repair contractors, to 7pm on the authority of Suffolk County Council. County Councillor Oakes said Suffolk County Council would never sanction such a change and agreed to follow the matter up within the County Council.

Cllr D Campbell questioned the rules adopted for the application of road traffic speed limits across Suffolk. County Councillor Oakes said the County Council adheres strictly to Department for Transport regulations and guidelines.

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

### **First Eastern Counties bus route changes**

It has been announced by the bus operating company that the new bus route for Ipswich to Stowmarket services will cut out the residential areas. This will affect residents in Bramford, Claydon and Barham, Needham Market and Stowmarket. The current service 89/89a will be withdrawn after Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019 leaving a half hourly service 88 operating along the main road without

diversions although it will still run to Chilton Hall, Stowmarket. This was not made clear in the original announcement “Bus routes survive County Council cuts”.

By this means they will save one bus and it is purely a commercial decision – all the operating company have to do is to inform Suffolk County Council when registering any changes to the service. Nonetheless, Cllr. Steve Phillips and myself as ward members will be making representations to First Eastern Counties on behalf of residents, and I would request that the Town Council does also.

### **Market Traders appearing to be operating at Needham Lake Car Boot events**

Following a complaint from one of the High Street shop owners, MSDC will be carrying out some information gathering about car boots and precisely what is being sold across Mid Suffolk. At present there are no specific powers which have been adopted by MSDC to regulate this, other than public liability insurance which is the responsibility of the landowner. Trading Standards have also been requested to visit to ensure that goods being traded are of appropriate suitability and quality. Depending on the outcome of the above it may require a report to go to MSDC Full Council to approve the adoption of any regulatory powers deemed necessary.

### **Proposed ‘Walkers Are Welcome’ scheme for Needham Market**

This is a scheme that is being promoted by MSDC which aims to:

“Help strengthen a town’s reputation as a place for visitors to come to enjoy the outdoors, bringing useful benefits to the local economy. It helps to ensure that footpaths and facilities for walkers are maintained in good condition, benefiting local people as well as visitors. It can contribute to local tourism plans and regeneration strategies. It also allows communities to benefit from the regular networking opportunities with other Walkers are Welcome towns, when experiences are shared informally and new ideas discussed”.

To gain accreditation to the scheme there are six conditions to meet:

- “Demonstration of popular local support for the concept. This could be demonstrated, for example, by signatures of support from local residents.
- Formal endorsement of application for Walkers are Welcome status by local council (MSDC).
- Action to ensure that footpaths and facilities for walkers are maintained in good condition.
- Adequate marketing of Walkers are Welcome status.
- Encouragement of walking using public transport.
- Demonstration of mechanisms in place to maintain Walkers are Welcome status”.

The next meeting of the local Walkers are Welcome Alliance is on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September, 10.30am to 12.30pm at The Bristol Arms, Bristol Hill, Shotley Gate IP9 1QP.

### **Needham Lake Visitor Centre**

Cllr. Steve Phillips and I attended an update meeting of the member working group at Endeavour House on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August which included:

- Refresh of work to date.
- Presentation on current building scheme proposals.
- Update on approach to appoint an operator.
- Key risks and constraints.
- Next steps – further meetings September/October, planning application aimed to be submitted November, Visitor Centre Opening target date Summer 2020.

Cllr Norris proposed the Town Council submit its objection to the removal of the 89/89a bus service. Cllr Lea seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

Cllr Norris agreed to represent the Town Council at the next ‘Walkers are Welcome’ scheme meeting.

### **C145/19 To receive a report of the activities of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on behalf of the Town.**

There were no activities to report.

### **C146/19 To receive a report from the Needham Market Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.**

Cllr D Campbell presented a report which was tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book. The report included:

- Project Plan update
- Housing Allocation
- Work Completed
- Work in progress
- Work to be Completed
- Financial Resources

The report concluded with a recommendation:

Councillors are asked to agree to the revised allocation of 700/800 homes to be included in the draft Neighbourhood Plan as outlined in the Housing Allocations Options Appraisal.

Following lengthy debate, Cllr D Campbell proposed, in order to progress and complete a robust Neighbourhood Plan as quickly as possible a figure of 700/800 houses be included as the growth target for new development in the town. Cllr Mason seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

Cllr Phillips suggested a meeting take place between the Planning Section and the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm in the Town Council Office. Council agreed the suggestion.

### **C147/19 Clerk's Report and Correspondence to be noted.**

#### *1. Actions from Town Council Meeting 17.07.19*

**C130/19/3a** – item included on agenda.

**C131/19** – MSDC contacted regarding the state of the former NMMS site

#### *2. Issues:*

- Storm Drain Maintenance – not the responsibility of the Environment Agency

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

None

### **C148/19 SECTIONS**

#### **C148/19/1 Finance/General Purposes**

##### **C148/19/1a 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 Lea proposed adoption of the accounts for payment. Cllr Mason seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

##### **C148/19/1c To receive a report from the Section Leader**

There was no report.

#### **C148/19/2 Recreation & Sport**

##### **C148/19/2a To receive a report from the Section Leader.**

Cllr Phillips reported a Section meeting is to take place on Tuesday evening 27<sup>th</sup> August, following the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group meeting, in the Town Council Office.

#### **C148/19/3 Town Property and Services**

### **C148/19/3a To receive a report from the Section Leader**

Cllr Lea reported a planning application has to be made to relocate the flagpole, currently at the Mid Suffolk District Council Office building, to the public realm area off the High Street. The Town Council will make the application and the District Council has agreed to pay the application fee.

Cllr Lea confirmed the purchase of two flags which will carry the Town Crest have been ordered. A professional redrawing service had been engaged to ensure the crest image was suitable to be used for printing on flags and other purposes.

Cllr Lea said the suggested installation of cycle racks in the town is to be undertaken once suitable locations have been agreed.

### **C148/19/4 Newsletter and Communications**

#### **C148/19/4a To receive a report from the Section Leader**

Cllr D Campbell reported a Section meeting will be held to discuss Newsletter advertising subscription rates, which have remained frozen for several years.

Cllr D Campbell reported the new Town Council website platform is at draft stage and the next activity will be to populate its 'public information' pages.

### **C148/19/5 Planning**

Cllr Stansfield presented Notes from the Section meeting held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August, which were tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book.

#### **C148/19/5a Planning Decisions and other Notices received**

Cllr Stansfield reported the following Planning Decisions or Notices had been received:

#### **DC/19/03016 - Unit 2/2A, Plot 8, Lion Barn Industrial Estate - Change of use of unit from Dog Day Care Centre (Sui Generis) to Business/Industrial/Storage Use (Class B1/B2/B8).**

Planning Permission has been Granted.

#### **DC/19/03136 - 25 Bluebell Grove - Erection of a single-storey front porch and single-story rear extension (amended scheme to that approved under DC/19/00285).**

Planning Permission has been Granted.

#### **DC/19/03151 - 27 Quinton Road - Erection of pitched roof to existing garage/rear shower room.**

Planning Permission has been Granted.

#### **C148/19/5b Planning Applications Received**

Cllr Stansfield reported the following planning application and application for Reserved Matters had been received:

#### **DC/19/03735 - 1 Willow Walk - Erection of single storey front extension.**

The Section considered this extension to be non-controversial, it also considered the position of the house and the proposed extension and Recommends Approval.

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

Application for Reserved Matters:

#### **DC/19/03729 - Land off Luff Meadow - Submission of details for reserved matters following grant of Outline Planning Permission DC/18/02050 dated 20th March 2019 - Appearance Landscape, Scale, Layout for 28 No dwellings.**

The Planning Section agreed to refer to full Town Council to make Observations/Recommendation.

Following discussion, Cllr Stansfield proposed Council reiterate its concerns as submitted in respect of the outline planning application, with reference to: the density of dwellings proposed, inadequate car parking proposed which will impact detrimentally on neighbouring residents and road safety, the lack of clarity regarding the area of land within the site boundary but not included in the proposed redevelopment area, the loss of amenity and privacy currently enjoyed by existing residents whose properties front onto Stowmarket Road. Cllr Mason seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

### **C148/19/5c Planning Report**

Cllr Stansfield reported the Planning Section had been requested to make comments on the Draft Local Plan which is being consulted on by Mid Suffolk District Council. The Section's comments are:

The Planning Section has been invited to comment on the proposed 'New' Local Plan which it has done with concern. It immediately observed an evaluation cannot be made without considering a reflection of the last 5 years of Developments.

The combination of a redundant aged 'Local Plan' (1998) and the, until very recently, lack of a 'Five-Year Building Land Supply' by MSDC has already added to the immediate and uncoordinated development of Housing in and around Needham Market which add nothing to the stressed infrastructure (E.g. Education, Health Care) of the Town and the size of the existing population and the reduction of its Residents amenities.

Considering the new Local Plan assesses approximately 500 homes in Needham Market which are matched by pending or granted Applications which are already identified in the suggested Local Plan, the allocation is already fulfilled

The majority of the Section are sceptical about the housing allocation designated to Needham Market in the current consultative Local Plan and would anticipate its immediate revision for a future larger assessment.

Cllr Stansfield proposed the above comments be submitted to Mid Suffolk District Council in combination with comments from the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group. Cllr Mason seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

Cllr Stansfield reported the Planning Section will next meet on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September in the Town Council Office at 7pm. Unless Section Members are informed by email of a cancellation.

### **C148/19/6 Highways, Lighting and Footpaths**

#### **C148/19/6a 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:

#### **Ipswich Road Pedestrian Crossing.**

Suffolk Highways Customer Services have been contacted by email, copying in County Cllr. Mary Evans, SCC Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport & Rural Affairs, requesting that the issues concerning this particular pedestrian crossing, which have been the subject of considerable correspondence previously, and the possibility of 'halo lights' around the beacons to increase driver's awareness of the crossing, be re-visited. I am currently awaiting a response and have this matter on follow-up.

The following items were included in my report at the last Town Council Meeting, which I was unable to attend due to a family commitment, and I understand from the Clerk are requested to be re-presented to allow additional time for further consideration:

#### **Ipswich Northern Route consultation.**

You may have seen the alternative routes being considered from the local press. It was unanimously agreed to recommend the inner route, from the A12 at Martlesham, running across north of Westerfield to join the A14 just south of Claydon. From the information provided in the

