

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 September 2019 at 7:30pm.

Present: Cllr D Campbell (In the Chair), Councillors; BE Annis, RP Darnell, JE Lea, I Mason, MG Norris, M Ost, M O'Shea, P Potter and X Stansfield.

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr C Campbell – Work Commitment
Cllr S Phillips - Incapacitated
Cllr M Spurling – Work Commitment

In Attendance: Suffolk County Councillor Kay Oakes, Mid Suffolk District Councillor Mike Norris, two members of public and the Town Clerk.

C158/19 To confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 4th September 2019.

The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held Wednesday 4th September were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

C159/19 To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest for Matters on the Agenda.

Cllr BE Annis – Accounts for Payment
Cllr MG Norris – Planning Matters
Cllr X Stansfield - Accounts for Payment (Community Centre)

C160/19 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 referred to:

- Vehicles exceeding the speed limit coming into Needham Market on the B1113 Ipswich Road – County Council Highways has confirmed installing rumble strips is not an appropriate solution. An arrangement has been made for a Highways Engineer to visit the location.
- Coddenham Road Railway Bridge – comments received from residents have been forwarded to Highways Engineers.
- High Street Pedestrian Crossing Beacons – County Councillor Oakes will match fund the Town Council in the purchase of enhancements/replacements once a suitable alternative is agreed.
- School Street – A Highways Engineer is to visit the location (combined with first point above).

Cllr Darnell suggested flashing LED lighting on the road as an effective alternative to enhance pedestrian crossing lighting.

Cllr Mason reported the road markings on Coddenham Road have still not been reinstated despite the roadworks being completed for several weeks. County Councillor Oakes agreed to follow the matter up.

Cllr Lea reported, having already raised the issue several times before, the chaotic situation at the junction at the lower end of Cedars Link, where the sequencing of traffic lights often causes long tailbacks and vehicles stranded across traffic lanes. County Councillor Oakes agreed to raise the issue with County Council Highways again.

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:

Needham Market Lake Visitors Centre

Mike attended a site visit on Thursday 12th September at the proposed location of the Needham Lake Visitors Centre. There is a further meeting of the Member Working Group on the 7th October at Endeavour House.

Household Waste Collections

There is to be a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee to discuss the review of Household Waste collections. This will take place on the 19th September at Endeavour House.

Bus Timetables

An updated copy of the Bus Timetable has been enlarged and encapsulated against the weather. We have placed these in the Bus shelters on Ipswich Road, Stowmarket Road and the High Street. Having spoken to people waiting for the bus they have expressed their appreciation.

Cllr Mason reported overgrowth on the pavement at the Jackson Way/Chainhouse Road junction. District Councillor Norris suggested they jointly visit the location to view the level of obstruction being caused and to determine who is responsible.

Cllr Annis reported the River Gipping Trust is frustrated in its efforts to try and gain information on Mid Suffolk District Council's proposals for the creation of a Visitor Centre at Needham Lake.

A member of the public raised a number of questions relating to Mid Suffolk District Council's proposal to develop the former Needham Market Middle School site. The questions focussed on the inadequate access to the site and the impact, in particular during the site construction phase, on residents whose properties are on the access route. Councillors replied that despite engaging professional support in its objections to the development of the site, Mid Suffolk District Council had granted itself Planning Permission (though yet to be formally ratified). The former site owner, Suffolk County Council, had raised minimal concerns regarding the access to the site despite its blatant unsuitability to carry additional traffic. The approach taken was contrary to the history of restraining development in the immediate area.

The other member of public present said they were creating a portfolio of evidence of the day-to-days issues that affect the access to the former Needham Market Middle School site which they will share with the Town Council in due course.

C161/19 To receive a report of the activities of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on behalf of the Town.

There were no activities to report.

C162/19 To receive a report from the Needham Market Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

Cllr D Campbell presented Notes from the Working Group meeting held on 6th September 2019 at which the Town Council's Neighbourhood Planning Consultant was present. The Notes were tabled and a copy will be appended to the Minute Book. The Notes referred to:

Group Membership It was agreed that we should take steps to include more non-council members in the Steering Group. There have already been notices in the Newsletter but these could be repeated and also notices placed on the TC noticeboards around the town. The Consultant suggested, from her experience, that the group was best kept to under ten members otherwise it tends to become too unwieldy.

Update on Housing Numbers and Response to Joint Local Plan There was general discussion about the disparity between the JLP figure of 497 and our proposed figure of 700/800 homes. The Consultant gave a clear explanation of how BMSDC would have arrived at the figures and made the point that transport connections would have been an important consideration. DC suggested that although Needham Market is in the A14 'corridor', its connection is a winding country lane with a bottle neck at the railway bridge and a narrow bridge over the river. Stowupland and Thurston, for example, have very good road connections to the A14 and would explain why their proposed housing figures are much higher than Needham's. XS suggested that we should perhaps adopt the JLP figure of 497 as it would be readily accepted by (a) the majority of residents and (b) BMSDC, thereby speeding up delivery of our NP. This was agreed unanimously. BA commented that access to the A14 is not just necessary for housing development but also the continuing expansion of Lion Barn Industrial Estate. It was agreed that the concept of a new link road, first proposed in the 1970s,

should be pursued. An agenda item should be added to the next TC meeting to discuss our response to the JLP. JL to investigate how TC's recommendation of 700/800 houses agreed at meeting of 21st August can be reversed.

AECOM Feasibility Study It was agreed working to a figure of 1400 homes should be completed as suggested with AECOM about this.

Barking Parish It was agreed that a consultation event with Barking Parish is not required at this point but we should maintain a good level of communication. DC to let Rosamund Fellowes (chair of Barking PC) know our latest intentions.

Review of 2015 NP All policy statements to be reviewed and rewritten as necessary before next meeting. The following allocations were made, voluntarily (or by coercion): Vision and Objectives: AL NM 1: AL NM 2: PP NM 3 & 4: BA (although AL will check to see if NM4 is still relevant) NM 5 & 6: CC NM 7: DC NM 8: No longer relevant NM 9 & 10: PP will d/w Richard Thurlow who has shown an interest in this area and suggest he may like to review this New statements to be added: Health and Wellbeing: DC General Statement around education: PP Heritage: AL will put something together and send to JL for further perusal

Project Plan and Funding The Consultant agreed to rationalise the current plan to make it more 'user friendly'. Nigel Andrew's invaluable contribution to the project was recognised. PP suggested, and agreed by all present, that the Clerk, as Responsible Officer, should be completing and submitting the Locality Funding bid started by NA.

AOB and date of next meeting The Steering Group Members are now: BA JL XS M O'S RD CC DC PP and SP

Next meeting Friday 4th October 10:00 in the Community Centre, at which policies will be reviewed followed by a 'walkabout' with the Consultant.

Cllr Annis said the Working Group should forthwith focus on the policies that will form a major element of the Needham Market Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Annis proposed adoption of the Working Group meeting Notes. Cllr Lea seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C163/19 To discuss the Town Council's response to the Joint Local Plan Consultation

Cllr D Campbell suggested, following from the outcomes of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group meeting, the response be based on the sharing by the Town Council of the 497 future housing growth figure included in the Draft Joint Local Plan and that this will form the basis for Neighbourhood Plan Policy inclusive of reference for the need for a new traffic link from Needham Market to the A14 before additional growth could be feasible. Also, there is a need for a Housing Needs Survey to be undertaken for the town.

Cllr Potter proposed Mid Suffolk District Council be asked to articulate clearly the rationale supporting the inclusion of the 497 housing growth figure for Needham Market in the Draft Joint Local Plan. Cllr Darnell seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C164/19 Clerk's Report and Correspondence to be noted.

1. Actions from Town Council Meeting 21.08.19 and 04.09.19

- **C144/19** – Withdrawal of 89/89a bus route – Letter sent to First Group Buses 9/9/19 (see letter and reply in Correspondence Folder)
- **C148/19/6a** – Ipswich Northern Route Survey completed 9/9/19

2. Issues:

- Needham Market Civic Service Sunday 13th October 2019 – St John the Baptist Parish Church at 3pm. Pre-Service Procession from Needham Market Community Centre to Church leaving at 2:50pm. Procession back to the Community Centre at the conclusion of the Service for refreshments

- Match Funding Request for Needham Market Railway Station Access for All Bid – Further correspondence received
- Middle School Playing Field – Town Council's interest in its future
- Town Council Casual Vacancy (2nd) – Call for election period ends 26th September
- Road Signage – Concerns received from a resident regarding traffic in School Street

3. *Correspondence to be noted:*

None

C165/19 SECTIONS

C165/19/1 Finance/General Purposes

C165/19/1a 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.

C165/19/1b To receive a report from the Section Leader

There was no report.

C165/19/2 Recreation & Sport

C165/19/2a To receive a report from the Section Leader.

The Clerk reported a letter had been received from a business interested in using the car park at Crowley Park for vehicle driving instruction. Cllr D Campbell proposed the letter be considered at the next Recreation & Sport Section meeting. Cllr Darnell seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C165/19/3 Town Property and Services

C165/19/3a To receive a report from the Section Leader

Cllr Lea reported a Section meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th October at 10am in the Town Council Office.

Cllr Mason suggested the Section meeting should consider the current issues affecting the High Street i.e. locating of commercial waste bins, signage and the clear evidence of car owners overstaying the 2-hour parking limit on the High Street car park.

C165/19/4 Newsletter and Communications

C165/19/4a To receive a report from the Section Leader

Cllr D Campbell presented Notes from the Section meeting held on 9th September, which were tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book. The Notes included:

Review of Advertising Rates

The present rates have been in place since 2015. The Assistant Clerk had provided a list of current rates and suggested that a price rise of between £5-10 would be appropriate. There was discussion about balancing any rise against losing advertisers but it was felt that we should be confident that the present tariffs represent excellent value for money. The following rate increases were agreed: RATES: 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 suggested rates for 2020/21 in **bold**

All Full colour: Annual/Monthly: Small: (4.25 X 4.25cm) £65.00 **70/£** 25.00 **30** Medium: (9 x 4.5cm) £108.00 **120/£**35.00 **40** Large: (9 x 9cm) £160.00 **175/£** 45.00 **50** Back Page (All Medium) £120.00 **130/n/a**

Setting-Up Charge (New Advert): £15.00

Alterations: (depending upon scale) £ 8 - £15

* Above rates are subject to VAT & based upon 11 Newsletter Editions (no January Edition)

* Monthly Adverts do not incur an extra setting-up charge.

ANNUAL WEBSITE ADVERTISING RATES

Current Newsletter Advertiser £ 12.00 + VAT **13** (Providing Ad remains same on Website as in Newsletter) Non-Newsletter Advertiser £35.00 + VAT **38**

LEAFLET INSERTION RATES:

Charities: £ 20.00 + VAT per 2,550 leaflets inserted **25**

Businesses: £ 75.00 + VAT per 2,550 leaflets inserted **85** Leaflets to be no larger than A4 size.

Protocol for inclusion of notices in Newsletter

There has been a problem with some organisations requesting the same notice be included for up to five consecutive months. This puts pressure on space for other contributors. It was unanimously agreed that no more than two consecutive months should be offered.

Articles Appearing in Other Journals

Certain contributions to the Newsletter regularly appear in other free publications such as the 'Flyer' or 'In Touch'. Given the pressure on space in 'The Needham', with more people and organisations wishing to submit articles, it was agreed that the Editor should use his discretion to limit such contributions and to allow a wider range of local interest articles.

Church News

It was felt that the current format could be rationalised and that a regular 'Thought for the Month' be instigated, with contributions in rotation from the major denominational leaders. This would free up more space for the Community Centre events, which are currently very 'squashed'.

Cllr Lea proposed adoption of the Notes. Cllr Potter seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C165/19/5 Planning

Cllr Stansfield presented Notes from the Planning Section meeting held on 16th September which were tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book.

C165/19/5a Planning Decisions and other Notices received

Cllr Stansfield reported no Planning Decisions or Notices had been received.

C165/19/5b Planning Applications Received

Cllr Stansfield reported the following planning application had been received:

DC/19/02363 - Land, Hill House Lane - Submission of Details for Outline Planning Application 3679/13 and appeal reference APP/W3520/W/15/300479 - Access, Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale for a residential development of 38 dwellings.

Cllr Stansfield reminded Town Council of the notes made at the Planning Section Meeting held on the 03/06/19 and already submitted:

Mindful of the protracted Planning Inspectorate Hearing the Section considered its findings, conclusions and Appeal Decisions Annex 1 - Conditions (Pages 25 to 29, Statements 1 to 21). The Section therefore recommends conditional approval with regards to those conditions being followed by both the current Developer and the Local Planning Authority (although note was made of Conditions 2). The Section also brings to the attention of the Local Planning Authority Statement 72 (page16) Planning Balance/Conditions concerning the number of dwellings.

At the current Planning Section Meeting (16/09/19) the new layout for the site was generally thought to be preferable to the original, although some concern was voiced about the 'clustering' of the Affordable Housing rather than them being integrated with the other housing throughout the development. The current Development follows the 'Unilateral Undertaking' agreed by the Appellant (Developer), MSDC and SCC on 20 April 2016. Although the Section wonders if wording of the Inspectorates findings (Page 4, section 14) which relates to a £15,000 'financial contribution' by the developer to Suffolk County Council for a 'Bus Stop' is relevant as no Bus Service runs in the locality anymore.

The Section therefore recommends Conditional Approval again.

Cllr Stansfield proposed Council support approval (conditional) of the application. Cllr Ost seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C165/19/5c Planning Report

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

C165/19/6 Highways, Lighting and Footpaths

C165/19/6a To receive a report from the Section Leader

Cllr Norris presented the following report which was tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book.

First Eastern Counties Ipswich to Stowmarket bus route changes.

A reply has been received from First Eastern Counties to my letter sent on behalf of Cllr. Steve Phillips and myself concerning the changes to the Ipswich to Stowmarket service, operating only along the main road with no diversions around the residential areas.

It is quite a lengthy letter, but essentially it is saying that it is a commercial decision based on declining numbers of people using the buses in residential areas and by diverting off the main road in several places, where very small numbers of passengers were boarding, they were discouraging passengers who wanted a fast journey time between Ipswich and Stowmarket. They also mentioned that this route is not subsidised by Suffolk County Council and that their services between Ipswich and Stowmarket are provided on a commercial basis and they therefore have to ensure that they are economically sustainable.

County Cllr. Mary Evans, SCC Cabinet Member for Roads, Transport & Rural Affairs, has said she will be meeting with First Eastern Counties, but as we know services were cut on 1st September.

A proposed increase in government funding may make a difference to sponsored services but just how much it may be is far from certain.

Reported Dog Fouling at the top of The Causeway.

The Town Council has received several reports of dog fouling at the top of the Causeway up to Bosmere Primary School entrance in Quinton Road. The circumstances are unusual in that there seems to be a pattern of this issue re-occurring when the school re-opens following school holidays. There has also been a report of a dead rat in the vicinity, which from a photo enclosed with one of the reports, possibly looks 'posed'. Our local PCSO's have seen the photo and were of the mind that something didn't look quite right.

Neither Kevin, our Clerk, who uses the pathway regularly, nor Bill Chilvers, who has visited the area twice a day for the last few days, have seen any evidence of what is being reported. Bill Chilvers has also mentioned that he could not find any evidence of rat droppings or runs around the area.

It has been suggested that perhaps the school should be engaged regarding the problem, with possibly some temporary CCTV being put in place.

I would therefore be grateful for Council's permission to proceed along these lines and to make enquiries of the cost of hiring temporary CCTV equipment.

Proposed 'Walkers Are Welcome' scheme for Needham Market.

As was mentioned in the District Councillors' Report to Town Council on 21st August, this is a project that is being promoted by MSDC which essentially aims to encourage visitors to towns and villages across Mid Suffolk thereby benefiting the local economy, and also has health benefits.

I attended the periodic Walkers Are Welcome Alliance meeting this morning at The Bristol Arms, Shotley, on behalf of the Town Council in order to gain more information on the scheme. It is currently being operated in some areas not by the town/parish council but by a community group with a leader/champion, with the support of the town/parish council. There is a modest subscription to the scheme of around £40 - £50 based on population numbers.

If Council is agreeable I would suggest that an item is included in the next available issue of the Newsletter to gauge the level of interest in being part of such a scheme.

Councillors suggested Bosmere Primary School be contacted regarding the dog fouling problem.

Cllr Stansfield proposed adoption of the report. Cllr O'Shea seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C166/19 Questions under Standing Order 40.

There were no questions.

The Meeting closed at 9:02pm.

Chairman Date