

## **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 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7:30pm.

**Present:** Cllr S Phillips (In the Chair), Councillors: M O'Shea, M Ost, J Reardon, M Spurling and P Wright.

### **Apologies for Absence:**

Cllr BE Annis – Pantomime Rehearsal  
Cllr JE Lea – Pantomime Rehearsal  
Cllr I Mason – Holiday  
Cllr MG Norris – Family Commitment  
Cllr X Stansfield – Home Installations

Suffolk County Councillor Kay Oakes

### **Absent:**

Cllr RP Darnell

**In Attendance:** Mid Suffolk District Councillors Mike Norris and Steve Phillips and the Town Clerk.

### **C021/20 To confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020.**

The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020, subject to minor non-material amendment, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Cllr Phillips welcomed Cllr Paul Wright to the meeting following his co-option at Council's 5<sup>th</sup> February meeting. Cllr Wright read out his Declaration of Acceptance of Office, which he duly signed. The Clerk, as Proper Officer, countersigned the Declaration.

### **C022/20 To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest for Matters on the Agenda.**

There were none.

### **C023/20 To receive reports from the County Councillor, District Councillors and to take questions from members of the public**

There was no County Councillor report.

District Councillor Steve Phillips presented the following District Councillors' report which was tabled, and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book:

#### **Ipswich Northern Bypass Task Group to assess alternatives for Ipswich town traffic congestion.**

A task force is to be formed to examine how to improve traffic congestion in Ipswich as the County Council prepares to formally mothball plans for a northern bypass because of the strong opposition against it and the seven figure sum needed to move on to the next stage. Instead, the council's Conservative Cabinet will be asked to form a task force which will look at ways of improving capacity at key junctions, and encourage other ways of travel such as walking, cycling and public transport. The council will also continue to lobby central government for A14 investment and a solution to the Orwell Bridge closures.

#### **Coronavirus precautions.**

MSDC has received a small number of queries about their approach to the Coronavirus. The risk to individuals remains low, but should you have any queries you can find the latest advice and information here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>. MSDC will continue to work closely with Public Health England, the Department of Health & Social Care and other partners.

#### **MSDC environment briefings for staff.**

In 2019 both Mid Suffolk and Babergh declared a Climate Emergency and the intention of the briefings was to raise awareness and encourage behavioural change, with growing concern about the impact we are having on the health and stability of our environment and the urgency at which we need to make changes to reduce the impacts. The briefings were held in conjunction with Groundwork Suffolk, who work closely with MSDC through the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership.

### **Vital link for communities in Mid Suffolk and Babergh districts.**

The LifeLink social prescribing initiative, which gives people more confidence, improves wellbeing and reduces loneliness, increasing a sense of community, is now being rolled out in Mid Suffolk and Babergh districts in Woolpit and Sudbury. The scheme is funded by West Suffolk Council, Primary Care Networks, and the NHS West Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group.

### **Needham Lake Visitor Centre.**

The next Member Working Group Meeting will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at Endeavour House, Ipswich, and will consider such items as:

- Scheme progress update – high level project plan and clean water permit update.
- Tender update – results of construction contractor interviews.
- Tenant negotiations regarding the operator lease.
- Cabinet paper.
- Risk Register.

### **C024/20 To receive a report of the activities of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on behalf of the Town.**

None to report.

### **C025/20 To receive a report from the Needham Market Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.**

There was no report.

### **C026/20 To consider co-option to the Casual Vacancies on the Town Council.**

There were no expressions of interest to consider.

### **C027/20 Clerk's Report and Correspondence to be noted.**

#### *1. Actions from Town Council Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020*

None

#### *2. Issues:*

- Institute Trustees – update

Councillors discussed what is known regarding the recent distribution of funds made by the Institute Trustees. The Clerk was requested to make any relevant enquiries and include an appropriate item on the agenda for Council's next meeting (4<sup>th</sup> March).

- s.106 Needham Market Scouts – update

Cllr Phillips agreed to make contact with the District Scout Leadership to enquire what is happening regarding the proposed replacement Scout Hut project.

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

- Email 14<sup>th</sup> February from Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association thanking Council for its donation of £50.

## **C028/20 SECTIONS**

### **C028/20/1 Finance/General Purposes**

#### **C028/20/1a Accounts for Payment and Confirmation.**

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

Cllr Phillips proposed adoption of the accounts. Cllr Spurling seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

#### **C028/20/1b To receive a report from the Section Leader**

There was no report.

### **C028/20/2 Recreation & Sport**

#### **C028/20/2a To receive a report from the Section Leader.**

Cllr Phillips reported; he continues to pursue s.106 funding for construction of a permanent replacement fence along the Crowley Park boundary with Barretts Lane and, the approach to be taken to repair the large pothole on Crowley Park car park is being finalised.

### **C028/20/3 Town Property and Services**

#### **C028/20/3a To receive a report from the Section Leader**

There was no report.

### **C028/20/4 Newsletter and Communications**

#### **C028/20/4a To receive a report from the Section Leader**

Cllr Phillips reported Cllr Reardon has met with the Clerk and Deputy Clerk to discuss Council's website and social media presence and recommendations on the way forward will be forthcoming.

### **C028/20/5 Planning**

Cllr O'Shea reported the Section Meeting scheduled to take place on 17<sup>th</sup> February had been cancelled due to lack of relevant business.

#### **C028/20/5a Planning Decisions and other Notices received**

Cllr O'Shea reported the following Planning Decisions or Notices had been received.

#### **Discharge of Conditions.**

**Planning Ref No.DC/20/00314.** Proposal and Location. Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/19/05403 - Condition 3 (Appropriate sectional drawings). See paperwork on public display or on the Mid Suffolk District Council planning website for detail. 1 Ancient House, King William Street, Needham Market.

#### **General Permitted Development.**

**Planning Ref No.DC/20/00080.** Proposal and Location. Notification for Prior Approval for a Proposed Larger Home Extension - Erection of a single-story rear extension. 5 Orchard Way, Needham Market.

Mid Suffolk District Council has stated - 'following notification of the proposal to neighbours, no letters of objection have been submitted and accordingly no objection is raised'. See paperwork on public display or on the Mid Suffolk District Council planning website for detail for clarification.

#### **C028/20/5b Planning Applications Received**

Cllr O'Shea reported the following Planning Applications had been received:

**Planning Ref No. DC/20/00511.** Proposal and Location. Householder Planning Application - Erection of a single-story side extension and single-story rear extension. 92 Anderson Close Needham Market.

Councillors' observation. Please note the proximity of the neighbouring property.

Councillors considered the proposed extensions amount to overdevelopment of the site plus they would result in loss of car parking space on the site.

Cllr O'Shea proposed Council object to the planning application. Cllr Spurling seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

**Planning Ref No.DC/20/00509.** Proposal and Location. Erection of garden fence. 2 Chain House Road, Needham Market.

Councillors' observation. Please refer to the documentation on public display, a similar application was refused by MSDC in 2005 (planning ref 1450/05). An immediate neighbour who is still in occupation of the same property raises the same objections currently as previously stated in 2005.

Cllr O'Shea proposed Council object to the application. Cllr Ost seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

**Planning Ref No.DC/19/05145.** Proposal and Location. Full Planning Permission - Change of Use of land as touring caravan park; Erection of wardens accommodation, toilet sewage treatment plant (as amended by site plans received 7th February 2020). Land West Of Badley Hill, Badley, Needham Market.

Councillors' observations. The application has been amended by size/land. Although originally recommended for approval by the Town Council, the amended application gives an opportunity to consider it again taking account of the number of residential objections, besides Town Council support for local businesses. It is recommended the Town Council consider a neutral view and follow expert advice of Officers within the Local Planning Authority who will make recommendations beside the common sense and local knowledge usually employed by the Town Council.

Cllr O'Shea proposed Council adopt a neutral position towards the planning application. Cllr Ost seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

**Planning Ref No.DC/20/00289.** Proposal and Location. Erection of a petrol filling station (PFS), associated store and 2No drive thru's and creation of new vehicular access. Land at Norwich Road Coddenham Suffolk.

Councillors' observations. Is there a possibility of a commercial impact on businesses trading in the High Street of Needham Market?

Cllr O'Shea proposed Council support approval of the application. Cllr Ost seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

### **C028/20/5c Planning Report**

Cllr Stansfield reported the Planning Section will next meet on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 in the Town Council Office at 7pm. Unless Section Members are informed by email of a cancellation.

### **C028/20/6 Highways, Lighting and Footpaths**

#### **C028/20/6a To receive a report from the Section Leader**

Cllr Norris had provided the following report, which was tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book:

#### **Badley Bridge railings.**

The position regarding the current state of the railings was discussed at some length.

The figure of £16,000 - £20,000 currently quoted by SCC Highways Structures Team to replace the railings is higher than the previous estimate, which they are now saying did not include temporary traffic management, welfare, supervision and project management costs.

County Cllr. Kay Oakes has advised that there are presently more than sufficient funds in her Locality Highways Budget to cover the latest quote, as the Budget has been allowed to roll over for the last two financial years. However, apparently this will not be the case at the end of the current financial year, when any unspent Budget will be forfeited.

In the circumstances, the likelihood of this opportunity arising again was thought to be very unlikely and the recommendation of the Section is that the Town Council should take up Cllr. Oakes' very kind offer to fund the cost of replacing the railings, and it was suggested that they should be in a galvanised finish, which doesn't need any maintenance or repainting.

**Ipswich Road pedestrian crossing.**

As SCC Highways have previously stated that Halo Lights are not supported in their maintenance schedules and they would not be prepared to allow the Town Council to employ an outside maintenance contractor as you cannot have shared responsibilities for insurance liability purposes, pedestrian crossings being a SCC Highways responsibility, other options were considered. The Section's recommendation was that the brightness of the beacons and the overhead lighting should be increased, and the surface markings of the crossing should be refreshed, also that the surface markings of the other High Street crossings should be refreshed.

**Suggested Lorrywatch Scheme.**

Following discussion, the Section's recommendation is not to enter into the scheme, as it was considered that there would be a considerable resource of trained volunteers needed to implement it effectively, and it was not perceived that there was an issue of HGV's contravening the weight limit regularly. This of course could be revisited later should circumstances change.

**Potential pedestrian risk, Chalk Quarry development.**

Concern was expressed that future residents of properties fronting onto Ipswich Road on the righthand side, adjacent to the new traffic lights, could be at risk where properties have steps down from their front doors to a fairly narrow pavement of around 1 metre width. It was suggested that safety barriers should be installed, similar to those in front of the entrance to Cedar Walk on Stowmarket Road, and that the developers should bear the cost. This has been referred to County Cllr. Kay Oakes, with a request that she asks SCC Highways to appraise the situation.

Cllr Phillips referred Council to its recent discussion on use of the High Street car park, the recommended stay period for which is not enforceable and, parking generally along the High Street, where parking beyond the maximum stay period is subject to enforcement. In view of the forthcoming transfer of responsibility for parking enforcement from the Police to local authorities, Cllr Phillips recommended Council take a broader view on its approach to car parking in the town centre and that he was willing to look at what options are available and report to Council accordingly. Councillors agreed receiving more information on the subject would assist its consideration.

**C029/20 Questions under Standing Order 40.**

There were no questions.

**The Meeting closed at 8:30 pm.**

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