

NEEDHAM MARKET TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the NEEDHAM MARKET TOWN COUNCIL held in Needham Market Community Centre on Wednesday 17th November 2021 at 7:30pm.

Present: Cllr J Lea (In the Chair), Councillors: BE Annis, G Cave, I Mason, M O'Shea, J Reardon, X Stansfield and P Wright.

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr R Darnell – Unwell
Cllr MG Norris - Unwell
Cllr M Ost - Recuperating
Cllr S Phillips – Work Commitment

In Attendance: Suffolk County Councillor Kay Oakes, six members of public and the Town Clerk.

C094/21 To receive a Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Graham Cave, who had been co-opted to the Council at its 15th September meeting, read out his Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Cllr Cave signed the Declaration which was countersigned by the Town Clerk, as Proper Officer of the Council.

C095/21 To confirm the Minutes of the Annual Town Council Meeting held 15th September 2021.

The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held Wednesday 15th September 2021 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

C096/21 To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest for Matters on the Agenda.

None.

C097/21 To receive reports from the County Councillor, District Councillors and, to take questions from members of the public.

Suffolk County Councillor Kay Oakes presented her report, which was circulated to Councillors, and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book. The report headlines were:

- Cabinet to study £50 million plan to boost Suffolk bus services
- New discoveries of Suffolk's Anglo-Saxon past unearthed in the Deben Valley
- MPs from Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex and County Councillors, unite to protect the countryside and communities from the worst impacts of new pylons and cables
- Suffolk businesses work hard to ensure we achieve net zero carbon by 2030.
- Suffolk continues to create the greenest county with £150,000 for new trees
- Lorry Route Plan review in Suffolk

County Councillor Oakes added she is very pleased to see the main edge of town signs reinstated after several years of absence and looking splendid. Cllr Lea thanked all those who made the sign refurbishment and reinstatement possible.

County Councillor Oakes reported ongoing problems with car parking in Quinton Road coinciding with the start and finish of primary school-day hours. Cllr Mason referred to the signage installed close to the school entrance that restricts parking at relevant times of the day. A member of the public commented on the extent of the parking issues. County Councillor Oakes said she would speak to the Parking Enforcement Service.

A District Councillors' report had been received and circulated to Councillors, a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book:

An update on Covid-19 in Suffolk: Suffolk's public health bosses have asked the Government for extra help to fight Covid amid increasing pressure on our county's hospitals and some of the highest

rates of infection in the country. The request for Suffolk to become an 'enhanced response area' (ERA) for up to five weeks is being submitted by Public Health Suffolk on behalf of public sector partners - and is intended to secure additional support, funding and resources to help the NHS avoid unsustainable pressure.

To help respond to queries regarding vaccinations, including boosters and jabs for 12 to 15-year-olds, our NHS partners have created a new look homepage for their vaccination website including information about all the clinics they offer, together with FAQs and eligibility criteria. Regular bulletins continue to be produced to give a snapshot of the current Covid-19 situation in Suffolk - along with updates on the work being carried out as part of Suffolk's Local Outbreak Control Plan. You can find the bulletins via the Suffolk County Council website.

Work to continue on blueprint for districts' future development: The public examination of Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils' Joint Local Plan – the strategic blueprint for future development of the districts - has been paused by the Planning Inspector to allow the councils further time to review its evidence.

First Local Energy Showcase hailed a success: With more attention than ever turning to sustainability and reducing the environmental impact of energy consumption, Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils hosted business owners and community groups at their first Local Energy Showcase, held over two days, 21st and 22nd October at Wherstead Park near Ipswich.

Tree for Life scheme welcomes applications from new parents: Mid Suffolk and Babergh's popular Tree for Life scheme, which offers a free tree for new parents, is now open for 2021 applications. The scheme, which benefits families, communities and the environment by boosting tree coverage across our districts, is open to all families in the districts who have or are welcoming a new arrival between 1 January and 31 December 2021. Parents who may have lost a child during the same period are also able to apply for a remembrance tree. Please see the Councils' websites for more details.

New iPad lending scheme to help residents get online: Suffolk Libraries and Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils are joining forces to help residents get online with a new iPad lending scheme – supporting those who need a little extra help to access services in an increasingly digital world. Further details are on the Councils' websites.

Mid Suffolk calls for Secretary of State to enter into the 'Snoasis' debate: Mid Suffolk District Council is calling on the Government to determine the fate of a proposed £500m tourist resort, now known as Valley Ridge, by ruling on the future of a neighbouring Viridor landfill site at Great Blakenham.

Members of public raised questions regarding the Crowley Park Skate Park Project and confirmed a meeting is set to take place regarding the installation of the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) on Tuesday 23rd November, at Crowley Park. The Clerk said he would attend the meeting.

C098/21 To receive a report of the activities of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on behalf of the Town.

The Mayor reported attending:

Sunday 17 th September	Celebration of the Centenary of the Royal British Legion at the Cathedral in BSE
Friday 24 th September	Spent time with the young people at the Mix event at Crowley Park
Sunday 26 th September	Stowmarket Civic Service
Sunday 24 th October	Beccles Civic Service
Thursday 11 th November	Laid the Town Council wreath at the Barretts Lane Far East Memorial at 11am
Sunday 14 th November	Attended the Remembrance Service in the Parish Church and laid the Town Council wreath at the War Memorial at the Burial Ground

The Deputy Mayor had nothing to report

C099/21 To receive a report from the Needham Market Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

The Clerk reported the Neighbourhood Plan document has been updated and will shortly be submitted to Mid Suffolk District Council, for the purpose of the holding of a public referendum.

The Clerk referred Councillors to the meeting held to understand and review the impact of Mid Suffolk District Council's Plan failing to pass the Independent Examination stage. The Examiner was deeply concerned at the approach the District Council has taken in setting housing growth figures. The Examiner has 'paused' the progress of the Local Plan for an estimated 8-9 months for the District Council to review and rework its figures. The Examiner heard many challenges in the course of his consultations with housing developers, which included that from Jaynic Development Ltd, who are proposing a 600 new home development off Barretts Lane. The Clerk recommended Council pursue the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan but in the knowledge the housing growth figure for Needham Market, obtained from Mid Suffolk District Council, may increase. The Clerk said he would include an information note on the issue in the forthcoming December/January edition of the Needham Market Newsletter.

C100/21 To consider adoption of a General Privacy Notice and Subject Access Requests Policy.

The Clerk referred Councillors to the Notice and Policy documents which had been provided for comment and confirmed no issues had been raised in their respect.

Cllr Reardon proposed Council adopt the Notice and Policy documents. Cllr Wright seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C101/21 To consider arrangements and funding for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022.

Cllr Lea referred to the Events Group formed to consider celebrations to be held over the period 2nd to 5th June next year. The Group will try and obtain grants towards expenditure but would be grateful if Town Council funds could be made available, if necessary.

Cllr Mason proposed Council support funding for the Jubilee events, in principle at this stage, in the sum of £8,000. Cllr Wright seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

C102/21 To consider a response to the Suffolk County Council recommended Suffolk Lorry Routes Consultation Survey.

The Clerk advised Councillors the survey is seeking the 3 highest priorities the Town Council has regarding Lorry routes and the impact of HGVs.

Following discussion, Councillors agreed the following priorities; the speed of HGVs, Non-observance of HGV weight limits, HGVs not using the official diversion routes when the A14 is affected by closures.

C103/21 Clerk's Report and Correspondence to be noted.

The Clerk gave a verbal report as follows:

- A letter of support for the continuation of Government funding for The Mix, Stowmarket, had been sent.
- A complaint had been received regarding the War Memorial, Burial Ground, Barretts Lane. Councillors agreed the response suggested by the Clerk.
- A complaint had been received regarding the works Council is undertaking on the rear boundary of the Jubilee Crescent housing development. Councillors agreed the response suggested by the Clerk.
- Suffolk County Council has agreed to keep the streetlights in the town on all-night lighting Christmas Eve and day plus New Years' Eve and day.
- The Town Council News item for the December/January edition of the Needham Market Newsletter is to include information on the Council's Annual Budget 2022/23, the latest delay

