

## **NEEDHAM MARKET TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of the meeting of the NEEDHAM MARKET TOWN COUNCIL held in Needham Market Community Centre on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021 at 7:30pm.

**Present:** Cllr J Lea (In the Chair), Councillors: BE Annis, J Kett, I Mason, MG Norris, M O'Shea, M Ost, L Rix, X Stansfield and P Wright.

### **Apologies for Absence:**

Cllr R Darnell  
Cllr S Phillips – Work Commitment  
Cllr J Reardon – Work Commitment

**In Attendance:** Suffolk County Councillor Kay Oakes, Mid Suffolk District Councillor Mike Norris, 23 members of public and the Town Clerk.

### **C075/21 To confirm the Minutes of the Annual Town Council Meeting held 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021.**

The Minutes of the Annual Town Council Meeting held Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

### **C076/21 To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest for Matters on the Agenda.**

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

### **C077/21 To receive a presentation from Jaynic Properties Limited relating to a proposal to develop land off Barretts Lane, reports from the County Councillor, District Councillors and to take questions from members of the public.**

Representatives of Jaynic, a property development company, that has recently purchased 27.6 hectares of land off Barretts Lane.(50/50 with East Anglian Children's Hospice) delivered their presentation. Jaynic views the site as being suitable for development and well placed to provide sustainable growth to the town. Jaynic is challenging the Draft Joint Babergh/Mid Suffolk District Councils' Local Plan approach to spatial distribution of housing and the Local Plan's housing growth figure for Needham Market. They wish to see the land off Barretts Lane designated, as a Reserve Site for the purposes of the Joint BMSDC Local Plan or, considered as part of any future review of the Local Plan.

Reference was made to the Masterplan the Town Council engaged Planning Consultants AECOM to produce several years ago, when the prospect of large-scale housing growth was being suggested as part of the District Council's approach to housing distribution.

Jaynic is suggested their land off Barretts Lane could deliver a 'first-phase' of sustainable growth for the town. Up to 600 new homes, a primary school, community facilities and footway/cycleway links. In their presentation they posed the question 'what's needed' as far as additional community infrastructure is concerned, not to be answered at this very early stage but, if their development intentions are taken forward, that question would be included in their community consultation.

A number of maps were incorporated in the presentation that showed the extent of the relevant land off Barretts Lane, the relationship of the land with regard to sustainability (e.g. distance to public transport routes and a range of other community facilities) plus, their thoughts on improving the Barretts Lane access road. The latter included a traffic prioritisation scheme at the narrowest point of Barretts Lane (a priority over oncoming vehicles arrangement).

Councillors and members of the public present had the opportunity to question the Jaynic representatives and queries were raised relating to potential timescales, Affordable/Social housing allocation, the presence of part of the site being within the boundary of Barking Parish Council, current traffic flow along Barretts Lane and commitment to new community infrastructure. Jaynic concluded by pledging to maintain a dialogue with the Town Council and the local community in line with when and however their proposal may move forward.

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

- Independent review of aspects of Suffolk's SEND services to be carried out by experts from Lincolnshire
- Suffolk County Council launches the new Cassius service
- Suffolk County Council launches public consultation on potential housing development in Bramford
- Just one jab is half a job – keep testing and get second vaccination
- Suffolk County Council launches Ipswich's first Park & Cycle initiative

County Councillor Oakes added the County Highways engineers are to schedule the reinstatement of the Needham Market edge of town signage into their works programme and, the reports of vehicles speeding on Barking Road have been discussed with the County's Safety Team and this should lead to the presence of mobile vehicle speed monitoring equipment in an appropriate location.

Cllr Mason asked whether the County Council will be cutting back overgrowth on roundabout verges. County Councillor Oakes said the County Council's policy in general, is to allow grass and weeds to grow on verges which have previously been maintained, for biodiversity benefits, but agreed to take the matter up within the County Highway's office where there are situations that obviously cause a danger to road users.

District Councillor Mike Norris referred to the following District Councillors' report which had been circulated to Councillors, and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book:

#### **Mid Suffolk and Babergh submit Joint Local Plan for examination.**

Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils have submitted their Joint Local Plan for independent examination by the Secretary of State. The final version of the plan was debated by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils last year before councillors moved to submit the plan for examination by the Secretary of State, after a six-week period inviting representations on the legal compliance and soundness of the plan. These representations have now been published and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for consideration during the examination. Hearing sessions for the examination are expected to resume again in September following a change of date – enabling them to be fully inclusive, whilst also ensuring public safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is anticipated that the Stage 1 sessions, originally scheduled for June and July, will now take place over a concentrated period from September, with Stage 2 hearing sessions in mid-Autumn as originally planned.

#### **Mid Suffolk communities receive close to £1 million in grants.**

Mid Suffolk District Council awarded community grants totalling £996,855 in the 2020/21 financial year – supporting the district's Covid response and enabling improvements to local community venues and sports and leisure facilities. During the year, council officers have worked with clubs and organisations in the district to identify need and ensure that vital grant funding has made a real difference to Mid Suffolk's communities.

The council has also acknowledged the key role of community groups, along with town and parish councils, in easing the challenges faced by residents during coronavirus, and a new dedicated Covid-19 Emerging Needs Grant opened last May to help the district through the peak of the pandemic. More than 60 organisations benefitted from funding, including good neighbour schemes, foodbanks and community outreach projects.

#### **An update on Covid-19 in Suffolk.**

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](#). An update on the vaccine rollout can be found on the [SNEE NHS COVID-19 Vaccination Service website](#).

**Next steps for councils' biodiversity and climate change plans agreed.**

Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils have given the go ahead for £97k for projects aimed at boosting biodiversity and tackling climate change across their districts.

**Councils to provide financial lifeline for local projects.**

Applications are now open for Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils' Locality Awards funding – enabling communities to improve facilities, learn new skills and work towards becoming environmentally sustainable.

**Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre £2.2m refurbishment means healthy future for Mid Suffolk.**

Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre opened its doors last month on its new £2.2m upgrade and extension, supporting residents' health and wellbeing with upgraded gym, poolside features and changing rooms.

Cllr Kett referred to the overgrown state of the hedges on the boundary of the former Mid Suffolk District Council Offices site which endanger people using the adjacent public footways. Cllr Norris replied, the problem has been reported to the District Council and he would follow that up with the apposite Officers.

Members of public present raised questions regarding the condition of Crowley Park playing field and its boundary hedge, facilities within Crowley Park pavilion and the continued closure of the new public toilet facilities off Barretts Lane. The ongoing proposal to provide a skate park and other new recreational facilities on Crowley Park was also raised.

**C078/21 To receive a report of the activities of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on behalf of the Town.**

The Mayor reported:

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July – presented a prize to the winner of the Suffolk Day Needham Market shop window competition.

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July – attended The Mix Detached Project Event held on Crowley Park

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July – attended a preview event of the new Interactive Science Centre held at Unit 14 Hill View Business Park, Claydon. The Centre is due to be open fully in the autumn and is being run by The Kinetic Science Foundation.

The Deputy Mayor had nothing to report.

**C079/21 To receive a report from the Needham Market Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.**

The Clerk reported the Neighbourhood Plan document is being updated by Gipping Press, in accordance with the changes requested by the Independent Examiner, in her recent report.

**C080/21 To appoint to the Civic Events Management Committee.**

Cllr Lea explained the need for Council to make appointments, to oversee at least the main civic events the Town Council is committed to annually, those being the Civic Service and the Remembrance Service.

Cllrs Lea, Annis, Rix, Kett and Wright agreed to serve on what will be a Civic Events Working Group, not a formal Committee.

**C081/21 To consider a funding request from The Mix regarding their drop-in event held on Crowley Park.**

Cllr Kett proposed Council donate £123.13 to The Mix, to cover some of the incidental costs incurred in their holding an event for young people, at Crowley Park on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July.

**C082/21 Clerk's Report and Correspondence to be noted.**

1. *Actions from Town Council Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021*

N/a

2. *Issues:*

- Council's Insurance Renewal 2021/22 – agreed but full confirmation/documentation awaited (will include third party and employer's liability documents)
- Damage to Fence – Jubilee Crescent

3. *Correspondence to be noted:*

- Painting the Cattle Tunnel

Cllr Mason proposed Council take no action on the information received. Cllr Ost seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

- Community Litter Picks

**C083/21 Committees**

**Governance & Finance Committee.**

**C083/21/1a 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 Mason proposed adoption of the accounts. Cllr Ost seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

**C083/21/1b Adoption of Council's Financial Regulations.**

Cllr Annis proposed this item be deferred. Cllr Mason seconded the proposal. Council agreed the proposal.

**C083/21/1c To receive a report from the Committee Chairperson.**

Cllr Annis gave an update on the 2020/21 financial year audit process, the continued impact of reduced staff resources in the Town Council Office and progress on the Council's move to online banking.

Cllr Annis confirmed a meeting of the Governance & Finance Committee will be held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August starting at 7pm in the Green Room, Needham Market Community Centre.

**C083/21/2 Community & Assets Committee.**

**C083/21/2a To receive a report from the Committee Chairperson.**

Cllr Lea referred to the Minutes from the Community & Assets Committee meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> June, which were tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book.

Cllr Annis reported the repairs to the surface of Crowley Park car park were to be carried out the following day.

**C083/21/3 Planning Committee.**

**C083/21/3a To receive a report from the Committee Chairperson.**

Cllr O'Shea referred to the Minutes from the Planning Committee Meetings held on 21<sup>st</sup> June and 19<sup>th</sup> July, which were tabled and copies of which will be appended to the Minute Book.

**The Meeting closed at 9:16pm.**

Chairman ..... Date .....