

**NORTH WALSHAM TOWN COUNCIL
DEVELOPMENT & AMENITIES COMMITTEE
19 September 2017**

Minutes of the Development & Amenities Committee Meeting held on 19 September 2017

PRESENT

Chairman:	Cllr B Hester
Councillors:	
Cllr G Bull	Cllr R Harris
Cllr J Melville	Cllr R Sims
Cllr D Turner	Mr M Smith

The meeting opened at 18:30

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Stuckey and Seward.

2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None declared.

3 **MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS ON 18 JULY 2017**

As proposed by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr S Stuckey that consideration of the Minutes of the Meeting of 18 July 2017 be deferred.

4 **NORTH WALSHAM PLAY**

Mr Smith reported that:

- A grant application for £15,000 towards the purchase of energy-generating exercise equipment had been submitted. This equipment would be the next installation arising from the fund-raising work of Mr Smith and North Walsham Play.
- Various donations had been received towards the War Memorial Park project, totalling about £30,000 of the £90,000 target. NNDC Big Society Fund had committed £15,000 but wished this to be the donation that helped the charity reach its target.
- The first set of audited NWP accounts had been submitted to the Charity Commission
- An entry had been submitted, with support from Aviva, to the Aviva Community Fund competition for 2017
- All remaining issues with equipment installed at Woodville had now been resolved.

5 **PARKS**

The Town Clerk provided an update on vandalism and ASB in the parks, particularly with regard to dangerous acts, for those members who were unaware. The graffiti at Trackside had largely been cleaned by the culprits, but some residual marks needed to be covered; Renosteel would repaint.

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6 **SPA COMMON**

The report from AF Howland made clear that the Council-owned land was contaminated and unsuitable for any use without considerable work – at minimum a 200mm layer of clean soil. It was noted that Howland understood the land was at the edge of the surveyor’s pit, and not the main site, but the contamination rendered it useless for grazing or any other proposed use without remediation. It was agreed that the Council should be asked what it wished to do with the land, although it was understood that it was unable to offer it for sale. The Town Clerk would investigate options.

7 **CEMETERY GPR**

Having failed to get a response from local companies, the Town Clerk had by chance (arising from recent works sightings on the Lynfield estate) discovered that Norfolk County Council had an in-house unit, and it had been agreed that the unit would be able to carry out a survey. Efforts were being made to arrange this.

8 **MOWER ASSESSMENT**

Grounds staff had submitted their assessment of the six models they had tested, with the John Deere model provided by Ernest Doe rating best. The Town Clerk would investigate purchase cost and lease options, and report to the next Council meeting where the machine would be recommended by the Committee.

9 **MEN IN SHEDS**

The Christmas Lights shed was now empty, meaning the project could proceed. Ms Collett’s report of a recent meeting attended with Paul Kennewell was presented. It was noted that a Councillor was need for a proposed organising committee.

10 **MARKET CROSS RENOVATION**

The Town Clerk reported that a clear project, assessed/designed by an approved heritage building contractor, was required in order to obtain Heritage England permission (and planning permission) to carry out work on a listed structure such as the Market Cross.

11 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chair had spoken to Rev Cubitt about the possibility of co-locating the Heritage Centre and the Information Office in the Saddlers’ Rooms, which were owned by the church. The presence of a kitchen would mean that refreshments could be sold to help raise funds to keep such a unit running, and there were facilities (including disabled) on site. Efforts would be made to move the old fire pump from its store at the Chapel Cemetery so it could be on permanent display.

A discussion about the Information Office concluded that no further purchases or claims outside known running costs would be signed-off without prior Council approval.

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Cllr Bull gave a brief report on the Head Groundsman interviews held on 18 September, and asked for views on the possible appointment of a Deputy Head Groundsman (to be offered with an emphasis on training and development opportunities). It was agreed that this should be recommended to the Council as part of the report on the interviews.

12 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 17 October 2017, commencing at 6:30pm.

The meeting closed at 19:45