

NORTH WALSHAM TOWN COUNCIL
14 March 2017

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Town Council held on 14 March 2017

Chair: Cllr B Hester

Town Councillors Present:

Cllr P Edge	Cllr A Fryer
Cllr R Harris	Cllr J Melville
Cllr R Murphy	Cllr M Seward
Cllr R Sims	Cllr S Stuckey
Cllr D Turner	Cllr B West
Cllr E Wheeler	Cllr J Witte

Open to the Press and Members of the Public

The meeting opened at 19:05

1 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

(a) Declarations of Interest

None were raised.

(b) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Bull, Canham and Choudhury.

2 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING TO ALLOW PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

3 ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

(a) Membership of NABMA

Following discussion at its meeting on 2 March 2017, the Markets Group was recommending that the Council take membership of the National Association of British Market Authorities, at the special rate available. As proposed by Cllr Sims and seconded by Cllr Witte, it was **RESOLVED**

That the Council become members of NABMA.

(b) North Norfolk Community Transport

NNCT had asked that the Town Council's observer be removed, in line with its constitution and relationship with other town and parish councils that made donations to the charity. The history of the appointment dated back to the late David Robertson, who was a Trustee of NNCT. As proposed by Cllr Seward and seconded by Cllr Hester, it was **RESOLVED**

That the Town Clerk be asked to write to the Chief Executive of NNCT confirming its agreement.

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(c) Parking for County Council election count

The request from NNDC to use the same area of the War Memorial Park as for other recent counts had been raised under correspondence at the meeting on 28 February 2017. It had been used successfully in 2016 as a negotiating tool in discussions on free parking for events, and the Town Clerk would continue to look for opportunities to do so. As proposed by Cllr West and seconded by Cllr Murphy, it was **RESOLVED**

To agree to the NNDC request on the same basis as previously, ie that any damage be put right.

(d) Street lighting on the Persimmon Homes development

A Letter from Norfolk County Council had been received, in which the County Council stated that it would not accept responsibility for street lighting on the estate. The letter sought the Town Council's agreement to take on this responsibility and cost. Members were adamant that this was unaffordable. As proposed by Cllr Sims and seconded by Cllr West, it was **RESOLVED**

That the Town Council would not take on responsibility for street lighting on the Persimmon Homes estate on Norwich Road, and to ask the Town Clerk to confirm this in writing.

(e) Planning Enforcement

A response had been received to the report of an unauthorised change of use to 48 Market Place from retail to office use. The Enforcement Officer had visited the site, found the new occupation to be a breach of NNDC planning rules, but had advised them to apply retrospectively for planning permission. It was felt by Members that this was not an appropriate way to handle planning enforcement issues; Enforcement was in place to enforce the law and local planning rules, not to advise on submitting planning applications that were in clear breach of local planning policy with regard to changes of use in designated town centres. As proposed by Cllr Hester and seconded by Cllr Witte, it was **RESOLVED**

To ask the Town Clerk to write to NNDC objecting strongly to the Enforcement Officer's response and reminding the Council of the rules set out in the Local Plan.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

As proposed by Cllr Seward and seconded by Cllr Witte, it was **RESOLVED**

That, in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s1(2), members of the public and press be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the matters to be discussed.

[Note: As all Members due to attend were present and there were no members of the press or public present, it was agreed unanimously to commence this section of the meeting at 18:50. The open session was resumed at 19:05 as set out above].

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11 **(a) CEMETERY LODGE LEASE**

A discussion took place with regard to the lease on Cemetery Lodge.

(b) STAFFING

Members were updated with regard to the advertised post of Receptionist/Administrative Assistant/Website Administrator. About 35 application packs had been sent out, and to date 8 applications had been submitted. A sift would be carried out on Tuesday 21 March, with interviews to follow shortly after that date.

The meeting closed at 19:20.