

NORTH WALSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held in the Council Chamber on 29 July 2014

PRESENT

Town Mayor:	Mr R Sims
Deputy Mayor:	Mrs B West
Town Councillors:	
Mr B Hester	Mr T Morland
Mr C Peck	Mrs A Rose
Mr E Seward	Mr D Spencer
Mr A Thirtle	Mr D Turner
Mr B Wexler	
District Councillors:	
Mr N Lloyd	Mr E Seward
County Councillors:	
Mr E Seward	

The meeting opened at 19:00

11051 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Belson, Bull, Choudhury and Robertson.

11052 POLICE REPORT

PCSO Fathalla submitted the monthly crime figures (Annex A). There had been 55 crimes over the period, an increase of three over the same period in 2013. The next priority setting meeting would be held at the Atrium on Wednesday 13 August 2014, commencing at 19:00.

Thefts from and outside charity shops remained an issue in North Walsham. The priorities remained anti-social behaviour in Sadlers Wood, Memorial Park, Acorn Road Park and Trackside, and the summer drink-drive campaign.

In response to questions regarding reckless driving/riding along the by-pass and driving on pavements, PCSO Fathalla confirmed that any vehicle being driven recklessly should be reported to the police, who would consider issuing a Section 59 notice – a record of this went on the driver's licence, and resulted in a formal warning at the first offence with the potential to seize the vehicle on a subsequent offence.

11053 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Subject to correction of the paragraph numbering from 11033, the minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2014 were received as a true record to be signed by the Town Mayor.

11054 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

As proposed by Cllr Hester and seconded by Cllr Thirtle

It was **RESOLVED**

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That the meeting be adjourned to allow time for public participation.

11055 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Major Richard Durrant had been installed as Commanding Officer of the North Walsham branch of the Salvation Army, succeeding Major Bishop. He wished to introduce himself to the Town Council, and assure Councillors that he wanted to work closely with the Council and other organisations locally. He also wished to commend the joint BBC/Salvation Army "Toys & Tins" appeal roadshow, which would be visiting North Walsham Market on Thursday 20 November 2014.

The Town Mayor thanked Major Durrant for attending, and welcomed him to the town.

Mr Bob White from Showcase Gallery, Market Place had spoken at two previous meetings regarding proposals to improve the town centre. He made the following points:

- The Town Council had resolved to spend £10k of taxpayers' money this financial year on improvements to the town centre, including a two-bay waiting area for buses outside the Post Office on Yarmouth Road.
- He still maintained that the traffic flow along Church Street and through Market Place should be reversed, with a four bay bus terminus on the Bank Loke side of Market Place and parallel parking on the Church side. This would lose five spaces and would be much safer, and could be done without widening the pavement.
- He had discussed this idea with the owner of Sanders Coaches, who would welcome having his buses parking on the Bank Loke side of Market place, and felt that this idea deserved serious consideration.
- Mr White felt that reversing the traffic flow, and utilising the existing Market Place layout in this way, would be an improvement.

The Town Mayor thanked Mr White for his contribution, and assured him that his proposals would be given proper consideration.

11056 RECONVENING OF MEETING

As proposed by Cllr Hester and seconded by Cllr Thirtle

It was **RESOLVED**

That the meeting be reconvened.

11057 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS

A written report from Cllr Seward is attached at Annex B.

Cllr Lloyd reported the following:

- NNDC had set aside £1 million of reserves for broadband development across the District.
- NNDC were due to send out mailshots about the new recycling arrangements, including glass, soon.

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- The new play equipment was now in place, and Cllr Lloyd thanked the Town Council for its support for the improvements. He suggested that North Norfolk News might like to run an article on the new play area, with local parents and children present.
- The Town Council was asked to consider funding a gravel path along the roadside adjacent to The Shires on Bluebell Road, as residents who needed to walk into town were forced to walk in the road due to the state of the grass verge. This was unsafe.

As proposed by the Town Mayor and seconded by Cllr Wexler

It was **RESOLVED**

To ask the Town Clerk to consider options for improving pedestrian safety near The Shires over the summer recess and report to the next meeting

11058 REPORT OF THE TOWN MAYOR

- Written reports of the Town Mayor's and Deputy Mayor's activities since the last meeting are at Annexes C and D. In addition to these:
 - The Town Mayor noted the excellent effort of the Fun Day Committee in organising the event this year.
 - The Deputy Mayor reported on a meeting with 'Walkers Are Welcome' on 24 July 2014. This group had been created to bring together various local organisations and businesses to benefit towns, and had asked the Town Council to consider seeking accreditation as it had several well-known walking routes. Among the benefits would be greater exposure to the tourist industry. The organisation had a grant scheme which covered the first year's membership for the town and support in setting up a community group to promote walking in the area. This would be discussed further at the next meeting.

11059 PUB WATCH

The Town Clerk reported on the meeting held at the King's Arms on 7 July 2014. The minutes are at Annex E.

11060 DOGS IN NORTH WALSHAM

NNDC had submitted an outline of the expected powers under the new legislation due in October 2014 (Annex F). The Town Council felt it was unclear who would be expected to police the control of dogs. There was currently one dog warden covering the area.

NNDC had also submitted details of the existing powers in relation to dog waste and the measures that are available to deal with this (Annex G). The information included

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costs of dog waste and ordinary litter bins, and the costs of emptying, should the Town Council wish to purchase additional bins.

As proposed by Cllr Seward and seconded by Cllr Spencer

It was **RESOLVED**

That Councillors consider potential locations for new bins, and bring proposals forward for consideration when discussing the estimates for 2015/16.

11061 'FLY A FLAG FOR THE COMMONWEALTH'

Details of the event had already been circulated. In addition, further communication had been received stating that Norfolk @ Waveney Enterprise Service had agreed to sponsor twenty-two 90"x54" flags which would allow town councils in Norfolk to participate free of charge. As proposed by Cllr Seward and seconded by Cllr Hester

It was **RESOLVED**

To participate in the event, subject to due diligence by the Town Clerk in relation to the Virdee Foundation which was the principle organiser.

11062 VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

The Information Office needed more volunteers. Gabbi Ryan, Miss Teen Norfolk, had recently joined the team of volunteers, and the Town Clerk hoped this would attract younger people in the town to volunteering and engender an interest in the Town Council.

The Lola Stafford Foundation had written to ask for any opportunities in the area for a team of Year 11's to do some voluntary/community work in the town in the period 11-22 August 2014. Councillors were asked to inform the Town Clerk of any possible opportunities.

11063 PLAY EQUIPMENT AT WOODVILLE PARK

A request had initially come forward on the Town Council's Facebook group for new play equipment at the Council's third park, following improvements at Memorial Park and Trackside (Town Council owned, upgraded with external funding support) and at Acorn Road Park (NNDC owned, and part of an NNDC programme to upgrade its play areas). GAP had offered to help identify possible funding sources, and to work with the Town Council to develop an application.

Cllr Seward noted that the NNDC Big Society Fund was currently funding a lot of play areas/schemes. However, real demand needed to be demonstrated for a funding application to be successful.

As proposed by Cllr Thirtle and seconded by the Deputy Mayor

It was **RESOLVED**

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That the Town Clerk be asked to work with GAP over the recess to identify demand, requirements and funding streams and report to the next meeting in September 2014.

11064 FUTURE USE OF SPA COMMON

The Town Clerk reported on the two quotes received for the contaminated land test required given the possible use as garden plots growing produce for human consumption and the common's history as a village tip. It was recommended that these were rejected, as the high cost could not be justified when other options remained on the table.

Councillors in discussion raised the following issues:

- It was unclear if the common would need to undergo similar testing if it was to be used as a picnic or walking area (nature reserve), or for grazing land for horses.
- A small external organisation would be needed to administer a common, and to pay appropriate rent or licence fee.
- The Town Council still need to look for land to be used for garden plots.

As proposed by Cllr Hester and seconded by the Deputy Mayor

It was **RESOLVED**

That the Town Council would NOT proceed with contaminated land testing as the costs could not be justified given the likelihood that it would not be suitable for garden plot use;

That the Town Clerk be asked to investigate further whether testing would be needed for uses that did not involve growing food for human consumption; and

That the Town Clerk establish the willingness of Spa Common residents who proposed the nature reserve scheme to set up a self- and grant-funded trust in order to manage it.

11065 STREET LIGHTING AT BEECH DRIVE

A quote of £2,290 excl VAT had been obtained to install an additional street light at the end of the cul-de-sac, following a request first presented to the Town Council in March 2014.

As proposed by Cllr Hester and seconded by the Town Mayor

It was **RESOLVED**

To allow the residents' spokesperson, Mrs Pat Hawkes, to speak about their concerns.

In summary, Mrs Hawkes' main points were that:

- They had experienced a lot of trouble over an extended period of time

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- Incidents had been reported to the police
- Residents felt that an additional light would be a deterrent
- There had been a break-in in the area.

The Town Mayor thanked Mrs Hawkes for her input. It was noted that the Town Council held a significant amount of funding in reserve for street lighting. It was thought that the residents should attend the next SNAP meeting in order to raise these concerns in that forum, as this would allow them to be considered for addition to the list of local priorities.

As proposed by Cllr Seward and seconded by Cllr Peck

It was **RESOLVED**

To ask the Town Clerk to approach North Walsham Police for their views about improving residential safety and amenity, and for their views on whether an additional street light would be beneficial.

11066 ACCESS TO DEFIBRILLATORS

The signs which should have been included with the original packs had now been delivered, and work was under way to arrange installation at Aroma in St Nicholas Court and Coral in Market Place.

11067 AUGUST RECESS

Members were reminded of the August Recess in accordance with Standing Orders.

As proposed by Cllr Spencer and seconded by Cllr Hester

It was **RESOLVED**

That the Town Council would go into RECESS during the month of August 2014.

As proposed by Cllr Rose and seconded by Cllr Wexler

It was **RESOLVED**

That during the August Recess delegated powers be given to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor to deal with matters relating to the Town Council.

11068 PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS

The summary of Payments and Receipts since the last meeting is at Annex H.

As proposed by the Deputy Mayor and seconded by Cllr Wexler

It was **RESOLVED**

That the report be accepted.

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11069 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meetings held on 24 June and 8 July 2014 were received.

11070 OTHER COUNCIL COMMITTEES

The following documents were received:

- Minutes of the Christmas Lights Group meeting held on 15 July 2014, and
- Minutes of the Fun Day Committee meeting held on 15 July 2014.

The Town Clerk reported that two external applicants had come forward for the Media & Information Committee, Mr J Ballard (the Atrium) and Mr D Doyle (Computer-Assist). Mr Doyle had been upfront about possible concerns over conflict of interest. The Town Clerk and Cllr Hester felt this could be managed by holding a third vacancy open, although the level of interest was disappointing given many of the comments on the Facebook group about residents wanting more involvement.

11071 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

The Town Council asked for the following items to be included for discussion on the next agenda:

- Saturday markets
- Upkeep of verges/drains/tunnels at the bypass.

11072 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

As proposed by Cllr Thirtle and seconded by Cllr Turner

It was **RESOLVED**

That due to the sensitive nature of the matters to be discussed, the public and press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting.

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PART II:

11073 REGISTRATION OF TOWN COUNCIL LAND

Cllr Rose reported that the Town Council owned a number of properties that were not registered at the Land Registry, and that much of this was still 'owned' by the UDC. This needed to be rectified as a matter of urgency, before anyone else registered the land. The starting point was to get the parcels of land valued. A quote of £250 per property excl VAT had been obtained. It would then be necessary to carry out a search of the Land Registry to establish if interest had been registered by another party.

The parcels of land in question were:

- Bluebell Pond
- Bacton Rd Cemetery
- Mundesley Rd Cemetery
- the Cemetery Lodge
- Spa Common
- Market Cross
- The Butchery
- Trackside Park
- Woodville Park (part only)

Cllr Turner raised the possibility of English Heritage involvement in Market Cross, and this needed to be checked.

The Town Mayor noted for the minutes that this had only come about as a result of work by Tina Foster and Julie Shields to rationalise the filing system, Tina's previous experience which allowed her to notice that there was a problem, and Cllr Rose's intervention with Tina to research the documentation and establish the current position. He thanked them on behalf of the Council for bringing the situation to light.

As proposed by Cllr Rose and seconded by Cllr Wexler

It was **RESOLVED**

That Cllr Rose be asked to proceed with the valuation and any further work towards establishing registration of the land.

The meeting closed at 20:40