

NORTH WALSHAM TOWN COUNCIL
25 November 2014

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 25 November 2014

PRESENT

Town Mayor: Mr R Sims (Chair)
Town Councillors:
Mr B Hester Mr A Thirtle
Mr T Morland Mrs D Turner
Mr C Peck Mrs V Uprichard
Mr E Seward Mrs B West
Mr D Spencer Mr B Wexler

as per para 11158, 18 December 2014

J. Seward
Town Clerk

District Councillors:
Mr E Seward Mrs V Uprichard

County Councillors:
Mr E Seward

The meeting opened at 19:00

PART I: Held in the presence of the press and members of the public

11126 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

11127 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

As proposed by Town Mayor and seconded by Cllr Wexler, it was RESOLVED

That the minutes be signed as a true record of the meeting on 28 October 2014.

11128 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

As proposed by Cllr Thirtle and seconded by Cllr Hester, it was RESOLVED

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

11129 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs Jenny Melville spoke on the work of Regenerate North Walsham, and in particular the project to engage older residents. Further details can be found at Annex A. The Town Mayor thanked Mrs Melville for her contribution.

11130 RECONVENING OF MEETING

As proposed by Cllr West and seconded by Cllr Uprichard

It was RESOLVED

That the meeting be reconvened.

PS

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11131 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Written reports from Cllrs Seward and Lloyd are at Annexes B and C respectively. In addition, Cllr Seward reported on the following:

- The County Council consultation exercise on its budget for 2015/16: A number of County Councillors from all parties had expressed concerns about recycling facilities and access hours. Cllr Seward stated that it would be helpful in arguing the case against the County Council proposals if town and parish councils expressed their objections through the budget consultation exercise.
- 4 Market Street: North Norfolk District Council had served notice on the site owner regarding acquisition of the site, and would shortly begin the required planning process for landscaping the site.

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

To ask the Town Clerk to respond to the County Council's budget consultation, expressing the Town Council's objections to the reduced access to recycling centres under the current budget proposals.

11132 REPORT OF THE TOWN MAYOR

The Town Mayor had attended the following events:

- 9 November 2014: Remembrance Day Service
- 12 November 2014: North Walsham High School Awards Evening
- 14 November 2014: Rotary Dinner

11133 POLICE REPORT

PC Gwynn apologised for the Police being absent from the meeting on 28 October. Crime figures were therefore reported for the period 30 September to 25 November 2014 (see Annex D). A crime prevention surgery was scheduled on 19 December 2014 at Sainsburys, and the next priority setting meeting would be held at the Atrium on 7 January 2015. Current priorities were anti-social behaviour and criminal damage in North Walsham, and the Christmas drink-drive campaign.

A query was raised regarding the locations of dogs reported as dangerously out of control, of which two had been at Memorial Park and the third an attack on another dog. The issue of revving of engines along New Road was raised. There had been no reports to the police, but traffic officers were visiting the town more frequently with recording equipment. It remained important to report incidents so that action could be taken. Police continued to liaise with local youngsters.

11134 PUB WATCH

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A report of the meeting of North Walsham Pub Watch held on 25 November 2014 is at Annex E.

11135 TOWN STRATEGY

A vision for North Walsham had been set out on the 2010 Leadership of Place Report, and this remained valid. However, the Local Development Plan published by NNDC in 2008 was now very dated.

The Town Council, alongside the community and various community groups, needed to map out how to move towards the Leadership of Place vision and needed buy-in from NNDC and the County Council. NNDC Chief Executive was likely to be receptive to views on how to do this.

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

To

- (a) Ask the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town Clerk to meet with NNDC Chief Executive to discuss the District Council's view of local plans, and the resources required to build an action plan/strategy to deliver the 2010 vision of North Walsham
- (b) Ask the Town Clerk to investigate Holt's local plan and to report back to the next meeting
- (c) Ask the Town Clerk to arrange a meeting with community groups early in the new year to discuss a local plan.

It would be important to submit a document to NNDC early in the new administration (following the May 2015 election) mapping out a clear strategy for the next five years, with a general overview of the following 10 to 15 years.

11136 ROAD SAFETY

Historically, the County Council had not provided crossings for children of high school age, and the crossing attendant on Happisburgh Road had been withdrawn following the retirement of the last incumbent. However, schools remain concerned about road safety. As a result, the local Highway Engineer had met with NWHS and Cllr Seward, and proposed to implement a permanent 20mph limit in the vicinity of the school, with more and better signage and double yellow lines to prevent parking.

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

To

- (a) Ask the Town Clerk to write to the Director of Environment & Transportation at County Council, expressing the Town Council's support for a pedestrian crossing outside the high school

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- (b) Consider introducing lesser traffic calming measures through a bid to the Parish Partnership Grant Scheme 2015/16.

11137 TOWN COUNCIL AWARD

The Town Mayor asked the Council to consider reintroducing this award to honour someone who had done something of significant benefit to the town, to be presented at the annual Civic Dinner. It was noted that nomination forms had previously been published in the North Walsham Times.

At the proposal of Cllr Seward, seconded by Cllr Spencer, it was RESOLVED

To delegate to the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town Clerk a small sum of money to support reintroducing the award.

11138 OPENING HOURS OVER CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

As proposed by Cllr West and seconded by Cllr Spencer, it was RESOLVED

That the office would close on Tuesday 23 December 2014 at 12:30pm, and reopen as normal on Monday 5 January 2015. In addition, the Town Clerk only would be in the office on Monday 29 until 12:30pm on Wednesday 31 December 2014.

11139 PARISH PARTNERSHIP GRANT SCHEME 2015/16

Following discussion of a number of options, as proposed by Cllr Seward and seconded by Cllr Spencer, it was RESOLVED

To ask the Town Clerk to approach the Highway Engineer about the feasibility of bids for a trod footpath on Bacton Road (already suggested by the Highway Engineer as achievable within the scheme), a traffic island near North Walsham High School to assist traffic calming, a third SAM2 speed awareness sign, and a footpath along Aylsham Road.

11140 CCTV

An approach had been made regarding a memorial plaque for the late Cllr David Robertson, who had driven the project to retain the CCTV system in North Walsham following NNDCs announcement that the system would be decommissioned. It was, however, noted that Cllr Robertson himself had seen the project as a "Council win". It was also thought the proposed media launch to follow completion and commissioning of the system could be used to highlight his central role

As proposed by Cllr Hester and seconded by Cllr Seward, it was RESOLVED

To ask the Town Mayor to approach the late Cllr Robertson's family about commemorating his central involvement in this important project.

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11141 VAS SIGNS – Parish Partnership Grant 2014/15

The Town Clerk reported that County Council planned to install the vehicle-activated height sign on the approach to Cromer Road Bridge during the week commencing 5 January 2015, alongside further improvements to signage on bridge approaches in North Walsham. The Memorandum of Understanding for the SAM2 vehicle-activated speed awareness sign had been signed by the Town Clerk and returned to the Highway Engineer. A suggested list of sites would follow shortly, drawn from the list of suitable locations proposed by Road Safety Officers.

11142 PLAY EQUIPMENT AT WOODVILLE PARK

The Town Clerk had arranged meetings with two suppliers of playground equipment, and had identified in reserves funding earmarked for new park and play equipment.

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

To allocate £5,000 from Council reserves towards this project, and to ask the Town Clerk to progress towards a bid to NNDC Big Society Fund in early 2015.

11143 ADOPTION OF BT PHONE BOX AT WHITE HORSE COMMON

The initial response seeking adoption had been recognised by NNDC in a letter dated 14 November. The Clerk would follow through on further due diligence work required by the Town Council.

11144 RECYCLING

A meeting with Sainsbury's recycling contractor, Palm Recycling, had been scheduled for 4 December 2014. The Town Clerk would complete the necessary forms to allow recycling credits to be paid to North Walsham Town Council.

11145 FUTURE USE OF SPA COMMON

The Town Clerk had spoken to NNDC Environmental Health officers, who had advised that a full risk assessment was not necessary as long as the proposed grazing animals were not for human consumption, and on the basis that the land had been used for this purpose previously.

11146 PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

It was noted that the latest reports included expenditure on equipment for the tennis courts, which would be refunded by Sport England as this was the last of the grant funding received.

11147 HALF-YEAR REPORTS

In response to a query, it was noted that the £31,000 reserve for Bluebell Pond was the Bluebell Pond Trust funding.

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As proposed by Cllr West and seconded by Cllr Turner, it was **RESOLVED**

To accept both reports

11148 ESTIMATES 2015/16

The Town Clerk and Finance Assistant had prepared an initial set of estimates based on output from meetings throughout the year, and including a worst-case scenario of a Town Council-funded move to new premises. Further work would now be undertaken to add possible bids under the Parish Partnership Grant scheme.

11149 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Town Clerk was asked to follow up an action relating to the meeting on 11 November seeking advice from the NNDC regarding the use of illuminated signs in a conservation area.

11150 OTHER COMMITTEES

The minutes of the meetings of the Media & Information Committee held on 21 October and the Christmas Lights Group on 4 November were received. Attention was drawn to the timetable for the Christmas Lights Switch-On, to be held on Saturday 29 November.

11151 CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk reported the following items of correspondence:

- Letter dated 24 October from NNDC Head of Planning, in response to a letter from the Town Clerk, explaining the different outcomes for similar-sized developments in Holt and North Walsham.
- Letter from Norfolk & Suffolk Rehabilitation Company Community Payback Unit, seeking opportunities for projects in Norfolk.
- Message of thanks from Mrs Jennifer Eddison for the Information Office volunteers' thank-you event

11152 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- Drains on the bypass
- Report on meeting of Regenerate North Walsham Committee scheduled for 27 November 2014
- Markets
- Use of quiet lanes by heavy vehicles
- Parish Partnership Grant bids
- Happisburgh Road school crossing
- Worstead Recycling Centre
- Dog bins

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PART II: Press and members of the public excluded

11153 NOTICE OF CASUAL VACANCY

The Town Clerk gave a verbal update on the Casual Vacancy Notice posted on 7 November, following advice from NNDC Electoral Services requiring the advertisement of the vacancy caused by the death of Cllr David Robertson. The deadline for petitions seeking a by-election was on 27 November, after which the Town Council could decide whether or not to co-opt a new member. Further advice would follow, depending on the position at expiry of the notice.

11154 MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON 4 NOVEMBER 2014

Subject to corrections to the date and attendees list, these were approved.

11155 JD WETHERSPOON and the COUNCIL OFFICES

Cllr Seward stated that he was withdrawing from the Town Council's negotiating team following advice on the interpretation of councillor interests from the NNDC Monitoring Officer. However, the advice was that he and Cllr Uprichard were able to act as conduits for information.

As proposed by Cllr Spencer and seconded by Cllr Peck, it was **RESOLVED**

That the Town Mayor should lead the negotiating team in discussions with NNDC.

Cllrs Seward and Uprichard would be attending a briefing by JD Wetherspoon representatives that had been arranged for local members. Steve Blatch's office had advised that he would be looking to arrange a meeting with the negotiating team following this.

It was reported that the main impact of JD Wetherspoon on Fakenham had been on local food outlets, with a number closing and most reporting a downturn in business. This was relevant due to Fakenham's similarity with North Walsham's town centre, with its mix of service providers, food outlets and charity shops.

The meeting closed at 21:00

RS