

NORTH WALSHAM TOWN COUNCIL  
16 December 2014

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 16 December 2014

PRESENT

|                          |                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Town Mayor:</b>       | Mr R Sims (Chair) |
| <b>Town Councillors:</b> |                   |
| Mrs J R Belson           | Mr A Thirtle      |
| Mr B Hester              | Mr D Turner       |
| Mr T Morland             | Mrs V Uprichard   |
| Mr C Peck                | Mrs B West        |
| Mrs R A Rose             | Mr B Wexler       |
| Mr D Spencer             |                   |

|                              |             |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>District Councillors:</b> |             |
| Mr N Lloyd                   | Mr E Seward |
| Mrs V Uprichard              |             |
| <b>County Councillors:</b>   |             |
| Mr E Seward                  |             |

The meeting opened at 19:05

The Town Mayor read a message from Mrs Pam Robertson, thanking the Town Council for its support and informing Councillors that the collection at the funeral of the late Cllr Dave Robertson had raised £607 for his charities.

The Town Mayor read the following notice from NALC regarding the filming and recording of Town Council meetings:

*In the interests of openness and transparency, councillors and members of the public are reminded that the law permits any person to film, record, photograph or use social media in order to report on the proceedings of a meeting of the Council or its Committees when they are open to the public. This does not extend to live verbal commentary.*

*Filming and photography will only be permitted from the area designated. No flash photography or additional lighting should be used without prior consent.*

*Anyone wishing to report on the meeting should notify the Clerk or Chairman so that they can be afforded reasonable facilities.*

*People under the age of 18 or other members of the public not wishing to be filmed or photographed should notify the Clerk or Chairman and should sit in the area designated for this purpose.*

*Improper conduct or any disruptive behaviour could result in expulsion from the meeting.*

It was agreed that the Council should investigate means of keeping its own audio record of meeting proceedings.



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

**11156 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Cllr Uprichard declared an interest in all matters related to North Norfolk District Council.

**11157 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

**11158 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

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

That the minutes be signed as a true record of the meeting on 25 November 2014, subject to a minor correction under the listing of Town Councillors.

**11159 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

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

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

**11160 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- (i) Mr Mick Alexander spoke on behalf of North Walsham Town Football Club, based at Green's Road. The site was earmarked in the NNDC Core Strategy for development. However, no progress had been made since 2005, and the Club had now secured a further six years' on top of the remaining ten years left on the lease. Mr Alexander had subsequently received a call asking if the Club was willing to relocate; it was, but only within the town of North Walsham. He was now asking for a concerted approach between the Football Club and Town Council to resolve the future of the Green's Road site and the Club. (ref Annex A)
- (ii) Mr Robert Scammell spoke on behalf of Regenerate North Walsham regarding a Neighbourhood Plan. He was aware that there had been discussions with NNDC, and wished to advise the Town Council that RNW's consultant had identified funding through Locality to bring in an expert on Neighbourhood Plans. (ref Annex B)

**11161 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Written reports from Cllrs Seward, Lloyd and Moore are at Annexes C to E respectively. In response to questions from Councillors, it was noted that the former Foundry Cars site application for development of apartments was passed in 2010, and that a further application would follow as the developer was seeking a further modification. As long as work commenced before the five-year deadline permitted, then all options remained open.

Cllr Lloyd congratulated the Town Council's Christmas Lights Group on the Christmas Lights show. He agreed to take up the North Walsham Town Football Club/Green's Road issue with NNDC, and keep the Town Council informed of progress.

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In response to Cllr Moore's warning regarding the implementation of on-street parking meters across the County, it was confirmed that no official notification had been received as yet with regard to North Walsham. It was felt that, although such a scheme would be appropriate in some areas, there were areas where it would not be viable.

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

**To ask the Town Clerk to ask County Councillors for further information regarding the proposed implementation of on-street parking charging.**

**11162 POLICE REPORT**

PCSO Reynolds was in attendance to give the report for the period 30 September to 25 November inclusive (Annex F). In response to questions, PCSO Reynolds confirmed that ASB had reduced, partly due to poor weather but also a result of increased patrols and work in local schools. The previous report had listed three attacks on dogs, and it was confirmed that these included an attack on a guide dog. The victim was unhappy at the way the police had handled the case, and had spoken to her ward Councillor. PCSO Reynolds had not been involved in the case, and would let the Clerk know so that the matter could be followed up.

**11163 RECONVENING OF MEETING**

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

**That the meeting be reconvened.**

**11164 YOUTH EVENTS**

Cllr Hester reported briefly on the development of his paper (Annex G) on holding non-alcoholic youth events at the KA. Martin Miles, landlord of the Kings Arms, had previously declined as the police had their own programme of events including visits to Norwich. However, if the police were now onside, he would be happy to be involved.

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

**That the Town Council and Regenerate North Walsham would jointly approach the local police to seek their support for such events.**

**11165 PARISH PARTNERSHIP GRANT SCHEME**

The Town Clerk was awaiting a response from Highways regarding the proposed bids to the 2015/16 scheme for:

- Trod gravel footpath between the Shires and Bluebell on Bacton Road. Previously estimated cost (Highway Engineer, when suggesting this kind of project would be ideal for the Scheme) approx. £2,000
- A third SAM2 speed awareness sign, 2014/15 cost £1,750

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- Traffic calming measures, such as a traffic island, near North Walsham High School on Happisburgh Road, cost unknown.
- A footpath along Aylsham Road.

It was felt that Aylsham Road would be a problem, as there had been huge local opposition to creating a one-way system there when originally proposed in 2005. A site meeting with Highways was suggested.

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

**To proceed with the first three bids detailed above, and to seek a site meeting with Highways to discuss safety issues along Aylsham Road.**

**11166 TREE SURGEON'S ANNUAL REPORT**

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

- To accept the report and to make arrangements for the necessary work to be done in line with the quoted prices.
- To ask the Town Clerk to deal with high priority issues as a matter of course without referral to the Council.
- To ask the Town Clerk to add the costs of MED and LOW priority work to the estimates for 2015/16.

**11167 MARKETS**

It was noted that the proposed markets had brought a very strong positive feel to the town. However, as noted by the Town Clerk the markets did bring additional work. A paid market manager was suggested, in line with previous practice. However, it was agreed to wait and review the response of traders following the Christmas weekend markets

As proposed by Cllr West and seconded by the Town Mayor, it was **RESOLVED**

**To ask the Town Clerk to report on the markets at the January meeting, and to make proposals on the running of future markets.**

**11168 MARKETING NORTH WALSHAM**

An outline discussion had taken place between the Town Mayor and Cllr Seward (as a District Councillor) about promoting the town beyond its boundaries. It was thought that progress on this would best be secured by bringing together the Town Council and the various groups in the town (RNW, Arts North Norfolk, GAP, the Chamber of Business and St Nicholas Church). A meeting of these groups would be arranged in the New Year, and a report to the Council would follow.

**11169 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS 2015**

A draft calendar had been prepared. The Civic Dinner would be added (24 April 2015).

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**11170 PROPERTY NAMING: 13-21 Bacton Road**

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

**That the Town Council agree to the proposal to name the development Haynes Court, given the history of the name.**

**11171 TOWN STRATEGY**

The Town Clerk had spoken to the NNDC Chief Executive on 10 December. She was not in favour of Neighbourhood Plans, and preferred tools such as Local Development Orders and Business Improvement Districts – working with Councils to secure agreement to developments. She agreed that the NNDC Core Strategy was in need of updating, and that it did North Walsham no favours. Work to update this document would begin in the New Year, and Town Councils/Clerks would be closely involved in the process.

**11172 CCTV**

Arrangements had been made for a press re-launch of the CCTV scheme, on Friday 19 December at 11:00am. This would take the form of a demonstration of the system at the Office, followed by a photo opportunity at the camera on Church Street. The Council delegation would be led by Cllrs West and Belson. The Chamber of Business and Pub Watch would also be represented, as would representatives from Fakenham and Sheringham Town Councils. The late Cllr Robertson would be represented by members of his family.

**11173 PLAY EQUIPMENT AT WOODVILLE PARK**

The Town Clerk had held meetings with Sovereign and HAGS SMP, both of whom had visited the site and agreed to submit no obligation designs and quotes. The former had arrived that morning, but not been examined in detail.

**11174 TOWN CLOCK INSCRIPTION**

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

**To ask the Town Clerk to obtain an updated quote for the inscription, and to explore allocating some income from the additional markets to fund new stonework and furniture at the Market Cross.**

**11175 RECYCLING**

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

**To ask the Town Clerk to gather up to date information on recycling contractors and costs for new bins to replace those recently removed by NNDC/Kier.**

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**11176 PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS**

Tennis Court expenditure covered a specialist surface cleaner and covers, for which a final receipt from the Sport England grant was due. As proposed by Cllr West and seconded by Cllr Spencer, it was **RESOLVED**

**To approve the list of payments and receipts.**

**11177 ESTIMATES 2015/16**

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

**To agree the proposed estimates and precept calculations, pending any further amendments.**

**11178 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 25 November 2014 were received.

**11179 CORRESPONDENCE**

The Town Clerk reported the following items of correspondence:

- Letter from NNDC Chief Executive inviting Town Clerks to a peer challenge session as part of NNDC's improvement drive

**11180 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

- North Walsham Town Football Club, Green's Road
- Highways issues

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**PART II: Press and members of the public excluded**

**11181 NOTICE OF CASUAL VACANCY**

NNDC Chief Executive had written to formally advise that there had been no petitions for a by-election in the East Ward, and therefore the Town Council was free to co-opt in order to fill the vacancy. One written expression of interest had been received, as well as an informal verbal expression of interest.

As proposed by Cllr West and seconded by the Town Mayor, it was **RESOLVED**

**To advertise the vacancy for co-option on the Council noticeboard and in the free press, and interview candidates following the Planning Committee meeting on 13 January 2015.**

**11182 NALC PAY AWARD**

Formal notification from NALC of the negotiated pay award was received.

**11183 STANDING ORDERS: FILMING AND RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS**

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

- **To remove the outdated reference at Para 36.4 regarding the recording of meetings and replace with the model text from NALC, with copies posted on the Council Noticeboard and in the Chamber.**
- **To refer the issue of the Council making its own audio recordings for consideration by the Media and Information Committee**

**11184 JD WETHERSPOON and the COUNCIL OFFICES**

No further information had been received with regard to the proposed sale of the Council Offices, although NPS was due to visit for an insurance valuation.

**11185 NORFOLK CAB**

The Town Council noted that the NNDC Scrutiny Committee would be meeting to discuss CAB provision across North Norfolk, and that it seemed likely that Norfolk County Council would instigate a full review of advisory service provision across the county.

**11186 PERSONNEL & GRANTS COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the Personnel & Grants Committee meeting held on 21 October 2014 were received.

The meeting closed at 21:10