

## NORTH WALSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held in the Council Chamber on 25 February 2014

### PRESENT

Mrs J R Belson (Town Mayor)

Mr F Choudhury

Mr E Seward

Mr B Hester

Mr R Sims

Mr T Morland

Mr D Spencer

Mr C Peck

Mr D Turner

Mr D Robertson

Mrs V Uprichard

Mrs R A Rose

Mrs B West

### 10904 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Seward declared an interest in Leadership of Place, and Cllr Uprichard in Town Team matters.

### 10905 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Mr G Bull.

### 10906 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2014 were approved and signed by the Town Mayor.

### 10907 MATTERS ARISING – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

#### (a) Toilets – (Para 10882)

It was reported that an email had been received from NNDC Property Manager asking whether RADAR key could be fitted to the baby change/disabled unit of the Vicarage Street Public Convenience. The cost of repairs to the damage reported at the previous meeting had been just below the NNDC insurance excess of £1,000.

#### (b) Norfolk Citizens' Advice Bureau – (Para 10889)

It was reported that a meeting had been arranged by NNDC to take place in the Chief Executive's Office on Wednesday 26 February 2014. Mr Lloyd and Mr Robertson would attend, accompanied by the Town Clerk.

#### (c) Precept 2014/15 – (Para 10894)

It was reported that NNDC had been informed of the agreed Precept immediately following the meeting, and that the relevant Precept Form had been signed and submitted as required.

### 10908 POLICE

PC Gwynn submitted the monthly crime figures, which showed an increase of 1 on the same period last year. This was mainly a result of a more proactive focus on drugs offences. The Town Council was reminded that the next Priority Setting meeting would be held at the Atrium on Wednesday 26 March 2014 at 19:00.

The current priorities in North Walsham were speeding (on Yarmouth Road, New Road, Happisburgh Road, Pound Lane, Thirlby Road, Bacton Road and Manor Road), anti-social behaviour at the North Walsham skate park (youths throwing items at

vehicles and cannabis smoking within the park area), and littering and dog fouling (in North Walsham Town Centre and St Nicholas' Church Yard).

Damage to the Vicarage Street and New Road toilets had been adopted as an issue on 26 January 2014, and regular patrols were now being made at these locations.

Cllr Spencer asked if the Police had any information regarding incidents similar to the incidents at the Cromer Road bridge, and if any other road in North Walsham was continually closed as a result of such incidents. PC Gwynn replied that Aylsham Road experienced similar problems Mr Seward reported that a bid for improved signage had been submitted, and this would be installed near Waitrose.

#### 10909 DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLORS

A written report had been received from Cllr Seward, reporting that: the County Council budget and precept, which included £60 million in savings and no increase in Council Tax precept but not proposed increases in Post-16 education transport costs, had been agreed; proposed reductions in opening hours at the local recycling centre would not be introduced until April 2015, with no charging of users of the facility until April 2016; parish precepts in North Norfolk, where the average increase for parish/town council precepts for 2014/15 was 11.17% - 7.96% for parish councils and 13.9% for town councils; £29k had been awarded for 2014/15 for work on modelling the flood risk and the relative cost-benefit of any possible mitigation measures at flood risk areas in North Walsham; he had visited several sites with the local Highways Engineer on 24 January to discuss possible remedial action, which would be reported on at a later date; there was no appetite in the Police Authority to support the three towns' proposal to take on the existing system.


A written report had been received from Cllr Lloyd, reporting that: Norfolk County Council, NNDC and Hopkins Homes would be meeting on 4 March 2014 to agree potential works at the B1150/Grammar School Road/Bypass traffic lights. Hopkins hope to begin work on the site in June 2014, subject to completion of planning stipulations, and have agreed in principle to erect hoardings to improve the visual impact of the work; NNDC are pushing to repair much of the damage arising from the December tidal surge before Easter. The Flood Fund had paid out £72k to North Norfolk households and approved £11k funding for businesses affected by the storm. Financial support from the Government remains uncertain.

Cllr Seward reported on the situation regarding the development of 4 Market Street. Enforcement Notices had been served under s79 of the Building Act requiring the owner to complete the works or demolish the property within six months. If the owner fails to comply, NNDC will undertake the works required in default. NNDC will be erecting a sign stating that the Council is taking action.

The Town Mayor reported that she had formally opened Roy's on 14 February 2014. She felt they had done a good job of improving the store. A presentation of £500 to the Town Mayor's charity had been made.

#### 10910 CCTV

Cllr Robertson reported that information regarding the cost of decommissioning was expected shortly. This may then clarify the position regarding funding available from NNDC.



10911 **DEFIBRILLATORS**

One defibrillator had been installed and was functioning in the Precinct, outside Aroma. The second installation, outside Coral's Bookmaker, had been delayed by problems fitting the box to the wall. Details would be passed to relevant authorities. A photo shoot to include principle contributors would be organised once both were fully installed and operational.

10912 **LAND AT SPA COMMON**

The Town Council was asked whether it wished to continue using the land for grazing, or to consider an alternative use such as allotments. It was estimated that 15 allotments could be offered on the site, and this would generate a small increase in income over the current Grazing Licence. There would, however be some initial set-up costs including the creation of a small parking area.

It was **RESOLVED**

**That the land at Spa Common be investigated for allotment use**

10913 **LEADERSHIP OF PLACE**

Cllr Seward reported that the project still had some funding available, and he would have discussions with NNDC about moving it forward.

10914 **TOWN TEAM**

Cllr Uprichard reported that the Town Team were considering a proposal to hold an occasional market in the town, and wanted to gauge Town Council views before committing to extensive development work. The proposed market would not clash with the regular Thursday market, and would be based on the Pop Up Shop principle.

It was **RESOLVED**

**That the Town Council agrees in principle to the proposal, but would expect further details in a formal application from the Town Team under Market Rights.**

The Pop Up Shop project was coming to an end. The current occupants of the premises would be opening a shop, although this would be in Cromer.

Following the proposed Bunny Hunt, the Town Team had concluded that the timing had been wrong and that longer lead times were needed. This had resulted in a revised proposal to work through the Wild In Art project with a proposed Penguin Hunt in the run-up to Christmas 2014.

10915 **FINANCE**

(a) **Payments and Receipts:** A detailed statement showing payments of £18,045.24 and receipts of £3,718 was submitted and approved.

(b) **Estimates:** A report detailing actual spend and receipts to date against estimates for 2013/14 was submitted and approved.

(c) **Insurance:** It was reported that the current long term agreements for insurance were due to expire on 31 March 2014. Due to staff changes, Council was asked to consider extending the current policies for one year to allow time to seek tenders from interested providers for a further long term agreement commencing from 1 April 2015.

It was **RESOLVED**



**That the current providers be asked to extend the cover for a further year, and that the cost of premiums be reported back to the Town Council at the meeting on 25 March 2014.**

10916 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 28 January 2014 were received. (Annex A)

10917 GRANTS COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Grants Committee meeting held on 18 February were received and the recommendations were approved. (Annex B)

10918 REQUEST TO HOLD A MINI-COUNCIL

The Town Mayor submitted a request to host a 'mini-council' meeting for a class from Millfield School, intended to give them an insight into how a Town Council operates and what it does. A short agenda would be prepared for 'Councillors' to discuss, with a Clerk (Mrs Foster) to provide support. The meeting would be held in the Council Chamber. If successful it was proposed to offer similar opportunities to other year groups and to classes from North Walsham Junior and Infant Schools.

It was **RESOLVED**

**That the request be approved.**

10919 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Invitations to events:

- "Café Cluster" to mark Climate Week (3-9 March 2014)
- Equal Lives 'Access To Work' Presentation and employers' workshop
- Norfolk Association of Local Councils Joint Spring Conference on current initiatives challenging parishes
- NCTA Community Transport and Parish Councils Forum
- Appraisal training sessions, aimed at Councillors looking to appraise their clerks.

(b) Letter received from Swafield & Bradfield Parish Council confirming that it had indemnified North Walsham Town Council against any accidents which may arise from the siting of the post and sign.

- Emails received from Karl Phillips of Black Records and James Schaitel regarding youth activities in North Walsham. Mrs Uprichard would explore further on behalf of the Council..

(c) Email from Norfolk ALC, reporting that Sue Lake (Lead Officer of Norfolk ALC) would be leaving to take up the position of Town Clerk of Aylsham Town Council.

(d) Email request from Norfolk ALC for comments by 10 March on the Draft Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014



- (e) Email from the Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner's office publicising the Hate Free Norfolk Campaign, during the week 3-8 March 2014
- (f) Email from NNDC publicising and inviting bids to the District Council's Big Society Fund.

10920 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Big Society Fund

4 Market Place

Insurance premiums

Road markings and traffic enforcement in North Walsham

Cromer Road Bridge

