

NORTH WALSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council meeting
Held in the Council Chamber
On 29th October, 2013.

PRESENT

Mrs. J.R. Belson (Town Mayor)
Mr. B. Hester / Mr. R. Sims
Mr. C. Peck / Mr. D. Spencer
Mr. D. Robertson / Mr. A. Thirtle
Mrs. R.A. Rose / Mrs. V. Uprichard
Mr. E. Seward / Mrs. B. West
Mr. B. Wexler

10793 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr. Seward declared an interest in Leadership of Place.

10794 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted from Mr. Bull, Mr. Choudhury.

10795 NORFOLK CAB

Mrs. Belson welcomed Mr. Cheshire, Chief Executive of Norfolk CAB to the meeting. Mr. Cheshire stated that any monies donated by the Town Council for the North Walsham Bureau would be spent in the town and he would be happy to put this in writing. The CAB in North Walsham is under-funded and monies from elsewhere are being used to help the Bureau but the North Walsham branch was vital and they want to remain in the town. Concern was expressed at the change of telephone number to an 0844 number. Mr. Cheshire stated that this meant that the telephones would be answered 24/7 and calls cost the same as local rate.

Mr. Cheshire accepted that there was unrest with some of the volunteers but the CAB had offered mediation on three occasions but some had refused to attend. He felt they had done everything possible to try and sort out the problems.

Asked how the Town Council would be able to independently check that the money is spent in North Walsham Mr. Cheshire stated that the money would be spent in the town and would be detailed in the end of year accounts. Asked about how many volunteers were at North Walsham Mr. Cheshire was unable to give exact numbers. Asked about the lifespan of the portakabin and whether space would be required in the town, Mr Cheshire advised that the portakabin was in a poor state of repair and that NNDC possibly had a building in the town that they may be able to use.

Mr. Cheshire was thanked for attending the meeting.

10796 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 24th September, 2013 were approved and signed by the Town Mayor.

10797 MATTERS ARISING – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

(a) Meeting (10767(b))

It was reported that Mrs. Oxtoby was unable to attend the meeting on 10th December and had suggested a meeting early January.

(b) Glass Recycling (10774)

It was reported that a reply had been received from Sainsbury's inviting the Council to contact the Manager of the local store.

(c) Defibrillators (10777)

It was reported that the Williams family had given permission for one of the machines to be sited on the side wall outside Corals and Mrs. Bullimore had given permission for the second machine to be placed on the wall of the former jewellers shop in the Precinct.

(d) Standard Regime (10778)

It was reported that the day after the meeting a date had been received for a group meeting allowing 4 councillors plus clerk for any one council to attend. Cllrs. Robertson, Turner and the Clerk had attended. Mrs. Belson and Mrs. West had been unable to attend due to unexpected problems. A slide printout was available.

(e) Mundesley Road car park (10780)

It was reported that an acknowledgement letter had been received.

10798 POLICE

PCSOs Spinks and Reynolds attended the meeting and submitted the crime figures since the last meeting. The next priority setting meeting would be held on 20th November, 2013 at 1900 hours at the Atrium. The current priorities continue as anti social behaviour in Badersfield and Gold Park, Mundesley and speeding in Worstead. Current issues around North Walsham were anti social behaviour at the skate park and War Memorial Park. Noisy vehicles in New Road and Vicarage Street and speeding in Happisburgh Road. Mrs. Belson referred to a Motability scooter being driven in the Millfield School area which was upsetting parents. This was noted. It was reported that the homeless person had been in the Churchyard again and left unacceptable mess that the Council's workmen had had to remove. PCSO Spinks reported that the matter was being investigated.

10799 PUB WATCH

The minutes of a meeting of the Pub Watch held on 24th September, 2013 and attended by Mr. Hester were submitted.

It was agreed to put this on the agenda for the next meeting to allow members time to consider any items that the Town Council should raise at the Pub Watch meetings.

10800 DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLORS

The Town Mayor congratulated Mr. Seward on his recent election as County Councillor for North Walsham East. Mr. Seward reported that the District Council Cabinet would meet on Monday to consider allocating money for the play equipment at Acorn Road. It was noted that Sainsbury's were not proceeding with their licence of the Christmas period. Mr. Seward reported on the discussions at County Hall relating to the incinerator. The implication for North Walsham is that there could be a huge impact on services. It was interesting to note that the project did not have planning permission.

Mrs. Belson submitted a report on functions attended since the last meeting.

10801 DELIVERING LOCAL HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS 2014/15

A letter was submitted from the County Council stating that they wished to continue working closely with Town and Parish Councils so that limited funds can be used to meet local needs. Given the success of this initiative, the partnership will be repeated for 2014/15. With £200,000 funding available to bid for, they will support up to 50% of scheme costs. Although significantly lower than 2013/14 this funding is similar to that provided in 2012/13 but because funding is lower, the County will not be able to support bids for LED street lighting.

It was agreed to discuss this at the November meeting.

10802 NORFOLK PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

Members were minded that a decision had been deferred to allow members to consider the consultation. It was reported that if charges were introduced at the Worstead recycling centre this would lead to hardship and likely fly tipping. To save money it was suggested that the opening hours be reduced.

It was **RESOLVED**

That the County Council be informed that the Recycling Centres should remain free and consideration be given to shortening the hours the centre is open during the week.

10803 GRIT BINS (10773)

A letter was submitted from the County Council giving a list of grit bins located in the parish which would shortly be replenished. The Clerk reported on a meeting with the Highways Engineer when the request for grit bins had been discussed. It was hoped to have a decision from the Engineer for the Estimates meeting.

10804 CAR PARKS

A table showing the income from the car parks in North Norfolk for the first six months of the financial year compared to the corresponding period the previous year was submitted. It was noted that the figures for 2013/14 included the introduction of evening charges.

It was reported that the District Council had agreed free parking from 8 am to 6.00 pm on Remembrance Sunday and from 2.00 pm to 11.00 pm on 14th and 21st December, to encourage local buying and as a gesture of goodwill for the festive season.

It was noted that there was a considerable decrease for North Walsham following the introduction of evening charges. It was stated that the charges were hurting local business and towns should not be treated the same.

It was **RESOLVED**

That a letter be written to the Chief Executive stating that the Town Council remains of the view that the increased charges are not sustainable and are hurting businesses in the town.

It was reported that there was no notice in Mundesley Road giving three months intention that the car park will be pay and display. It was agreed that this be pointed out to the District Council.

10805 ST. NICHOLAS COURT PRECINCT (10647)

A letter was submitted from the District Council confirming that the land is vested with the Crown Estate, who had stated that they had no liability for any works to the land. The District Council was therefore unable to serve notice in order to affect repairs. Equally the District Council did not have any liability for the land and as such were unable to undertake any works to remedy the issues regarding the condition of the paving and drain covers. The District Council suggested that the Town Council might wish to consider undertaking works to remedy the defect to which the Crown Estate would not seek to interfere. Concern was expressed that if the Town Council carried out any works they would be liable for the land. It was suggested that Norman Lamb, MP be brought on board to try and sort out this problem highlighting that currently if you fall over and break a leg there is no insurance to claim.

It was **RESOLVED**

That a letter of complaint be written to the District Council and that Norman Lamb be copied in to support the Town Council to move this problem to a satisfactory conclusion.

10806 CLEANSING (107679c)

Following the demonstration last month a quotation was submitted for the Eco-gum machine of £2,995.00. It was agreed that the machine had left residue on the footpaths and money would be better spent on cleansing the whole footpath, not just chewing gum. It was **RESOLVED**

That no further action be taken.

10807 FIRST WORLD WAR ANNIVERSARY

A letter was submitted from the Royal British Legion asking for the Town Council's support to commemorate the centenary anniversary of the 1st World War in 2014 and subsequent years to 2018. The local branch had agreed to facilitate a weekend event over the period 9/10 August 2014 inviting all the local youth organisations to take part. Mr. Seward offered to be of help with any history and it was agreed that the first point of contact would be the Town Clerk.

10808 VICTORY HOUSING TRUST (10776)

A letter was submitted from the Victory Housing Trust regarding the sale of three bedroom properties, expressing disappointment at the Town Council's letter and recent press reports. It was suggested that the letter still did not answer the Council's concern about the number of 3 bedroom properties being sold and the number of applicants waiting for such accommodation. It was **RESOLVED**

That the letter be received but Victory Housing Trust be informed that the Town Council is disappointed with the reply received.

10809 COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Mr. Timewell apologised for being late due to attendance at another parish meeting. He reported that improvement work on the gullies on Station Road, drains on Aylsham Road, gullies on the A149 traffic junction and Norwich Road were being investigated. He suggested that the Town Council should consider a strategy document looking at the town as it is now and where it should be in 15 years time and also referred to the County Council budget consultation.

10810 CCTV (10787)

A letter was submitted from the District Council stating that the Cabinet had agreed that the CCTV service was to be decommissioned and all infrastructure to be removed. A copy of the resolution was submitted to members.

In order to try and quicken the process because the District Council had given 6 weeks for a reply, a meeting had been arranged with the other town councils involved and a report was submitted of the meeting together with information about modernising the current system. It had been agreed that no decision could be made within the set deadline and that an extension of time should be requested. A letter to the District Council had been signed

by all the Town Mayors/Chairman . It was emphasised that at the meeting no council had agreed to anything other than asking for an extension of the deadline.

The Town Council was asked to support the continued investigation on CCTV and to approve Mrs. Belson, Mr. Sims and Mr. Robertson attending the meeting at Fakenham on 13th November. Mr. Robertson suggested putting aside some money to make a legal objection, if necessary and money for specification.

It was **RESOLVED**

- (a) That a provisional sum of up to £5,000 be approved to assist the Councillors in conjunction with the officers.
- (b) That Cllrs. Mrs. Belson, Mr. Sims and Mr. Robertson attend the meeting on 13th November, 2013 and report back to Council at the next meeting.

Mr. Seward expressed thanks to the Town Clerk and Mr. Robertson for moving quickly to organise the meeting given the deadline proposed by the District Council.

10811 LEADERSHIP OF PLACE

Mr. Seward stated that there was nothing new to report.

10812 TOWN TEAM

Mrs. Uprichard apologised and stated that she would have a report on the Easter Bunny Hunt for the next meeting. The Town Clerk gave information on the businesses who would be occupying the Pop n Shop during November/December.

10813 PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

A detailed statement showing the payments and receipts amounting to £14,572.21 and £83,211.62 respectively, together with a comparison of actual payments and receipts with estimates at 29th and 16th October respectively, was submitted and approved.

10814 PAVILION – LEASE

It was reported that the lease to Poppies Day Nursery was due for renewal January 2014 and members were asked to consider approving the renewal for 5 years.

It was **RESOLVED**

That the Pavilion lease to Poppies Day Nursery be approved for a further 5 years subject to conditions contained in the original lease document.

10815 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 24th September 2013 and 8th October, 2013 were received. (App. A)

10816 PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 1st October, 2013 were received. (App. B) It was reported that 4 people had been selected for interview.

10817 PARKS AND CEMETERY COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Parks & Cemetery Committee meeting held on 1st October 2013 were submitted and approved. (App. C)

10818 FUNDAY

The minutes of the meeting of the Funday Working Group held on 1st October, 2013 were submitted and approved. (App. D)

10819 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The minutes of the meeting of the Christmas Lights Working Committee held on 15th October, 2013 were submitted and approved. (App. E)

10820 CORRESPONDENCE

1. Invitation to attend the annual Remembrance Service to be held in St. Nicholas Church on Sunday, 10th November, 2013 at 3.00 p.m. Names were given to the Town Clerk.
2. Information re: CPRE Norfolk 80th Anniversary Open days October 19 – November 9th 2013.
3. It was reported that work to the Council Office car park had not proceeded due to the quotation received being over-budget.

10821 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

1. Delivering Local Highway Improvements
2. Pub Watch
3. CCTV



15