

**NORTH WALSHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Town Council  
Held in the Council Chamber  
On 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2013.

**PRESENT**

Mr. D. Robertson (Town Mayor)  
Mr. F. Choudhury      Mr. R. Sims  
Mr. B. Hester          Mr. D. Spencer  
Mr. T. Morland        Mr. A. Thirtle  
Mr. C. Peck            Mr. D. Turner  
Mrs. R.A. Rose        Mrs. V. Uprichard  
Mr. E. Seward         Mrs. B. West  
Mr. B. Wexler

10634 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mr. E. Seward declared an interest in the item relating to Leadership of Place.

10635 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted from Mrs. J.R. Belson and Mr. G. Bull.

10636 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2013 were approved and signed by the Town Mayor.

10637 **MATTERS ARISING – FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

(a) Norfolk Citizens Advice Bureau (10608(d))

A letter was submitted from the Norfolk Citizens Advice Bureau. The contents were noted but members felt that the point had been missed relating to the retention of the money for North Walsham and immediate area .

(b) Market Place (10616)

An email was submitted from the Highway Engineer (East 1) stating that the contractors would be carrying out some remedial work to the edges of the surfacing particularly at the kerb edges and the County Council will continue to monitor the condition of the surfacing.

10638 **POLICE**

PC Charlotte Reed submitted the monthly crime figures and it was noted that there were 36 crimes against 59 crimes for the same period last year. The next priority setting meeting would be held on 24<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00 p.m. at The Atrium. There has been a decrease in calls relating to anti social behaviour since it has been adopted as a priority. The Police were continuing to move forward with the Youth Advisory Board. North Walsham High School has agreed to have young commissioners attend assemblies and talk to students regarding activities that they would like in North Walsham. With regard to anti social behaviour figures in Spenser Avenue/Thirlby Road attributed to the introduction of part-night lighting there was nothing on record to show that the numbers had increased. The SNT priorities remain the same as last month. Further information was given in relation to Action Fraud.

Mr. Peck thanked the police officers for their work in reducing the speed of traffic in Yarmouth Road and issuing tickets.

PC Reed was thanked for her report.

10639 COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

A written report was submitted from Mr. Paul Morse stating the County Council were hoping to fund in 2014/15 a feasibility study for a "bus interchange" in North Walsham. A second meeting had been held between the High School and NNDC on the matter of payments by the latter for the Sports Centre. Complaints about dog excrement on a footpath in a field behind Wharton Drive had been forwarded to the District Council. Spenser Avenue was again flooded over the wet weekend in March and the County Council had been asked to investigate as a matter of priority.

Mr. Lloyd gave a verbal report on the meeting regarding the Sports Centre and stated that the future looked secure for two years. The fees had increased but were in line with Stalham and Cromer. North Norfolk Community Transport had not received any indication of funding from the District Council.

Miss Gay reported on her discussions with the District Council regarding the Midland Road and Mundesley Road car parks. Last Monday she visited the former Laundry site where conditions had deteriorated and reported on a meeting with the owners of the site and Mr. Lamb. The owners had promised to make the site safe but to date nothing had happened. Ms. Gay would continue to press for the site to be made safe. Received representations on both sides of the Orchard Barn planning application and gave further details. Advised the case officer for the 18 Aylsham Road application that she was minded to call in that application on grounds of over development, as requested by the Town Council. According to an email message sent on March 12th the District Council is however expecting an amended application which will have to be re-advertised. Visited the Motorcycle Museum once again and given them advice about North Norfolk District Council's Big Society Fund. The Council is considering a community warden scheme in order to address the problem of dog fouling.

Mrs. West reported that it was mainly dog walkers who were accessing the Laundry Loke site and possibly breaking down the fencing.

A report was submitted from the Town Mayor of events he had attended since the last meeting.

10640 PART-NIGHT LIGHTING

Members were reminded that it had been agreed at the last meeting to ask the Police if the anti social behaviour pattern had increased since the introduction of part-night lighting and in particular in the Spenser Avenue/Thirlby Road area. Members noted the police report and no further action was supported.

10641 LIME TREE ROAD – TRAFFIC

Members were reminded that at the last meeting Paul Morse, in his report, had highlighted the on-going problems in Lime Tree Road and requested the Town Council's support to urge the County Council to undertake a feasibility study to investigate improvements to the traffic flow and parking in Lime Tree Road/Kimberley Road and Hall Lane.

It was **RESOLVED**

**That the County Council be requested to carry out a feasibility study.**

10642 SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION

Members were reminded that arising from the public participation item it had been agreed at the last meeting to consider the concerns regarding speeding traffic along Yarmouth Road and to reduce the speed limit to 20 mph from the entrance to the hospital to the Police station.

It was suggested that a reduction in the speed limit in other areas of the town should also be taken into consideration.

It was **RESOLVED**

**To ask a Highways officer to attend a future meeting to explain the criteria in relation to requests for speed reduction.**

10643 **BUS INTERCHANGE STATION**

It was reported that the request for a bus interchange station had arisen from meetings held with Charles Sanders and the County Council regarding the proposed town centre improvements and the congestion of buses in the town centre. As highlighted in the report from Paul Morse and also from the Leadership of Place Project there may be money available in the County Council's 2014/15 budget for a feasibility study into a bus interchange station. It was suggested that members lobby the County Council to carry out a feasibility study for North Walsham and to look at land on Yarmouth Road and other alternative suitable sites.

It was **RESOLVED**

**That the County Council be asked to carry out a feasibility study for a bus interchange station in North Walsham to include land at Yarmouth Road and other alternative sites.**

10644 **CAR PARKS (10618)**

Mr. Robertson reported that he had been made aware through the District Councillors for North Walsham that the District Council wished to reopen negotiations with the Town Council but no direct contact had been made. Members agreed that a letter should be sent to the District Council expressing strong concern that no contact had been made with the Town Council about reopening negotiations and ask for a formal letter that this is the case and the basis on which they wish to proceed. It was also agreed that there was a need to deal with the two car parks separately. The Town Council was not in a position to meet liabilities for damage to cars.

It was **RESOLVED**

- (a) **That a letter be sent to the District Council asking for confirmation in writing that they wish to reopen negotiations.**
- (b) **That Cllrs. Robertson, Mrs. Belson and Sims together with the Town Clerk discuss the way forward with the District Council.**

10645 **EMPTY PROPERTIES**

Mr. Spencer expressed concerned that there are properties in King's Arms Street which had been empty for sometime and as there is a housing need, he suggested that the District Council should look at empty properties in the town to see what could be done to bring the properties into use. The Town Council was asked if it would write to the District Council seeking information from the developer and District Council on any empty homes policy in general.

It was **RESOLVED**

**That the District Council's attention be drawn to the number of empty properties in the town and ask them to make the necessary enquiries to see what can be done to encourage owners to bring them up to standard and help meet the housing need.**

10646 CONDITION OF PROPERTY

Mrs. Uprichard reported that she had received several complaints regarding the state of the paintwork and rotting woodwork at Martins newsagents and had spoken to Phil Godwin (Conservation Officer) at the District Council to establish what action could be taken to remedy this matter. To her dismay there was nothing that the District Council could do unless the building was becoming unsafe. Mrs. Uprichard expressed concern that this property was in the conservation area. It was suggested that the Town Council requests copy of the District Council's Conservation policy in the first instance. It was also suggested that a small team be appointed to look at the state of the buildings in the town. It was **RESOLVED**

**That a letter be sent to Steve Blatch drawing his attention to the state of this property and asking what powers were available to the District Council to deal with such buildings, particularly where properties are within the Conservation area and request a visit from the Conservation Officer.**

10647 ST. NICHOLAS COURT PRECINCT

Mr. Robertson stated that members couldn't fail to be concerned about the state of the pavement in the St Nicholas Court Precinct near to the raised garden area by the Shoe Shop, particularly around the drain/manhole. When he had questioned officers at the Leadership of Place meeting about this, and asked for a small protection fence around the drain, he was advised that to do so would mean that the District would be liable, and would be accepting responsibility for the Precinct. It was also made clear that as the grounds were under the ownership of the Treasury should any person fall and injure themselves there would be no redress. Even despite the District Councils incoherent policy on the Precinct there are those who are making a valiant attempt at running a business, which would be required by Law to have a Public Liability Insurance. This whole area was becoming a liability and yet there was no insurance for members of the public. Mr. Robertson asked the Council to consider requesting that the District Council takes steps to make the Precinct safe.

It was **RESOLVED**

1. **That this Town Council requests the District Council to put pressure on the Official Solicitor to make the Precinct a safe environment to walk and shop, including the raised beds**
2. **That this Town Council asks the District Council to seek correct legal advice regarding providing a safety Barrier or some form of protection around the manhole.**
3. **That this Town Council asks the District Council for an update on their enquiries in relation to taking over the Precinct from the Treasury.**

10648 LITTER BINS (10619)

A reply was submitted from the District Council regarding the Council's liability with regard to the provision of a litter bin. It was felt unlikely that the Town Council would be held accountable for any additional tasks such as upkeep and maintenance of the site by simply making a one off purchase of a litter bin. It was suggested that if the Town Council purchased a bin that it be given to the District Council for responsibility and maintenance.

10649 DEFIBRILLATOR

It was reported that an independent North Walsham business has offered to purchase one defibrillator and a donation from the North Walsham Masonic Lodge of £291.00 had been received towards a second one. Letters had been sent to the Lions Club, Round Table and the Rotary Club seeking further donations. The Town Mayor stated that a defibrillator demonstration would be given at the Town meeting to show how easy they are to use. Enquiries were being made of the costs of suitable machines.

10650 LEADERSHIP OF PLACE

It was reported that a meeting had been held with the County Council and Charles Sanders to look at the plans for the town centre improvements. With the buses currently stopping in the Market Place it was likely that with the echelon parking proposals there would be a small decrease in the number of parking places. However, if in the future the buses did not stop but just drove through then parallel parking space could be provided.

10651 PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

A detailed statement showing the payments and receipts amounting to £17,890.66 and £10,401.15 respectively was submitted and approved.

10652 TREE WORK

It was reported that following the annual report from Mr. Coombes, three quotations had been received for work to the Cemetery, Park, Churchyard, and Amenity areas:-

Anglia Tree - £8620.00          Robert Bell - £3405.00          Tree Hopper - £3030.00

It was **RESOLVED**

**That the quotation received from Tree Hopper of £3,030.00 be approved.**

10653 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2013 and 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2013 were received. (App. A)

10654 CORRESPONDENCE

Letter received from NNDC re: CCTV in north Norfolk. The Council is undertaking a review of the CCTV service as part of the overall review of services that is currently being undertaken. A representative from the Town Council is invited to attend a discussion group/workshop on 17<sup>th</sup> April at 6.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m. Mr. Robertson to attend.

10655 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

1. Litter Bins
2. Car parks

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