

**NORTH WALSHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Town Council  
Held in the Council Chamber  
On 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2013

**PRESENT**

Mr. D.R. Robertson (Town Mayor)  
Mrs. J.R. Belson      Mr. E. Seward  
Mr. G. Bull            Mr. D. Spencer  
Mr. F. Choudhury    Mr. A. Thirtle  
Mr. B. Hester        Mrs. V. Uprichard  
Mr. C. Peck           Mrs. B. West  
Mr. T. Morland      Mr. B. Wexler  
Mrs. R.A. Rose  
District Councillors Ms. V. Gay and Mr. N. Lloyd

10578 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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

10579 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were submitted from Mr. R. Sims and Mr. D Turner

10580 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2012 were approved and signed by the Town Mayor.

10581 **MATTERS ARISING – FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

(a) Sports Centre (10571)

It was noted that due to the inclement weather the meetings had been postponed and there was no further information to report.

10582 **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

It was **RESOLVED**

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

10583 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

See memorandum.

10584 **RECONVENING OF MEETING**

It was **RESOLVED**

**That the meeting be reconvened.**

10585 **POLICE**

PCSO Alex Spinks submitted the monthly crime figures and it was noted that there were 49 crimes in total since the last meeting compared to 21 reported crimes for the same period in 2012, which included 13 non domestics that the Town Council had asked to be included in the crime figures. The next priority setting meeting will be Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> February 2013 at 19.00 hours at the Atrium. Safer Neighbourhood Surgeries would be held at Sainsbury's on 31<sup>st</sup> January and North Walsham Library on 14<sup>th</sup> February. The team priorities are Vehicle ASB in Midland Road' ASB in

Bainbridge Close and violence and criminal damage in the town centre over the Christmas and New Year periods. The team issues are vehicles parking on the pavement in the High Street, Southrepps and ASB by youths hanging around the back of the Community Centre.

Mr. Peck referred to an incident in the town where a business premises had been damaged and as the Police were not pressing charges no crime report number could be given and the owner of the premises could not undertake an insurance claim or claim for damages against the person. PCSO Spinks had no knowledge of the incident. It was agreed to bring this matter up at the Town Meeting with Inspector Dyson.

#### 10586 COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

A report was submitted from Mr. Morse stating he had written to the Assistant Director Highways asking what the cost of a Permit Parking Scheme in Lime Tree Road would be and that action was required to alleviate the on-going traffic problems in this area. He had received a request for an extension of the gritting route on the Brick Kiln Road and a request to extend the current 30mph limit on Bacton Road away from the town. The first session of Street Sports was due to be held on 25<sup>th</sup> January and there would be an official launch in February.

A report was submitted from Ms. Gay stating that a meeting had been arranged with Norman Lamb and the owner of the Laundry Loke site. The notification about planning permission for The Feathers was a mistake. There is a new application in for 4 Market Street. GAP is applying for Rural Development funding to create an online heritage guide for North Walsham.

In answer to a question Ms. Gay stated that the meeting with Norman Lamb was to mediate both sides understanding the obstacles of the site.

Mr. Lloyd gave information regarding 121 Mundesley Road – the District Council had taken enforcement steps on the owner to improve the property which would be going up for auction on 15<sup>th</sup> February. The enforcement notice would be carried to the next owner.

The Town Mayor submitted a list of diary dates he had attended.

#### 10587 PLAY EQUIPMENT

A proposal was submitted by Mr. E. Seward following a request from parents for play equipment for young children/toddlers aged 2 – 7 at Acorn Road green as the current play equipment is for older children. Two pieces of play equipment comprising a platform and slide and a double toddlers swing. The estimated cost is in the region of £8,000. The area would also need to be fenced off.

The Town Council was asked to consider making an application to the NNDC Big Society Fund for financing the purchase of the equipment. In doing so the Town Council would be expected to make some form of contribution (financial and/or in kind) themselves. The reason the Town Council was being asked to make a bid is because the parents involved are not an organised group or legal entity able to make a funding bid themselves. Further it is known that other parish councils in North Norfolk are making bids to the Big Society Fund for such play equipment. Background information was submitted regarding the funding for the other play equipment on this land.

Members were reminded that this land is owned by the District Council together with the existing play equipment and maintained by the District. If the Town Council approved the request it would be necessary to ask the District Council for permission to put play equipment on their land and it was suggested that perhaps the District Council be asked to take on the maintenance of the equipment once installed. It would also be necessary to carry out a full consultation exercise with the surrounding

estate residents. The Town Clerk offered to meet with the parents involved to discuss the way forward.

On the proposition of Mr. Seward seconded by Mrs. Belson

It was **RESOLVED**

**That the Town Council approved the request in principle subject to consultation with the District Council and residents before any funding application is made.**

10588 **HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS (10568)**

It was reported that a request for further information was still awaited from the County Council. It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

10589 **RESURFACING**

A letter was submitted from the County Council regarding a scheme to resurface part of Yarmouth Road/Grammar School Road/New Road to improve the surface texture, overall strength and road profile. The works will be carried out in three phases but had been postponed to the Spring. The Council would be notified of the dates.

The letter was received.

10590 **MARKET PLACE (10545)**

A letter was submitted from the County Council Highways Maintenance Manager, Mr. Tupper, expressing concern that the Town Council is still unhappy with the surfacing undertaken in the Market Place. He believes that overall this is an acceptable finish for this type of surfacing. An arrangement had been made with the District Council for the mini sweeper to sweep any loose chippings and the Highways Officer would liaise with the Town Clerk for the works to be carried out after a Thursday market. No further work was programmed for this area as the County Council believes the situation to be acceptable. Any chippings in the channels would either bed in or be swept up by the sweeper. He was confident that the cleaning of material from the footway and the Council's concerns about the visual appearance of paving would soon blend in after significant pedestrian passage. The contractors had been paid in full. It was reported that part of the resurfacing outside QD was coming away where the two surfaces met.

It was **RESOLVED**

**That a meeting be held with the Highways Officer and County Councillors to discuss this matter.**

10591 **NAMING AND NUMBERING**

A request has been received from Victory Housing requesting that the site on Mundesley Road be named Lawson Court after District Cllr. Cliff Lawson a Victory housing board member who passed away last year. Members were reminded that it is the practice of the Town Council to name roads/developments after local people and history. This site has always been known as Howards. The Town Mayor referred to letter in the newspaper from Michael Howard protesting that the Council referred to the site as Howard's garage rather than Howard's coachworks. It was noted that the agent for the site and the District Council all referred to the site as "former Howard's garage".

It was **RESOLVED**

**That Victory Housing be informed that the Council's preferred choice would be Howard Court which would retain the history of the original use of the site.**

10592 **BUS STOP/SHELTER – CROMER ROAD**

Notes of a meeting held with County officers to discuss the proposed bus stop and shelter outside the Waitrose store held on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2013 were submitted. It was reported that the Town Council would be required to sign a licence for the bus shelters which would be paid for by Waitrose as part of the planning application. It was suggested that the Town Council discusses with Waitrose a maintenance agreement. It was noted that the street lights would be extended and Mr. Spencer requested that they be turned off when the store is closed.  
It was **RESOLVED**

**That the Town Council enters into a Licence with the County Council for the provision of two bus shelters at the Cromer Road bus stops outside Waitrose store.**

10593 **HIGHWAY GATEWAY – CROMER ROAD**

A proposal was submitted by Mrs. J.R. Belson that Council supports a request to ask for a 'gateway' to slow traffic on this increasingly busy road, which would also enhance the entrance into the town from the Cromer Road direction. Given the introduction of the bus stops outside the new Waitrose store and the increasingly busy junctions, the speed of traffic and safety of pedestrians trying to use the island crossing was discussed. There appeared to be little which could be done under the current application other than additional wooden bollards and lighting. However, the suggestion of a 'gateway' (as seen entering Felbrigg) with sloping wooden sides and red tarmac, was not dismissed and it had been recognised that there was 'cause for concern' and this proposal may help slow the traffic.  
On the proposition of Mrs. Belson seconded by Mr. D. Spencer  
It was **RESOLVED**

**That the County Council be asked to provide a gateway with sloping wooden sides and red tarmac at the entrance to North Walsham on the Cromer Road.**

10594 **LITTER BINS**

Mr. Seward referred to the problem in the St. Nicholas Court Precinct which is private land but where the District Council was currently emptying the bins and sweeping the area. The Town Clerk reported that she had been in discussion with the officer at the District Council and also shop owners in the area and asked for deferment pending further information. This was agreed.

10595 **GRIT BINS**

It was reported that due to the recent snow and icy conditions requests for grit bins had been received. The Clerk gave a verbal report of a meeting with Mr. Morse and Mr. Simon Briggs, the Highway Inspector when it was suggested that a meeting be held to look at the gritting route before deciding on the location of any additional grit bins. It was agreed to defer this matter to await the review.  
Mrs. Uprichard, as Chair of Parks & Cemetery Committee wished to put on record appreciation for the work the Council's ground staff had carried out in clearing away the snow in the Park and Cemetery and also on pavements in the town. It was also

noted that some shop keepers had also taken to clearing away the snow from their premises. It was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to the Council's ground staff.

10596 CAR PARKS (10549)

A letter dated 14<sup>th</sup> December 2012 and received on 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2012 from the District Council was submitted. It was noted that the letter stated that it was regrettable that the District Council had not been able to conclude negotiations in relation to the Midland Road and Mundesley Road car parks. A Delegated Authority had previously been signed and put in place to suspend the Car Parking Order whilst negotiations took place and this Authority expired on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012 and officers had not been asked to extend this period. The District Council will therefore continue to run and maintain the car parks and steps would be taken to address the pot holes issue and the Car Parking Order will be re-instated with both car parks running as permit holder/season ticket car parks.

The Town Mayor gave a verbal report of a meeting with District Cllr. Rhodri Oliver and Town Clerk when it had been stated that the reason for the decision had been that too much District Council officer time had been spent on the negotiations. Mr. Robertson had stated that 90% of the problem had stemmed with the District Council and had given dates of meetings and correspondence where there had been delays in receiving information. Mr. Robertson asked Council to agree to a Freedom of Information request to the District Council asking for all papers, including emails and that delegated powers be given to the Town Clerk, Mr. Robertson and Mrs. Belson to take this matter forward and submit to the next appropriate Council meeting. A complaint about maladministration was also suggested. It was also suggested that this matter be an agenda item on the next Leadership of Place meeting and a letter written to the MP and the Chamber of Trade informing them of the situation.

Mrs. Uprichard suggested that photographs of the condition of both car parks be taken for record purposes. It was agreed that the Mundesley Road car park was not fit for purpose and must be resolved. Members could not understand why the District Council had taken the decision to make both car parks season ticket holder only. The Town Clerk was asked to contact other Clerks in Norfolk to see what the car parking charges were for their towns.

It was **RESOLVED**

**(a) That the Town Mayor be given authority to seek a Freedom of Information request from the District Council as outlined.**

**(b) That delegated powers be given to the Town Clerk, Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor to take this matter forward.**

10597 NORFOLK CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

A letter was submitted from Norfolk Citizens Advice Bureau outlining the proposed merger of north Norfolk, Yare Valley, Norwich & West Norfolk and Dis & Thetford Bureaux. It was noted that future grant payments should be made out to Norfolk Citizens Advice Bureau. The Town Mayor referred to a letter in the newspaper regarding the Town Council's proposed grant of £4,000 and to a meeting he had had with the North Walsham Manager who would be made redundant due to the merger. It was suggested that Norfolk Citizens Advice Bureau be informed that the Council will defer giving the grant for six months to see how the merger works. As previously agreed the grant was intended for use at the North Walsham office and not to benefit people elsewhere in the County.

It was **RESOLVED**

**That the Bureau be informed that the Council will defer any payment of grant for a period of not less than 6 months. After this period the Council will decide whether to hand over all or part of the money that has been set aside.**

10598 **DEFIBRILLATOR**

Mrs. Belson stated that she was concerned that there was not a defibrillator in the town centre and referred to a couple of recent incidences where if this piece of equipment had been available it might have saved lives. Mrs. Belson submitted statistics on sudden cardiac arrest/death and the benefit of availability of defibrillators. Defibrillators, (AEDs) need to be placed strategically. Rural areas, community places, areas with poor road networks / traffic congestion, and where large crowds gather are all places where defibrillators are needed the most. The British Heart Foundation can support the cost of a defibrillator with a grant. Any staff or Info Office personnel can volunteer for further training if interested.

Councillors were asked to support in principle, the acquisition of a defibrillator and investigate the cost/grant/location at the March meeting. It was noted that North Walsham is one of the few market towns that does not have this equipment. Mr. Robertson stated that the Rotary Club might be interested in giving a grant towards this equipment.

On the proposition of Mrs. Belson seconded by Mrs. Uprichard  
It was **RESOLVED**

**That further investigation takes place regarding the acquisition of a defibrillator to include cost, grant and location for discussion at the March meeting.**

10599 **LEADERSHIP OF PLACE**

Mr. Seward reported that Mr. Tentori had signed the contract on 4 Market Street to develop the site including the old toilet block. Certain time scales had been imposed which he has to comply with if he wishes to retain the land. It would take 2/2½ years to get the site developed.

10600 **PRECEPT 2013/14(10572)**

Reference was made to the report to the December meeting on the effect that the change from the national council tax benefit scheme to a Local Council Tax Support scheme had on the Council Tax base and the charge to parish and town council tax payers in respect of parish and town precepts. The District Council had confirmed that part of their Council Tax support grant has been identified to minimise the effect of the Council Tax base reduction in respect of parish precepts. The amount of grant for this Council is £26,997 and members were asked to reduce the 2013/14 precept requirement to £129,003. The grant would be paid on the same basis as the precept. The revised precept of £129,003 would produce a charge, at band D of £36.40 based on a Council Tax base of 3,543.15.

It was **RESOLVED**

**That a revised Precept of £129,003 be approved.**

**N.B.** The Town Clerk referred to the Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in the Code of Conduct and confirmed that the District Council Monitoring Officer had stated that no dispensation was required for councillors when setting the Council's Precept.

10601 **PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS**

A detailed statement showing the payments and receipts amounting to £19,739.25 and £5,434.99 was submitted and approved. It was reported that the payment to Doe Sport had been deferred due to outstanding work required to the tennis courts.

10602 **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2012 and 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2013 were received. (App. A)

10603 **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Norfolk Newsletter and invitation to attend Spring in Venice – a Celebration of Music at Holkham Hall on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2013.
2. Update on Better Broadband for Norfolk Information Sheet 9 from County Council.
3. Copy of Full Council minutes for meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2013.
4. Temporary Traffic Restriction Order for King's Arms Street/Park Lane for two way traffic at two points in King's Arms Street.
5. Copy letter to the District Council from North Norfolk Clinical Commissioning Group re: the current ambulance service provision in north Norfolk and rural Broadland and email from Norman Lamb.
6. Notification of a Drive safer for longer scheme from Norfolk County Council.
7. Temporary Traffic Restriction Order for Northfield Road prohibiting parking waiting, stopping and loading/unloading vehicles with effect from 18<sup>th</sup> February to 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2013

10504 **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

1. Sports Centre – update
2. Litter Bins
3. Car parks – gritting
4. Pigeons – update
5. King's Arms street – empty properties (Mr. Spencer)

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