

## NORTH WALSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Town Council  
Held in the Council Chamber  
On 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2012.

### PRESENT

Mr. D. Robertson (Town Mayor)  
Mrs. J.R. Belson    Mr. R. Sims  
Mr. G. Bull        Mr. D. Spencer  
Mr. F. Choudhury   Mr. A. Thirtle  
Mr. B. Hester      Mr. D. Turner  
Mrs. R.A. Rose     Mrs. V. Uprichard.  
Mr. E. Seward      Mrs. B. West  
Mr. B. Wexler

### 10540 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr. E. Seward declared an interest in the item relating to Leadership of Place.  
Mrs. V. Uprichard declared an interest in the item relating to Griffon Area Partnership.  
Mr. B. Wexler declared an interest in the item relating to Citizens Advice Bureau.

### 10541 APOLOGIES

An apology was submitted from Mr. C. Peck.

### 10542 MINUTES

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2012 were approved and signed by the Town Mayor.

### 10543 POLICE REPORT

PC Charlotte Reed submitted the monthly crime figures and it was noted that there were 48 crimes since the last meeting compared to 64 crimes for the same period in 2011. 22 non-crime domestic incidents had been logged. The next priority setting meeting is to be held on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2012 at 7.00 p.m. at the Atrium when the Police Inspector would be present to answer questions. The community issue regarding youths congregating on the community centre car park and at the rear of the community centre was noted and this would be taken to the SNAP panel to be considered as a priority for the next period. There was also a problem with parking near the Manor Road school. The SNT priorities remained the same as the last meeting.

### 10544 COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

A written report was submitted from Mr. Paul Morse stating that work to reduce the flooding in Spa Common continued to be a challenge. Additional dropped kerb sites had been identified; following a complaint it had been discovered that a dropped kerb should have been installed on the pavement at the Mundesley Road end of the Cemetery. Highways are talking to Sainsbury's agents. The Permissive Footpath from Furze Hill to White Horse Common is only being kept open because a volunteer cuts it. More voluntary help was required. Norwich City Community

Sports Foundation had decided to close down Kickz with immediate effect and Street Sports will be launched in early January.

A written report was submitted from Mr. E. Seward giving information regarding a presentation by the East of England Ambulance Service to the District Council Scrutiny Committee. His report also covered matters relating to the Sports Centre and Car parks which were dealt with at the appropriate items on the agenda.

The Town Mayor submitted a written report of the 27 events that he had attended. He had been unable to attend the opening of Flax and Finch due to a previous engagement.

Mrs. West informed Ms. Gay that the drainage problems at the former Crane Fruehauf site had not been settled. Mr. Wagstaff was waiting for several people to contact him. Ms. Gay stated that at the last meeting she had reported that planning approval had been approved for both applications on this site but this did not include the drainage problem.

#### 10545 MARKET PLACE (10525)

A letter was submitted from the County Council in reply to the Town Council's concerns regarding the state of the Market Place following the recent resurfacing. It was confirmed that much work was carried out by the County Council team to aid the delivery of the works. Assurance was given that the Council's concerns had been taken seriously and May Gurney, the contractor, would be taking further action on 18<sup>th</sup> November. The works would address the issues raised by the Town Mayor – cleansing of the block paved speed table, along with any other areas of bituminous contamination, clearing the blocked drainage channel and finally undertaking a full mechanical sweep of the Market Place area to finish. In addition, Anglia Water needs to do some minor cover raising work. It was accepted that the treatment did not initially offer the cosmetic finish of an asphalt surface, due to increasing pressure on budgets but visually it would soon blend in and would extend the life of the Market Place before a full resurfacing was required.

Mr. Robertson stated that the works had not been fully carried out and it was agreed that a letter be written to the County Council pointing out that unfortunately the work agreed had not been completed. Part of the town centre was full of loose chippings; the kerb edgings had not been trimmed and although the bitumen had been cleaned off the pavements they now looked worse because of the way the work had been carried out. Members questioned whether the sub-contractor had been paid for the work.

#### 10546 PIGEONS

It was reported that the District Council had assessed the pigeons in the town centre. The numbers appeared to be increasing again, and they were in the process of writing to two building owners to encourage proofing as complaints were being received about the droppings on the pavement again. The use of the gel on the BREAK roof had been a huge success and seemed to have eradicated the pigeons from this end of the town. As always the District Council will use the various measures available to minimise any problems associated with the pigeons within the town centre. It was reported that the pigeons were eating the pansies in one of the beds in the Churchyard.

10547 **DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Notes of an informal meeting with members of the Town Council and Mrs. S. Oxtoby, Chief Executive Officer and Mr. K. Johnson, Leader of the District Council held on 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2012 were submitted. Items of discussion covered the Mundesley Road and Midland Road car parks; the Sports Centre; 4 Market Street/St. Nicholas Court and the derelict sites in North Walsham.

Mr. Sims reported that Rother Council had given free car parking at weekends and if they could do it so could other Councils.

Mrs Uprichard reported that the Environmental Health Officer would be seeking a meeting with Kitale regarding the amount of furniture stored in the Precinct and car park.

10548 **SPORTS CENTRE (10526)**

Permission was given for Mr. Morse to speak during the discussion on this item.

A copy of Mr. Moore's presentation to the District Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the Cabinet's decision on the Sports Centre was submitted and a report from Mr. Seward was also submitted. Mr. Morse stated that the High School knew nothing more than what was in the press and website. He had recently had an email from the District Council requesting a meeting but no other communication had been received since September. He welcomed some aspects of the report but had felt aggrieved as the school had only been given 48 hours notice of the meeting. A meeting had been organised for the report to be presented but the District Council had withdrawn from the meeting. It was confirmed that the Cabinet had been asked to reconsider their decision. It was agreed that the Town Council did not support the report and would wait the outcome of the Cabinet meeting..

10549 **CAR PARKS (10527)**

The Heads of Terms in relation to Midland Road had been circulated to members. The Estates and Valuation Manager had confirmed that both lettings are to be subject to a Schedule of Condition to reflect that they should be returned in no better or worse condition than as that at the commencement of the letting. With regard to the Midland Road heads of terms it was reported that no break clause had been provided and the maintenance costs had been quoted as £1,000 rather than £500. It was also pointed out that under the Dilapidation Clause the Council would be liable for Landlords costs in all respect to include of service of notices and Surveyors fees etc It was also noted from the photographs of the Schedule of Condition that the land would require weed spraying and other works. In view of the ongoing discussions in respect of Mundesley Road, the Schedule of Condition had not been completed. The Clerk reported that Fakenham Town Council had not signed the lease, contrary to the statement made at the meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> November. Mr. Seward reported that the figures he had been given at the previous meeting were incorrect and submitted more up to date figures. It was reported that the enforcement officer did not live in West Norfolk but lived within north Norfolk. For the first 7 months of this year £6,000 fines was taken which could have been spent in North Walsham. It was stated that the revenue of the Community Centre had suffered since the introduction of the evening charges and it was agreed to ask the Community Centre to submit figures from April to present time. Many of the local residents were unaware of the evening charge. The penalty charge only covered the cost of the fine

It was stated that Mundesley Road was dangerous due to the amount of potholes on the land. The District Council had now commissioned a report on the current situation with regard to the land.

The subject of the free 3 hour parking on Sundays leading up to Christmas was discussed. It was pointed out that the Sunday Market at Sheringham would be on District Council land and, unlike North Walsham, no special permit for pedestrianising the street would be required.

It was **RESOLVED**

**That the District Council be informed that the Town Council is not prepared to sign the Heads of Terms for Midland Road.**

10550 **STEAD AND SIMPSON**

It was reported that the shop would close on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2012 despite 2,000 people signing the petition which had been forwarded by Norman Lamb MP to ShoeZone and prior to the proposed closure on 8<sup>th</sup> December. Members agreed that this showed the contempt the firm had for their staff and customers. It was reported that a new shoe shop would be opened in the St. Nicholas Court Precinct and that the existing staff would be employed.

10551 **CEMETERY**

It was reported at the Estimates meeting that due to the popularity of people preparing their burial plans the office was receiving a significant number of requests for reservations of exclusive burial rights. A very rough estimate of the space available for burials in the Chapel Cemetery had been carried out and, providing there is not a health epidemic which would mean an influx of burials, there could be 450 burial spaces. It was pointed out that as a burial authority the Town Council is in the business of burying the dead not reserving plots for the living. Members were asked to consider approving reservations only for specific cases.

It was **RESOLVED**

**That applications for reservations of exclusive burial rights should be considered by the Parks and Cemetery and only approved for specific cases.**

10552 **HONOURS BOARD**

It was reported that there was very little space available for past mayoral photographs in the Council Chamber and it was suggested that members may wish to replace the photographs with a mayoral honours board. The photograph of the current Town Mayor would be displayed and the redundant photographs placed in a folder for reference. It was stated that the cost of the honours board could be contained within the current budget figures.

It was **RESOLVED**

**That the honours board be approved and that details of costs be submitted in due course.**

10553 **ESTIMATES 2013/14**

The minutes of the Estimates meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2012 were approved and the Town Mayor authorised to sign them. Members were reminded of the

decisions made in relation to the 2013/14 estimates and a revised net expenditure summary, statement of balances and earmarked reserves pages showing the effect of the extra Cemetery fees and general grants increase together with the provisional and conditional grants was submitted. Further financial and other information was submitted in respect of the Citizens Advice North Norfolk and further details relating to the Griffon Area Partnership. It was noted that the general balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 was estimated at £37,358 using an amount of precept (£156,000) as recommended at the Estimates meeting.

It was **RESOLVED**

- (a) That a grant of £4,000 for CAB be approved.
- (b) That a grant of £1,000 for GAP, to be taken out of the specific earmarked reserve, be approved.
- (c) That the Precept for the financial year 2013/14 be set at £156,000

10554 **PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS**

A detailed statement showing the payments and receipts amounting to £18,219.88 and £4,734.42 respectively was submitted and approved.

10555 **CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR**

Members were asked to approve the office opening hours over the Christmas/New Year period.

It was **RESOLVED**

**That the office close at 12.30 p.m. on Christmas Eve (24<sup>th</sup>) and reopen on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 2013.**

10556 **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2012 and 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2012 were received. (App. A)

10557 **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

The minutes of the meeting of the Christmas Lights Working Group held on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2012 were submitted and approved. (App. B)

10558 **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Invitation to attend Parish Clerks and Councillors Coffee and a Chat with Norfolk ALC's Parish Liaison Officer, at Wroxham Barns Restaurant on 4<sup>th</sup> December.
2. Invitation to attend North Walsham Gymnastics Club annual Christmas gymnastics display on 9<sup>th</sup> December at the Sports Centre. Time 2.00 p.m.
3. Invitation to attend Prince's Trust Team 71 final presentation on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2012.
4. Copy of Residents' Report 2011/12 and Victory Housing news.
5. Invitation to visit the Health Emergency Operations Centre at Hellesdon where 999 calls are received and ambulances despatched. Mr. Robertson, Mrs. Uprichard and Mr. Bull expressed an interested in attending.
6. Letter from County Council giving information of provision of two new bus stops at Bacton Road.

10559 **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

1. North Walsham sign B1145. It was reported that the County Council had been asked to replace this sign which was damaged by a lorry.

10560 **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

It was **RESOLVED**

**That in view of the private nature of the business about to be discussed the public and press be excluded from the meeting.**

10561 **CO-OPTION**

Minutes of a meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2012 were submitted. It was noted that members had met Mr. Terry Morland who had expressed an interest in being co-opted on to the Town Council. The minutes were approved.

It was **RESOLVED**

**That Mr. Terry Morland be co-opted as a Town Councillor for the north ward.**

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