

NORTH WALSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Town Council
Held in the Council Chamber
On 30th October, 2012.

PRESENT

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

The Town Mayor welcomed Mr. Bull to his first Council meeting.

10518 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mrs. V. Uprichard declared an interest in the item relating to the Town Team.
Mr. E. Seward declared an interest in the item relating to Leadership of Place.

10519 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted from Mr. Choudhury and Mrs. Rose.

10520 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 25th September, 2012 were approved and signed by the Town Mayor.

10521 **MATTERS ARISING – FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

(a) **Resignation (10502)**

It was reported that the deadline for requests for an election to fill the vacancy was 31st October, 2012.

10522 **POLICE**

Sgt. Beard submitted the monthly police figures and it was noted that 21 non-crime domestic incidents had been logged. Street surgeries would be held on 3rd November at Sainsbury's store and 23rd November at North Walsham Library. There is a problem with youths congregating on the community centre car park and around the back of the community centre which would be referred to the SNAP panel. A safe scoot community day was held on 30th October, 2012. The next priority setting meeting would be held on 12th December at 7.00 p.m. Current SNT priorities for the North Walsham area are – reduce youths littering the play areas near Millfield Primary School; monitor and reduce vehicles being used anti socially and littering on Midland Road; reduce anti social behaviour and possible small fires in Saddlers Wood area.

Sgt. Beard confirmed that current legislation stated that the SNAP meetings should be open to the public on a quarterly basis. Reference was made to the 4 incidences of night time violence against the person – it was confirmed that there was no pattern regarding location.

Sgt. Beard was thanked for his report.

10523 DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLORS

A written report was submitted from Mr. P. Morse stating that he had received another complaint from Lime Tree Road regarding speed and the behaviour of drivers. The High School Governors had decided to form a Charitable Company to manage the non-school activities of the Atrium. The County Council has agreed to put a "slow" sign on the carriageway approaching the pedestrian crossing in Mundesley Road. Work was scheduled for half-term week to solve a long standing problem with a gully in Park Avenue and further work is likely in Spenser Avenue to reduce pooling in the gutters.

A written report was submitted from Ms. V. Gay stating that Mr. Wagstaff had received permission for an attenuation pond and that the Magic Kingdom venture had been approved. There were no plans to develop the Laundry Loke site at the present time. Reference was made to the Council Tax Benefit Localisation and the £100m from government available to local government. The District is not likely to debate this until January. Cabinet is expected to hold discussions about the District Council's relationship with North Walsham's dual use sports centre on 12th November. The North Walsham district councillors continue to argue that the Sports Centre both needs and deserves public subsidy.

A written report was submitted from Mr. N. Lloyd giving further information regarding 121 Mundesley Road. NNDC enforcement officers had been asked to consider whether section 215 of the Town and Country Act could be applied to force the owners to repair and maintain the property. Victory Housing has pledged £40K to NWACTA and in return wished to have a Victory representative as a Trustee and rebrand to North Norfolk Community Transport. This was approved in principle. NWACTA move into the Council office building on 12th November and their vehicles will be housed on the land in Hall Lane adjacent Cedar Court. Some parking for local people will remain.

The Town Mayor submitted a written report on events and meetings attended since the last meeting.

10524 MARKET PLACE

Mr. Robertson reported that he had contacted the County Council regarding the state of the Market Place following the recent resurfacing work and explained why he had gone to the press. Radio Norfolk had visited the town and interviewed him and taken photographs. The reporter had agreed that the work was not acceptable. A Highway inspector visited the town and subsequently agreed the same. Mr. Morse had spoken to the County Council and it was confirmed that remedial work had been carried out where some patches had failed; Anglia Water were due in the town shortly to raise the covers that are low and May Gurney will have to return to the site to clean up the pavement. The County Council will continue to monitor the situation and will require the contractor to rectify any problems that subsequently arise. It was agreed that with the town centre being in the conservation area, the work was not acceptable and it was agreed that the County Council be informed that a proper assessment should be put in place regarding quality of work and that the contractors should be accountable for such deplorable work.

It was also reported that the white lines had not been re-instated at Aylsham Road junction.

10525 MELBOURNE HOUSE (10501)

Members agreed that Mr. Lloyd should be allowed to speak on his report and answer any questions.

A written report was submitted from Mr. Lloyd giving information relating to the business ventures carried out at Melbourne House over the past year or so. Concern had been voiced about the parties for young people being held in the evening which were attracting over 200 individuals; the amount of anti-social behaviour involving alcohol, noise nuisance and safety measures when individuals left the site. The failure to control events led the Police to put the proprietors "on notice" having collected sufficient evidence to support a licence review. To date no further youth events have taken place. Mr. Lloyd felt that the Police and District Council had tried hard to work with the owners of Melbourne House to control the events and activities, but the amount of officer time could not be sustained in the future. The report was received.

10526 SPORTS CENTRE (10503)

Permission was given for both Mr. Lloyd and Mr. Morse to speak during the discussions on this item.

Mr. Lloyd reported that there had been a change in direction on the District Council's stance on the matter and stated that a business report will be in the public domain on Thursday and the Town Council would receive a copy. 1,000 Names had been collected in a petition to maintain funding for the facility: without it the venture could close. Mr. Morse also referred to the report and stated that the Governors had agreed that there was no way the school could take it on unless the finances were in place. The school was primarily to provide education. It had been agreed to form a Trust for the Atrium. So far as the District Councillors for North Walsham are concerned the District Council would continue to support the sports centre. It was agreed that the Sports Centre continues to be an agenda item.

10527 CAR PARKS (10506)

The Town Mayor reported that together with Mr. Seward and Mr. Oliver (new portfolio holder for car parks) he had visited the Mundesley Road car park to discuss the current state of the surfacing which was almost devoid of any surface with a huge trough at the entrance. A verbal report was given and a letter submitted from the District Council giving two options on the way forward. The District Council did confirm that "whilst acknowledging the breakup of the surface has been greater than expected, it is not the intention of the Council to undertake further substantial works to the surface whilst it remains a free car park." Mr. Seward referred to the £40,000 which the District Council had spent on rebuilding the wall and some resurfacing work to make the car park more attractive but if nothing was done then the car park would be unusable. Mr. Sims was worried that with the problems connected to the Mundesley Road car park and 4 Market Street the payment to the town centre works might be reviewed. He felt that a grid system used on other car park surfaces should have been used.

It was agreed to wait for the Head of Terms and take the matter up with the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council who would be attending the Town Council on 13th November.

10528 LEADERSHIP OF PLACE

A report was submitted regarding the decision of the District Council to approve funding support from the Council's Leadership of Place Programme budget to contribute to the Market Place improvements and highway signage scheme together with a report on the decision relating to 4A Market Street. North Walsham members had supported the decisions. A copy of the Press Release following a detailed analysis of retail trends and demand/supply was submitted. It was pointed out that if the town wants to improve its retail offer for both multiple and original shops there were two obstacles - inadequate footfall and the size of the retail units in the town. The report had suggested that there is significant interest in the town from supermarket retailers. The paragraph relating to Paston Sixth Form College's Lawns campus was noted.

10529 TOWN TEAM (10505)

The minutes of the meeting of the Town Team Steering Group held on 17th October, 2012 were submitted together with the press release regarding the Portas Initiative springs £10,000 for North Walsham Town Team ideas and the terms of reference which referred to representation from the Town Council as Clerk/Mayor and member to sit on the Group. The next meeting would be held on 21st November, 2012 (no time given). It was also reported that the grant application to the Big Society had been unsuccessful. Invitations were sought from members to stand as a representative on the Town Team. No one volunteered.

10530 AMBULANCE (10499c)

The Town Mayor gave a verbal report on the meeting to discuss the ambulance cuts held at Cromer Parish Hall on 10th October, 2012. Mr. Seward and the Town Clerk also attended. There was a question and answer session. Concern was expressed at the length of time local ambulances being parked outside the A & E department waiting to drop people off. It was noted that North Walsham ambulances could start off at the station but be in different parts of the region during the day. Those attending the meeting were concerned at the length of time it took for an ambulance to arrive and in some cases the person had unfortunately died. It was suggested that the Out of Hours doctor system was almost as bad as the wait for an ambulance. It would appear that North Walsham would have 2 vehicles which was one ambulance and one response vehicle. The ambulance would be 17 hours less than at present.

10531 MAYORAL CHAIN

It was reported that when the Town Mayor's chain was purchased pins were included to stop the chain from slipping, but this has proved unsuccessful. It was suggested that to keep the chain on the shoulders it should be mounted on a velvet collar. Details were given of the cost for the provision of a velvet colour from three mayoral specialists. It was also reported that the jewel would benefit from a re-finish to remove the one or two dents and brighten it up which would cost between £250 - £400 from Fattorini. A full quotation would be provided upon receipt of the jewel.

It was **RESOLVED**

That the chain be mounted on a bespoke double sided velvet backed colour with stiffener at a cost of £189.00 net and that the jewel be forwarded to Fattorini's for a re-finish quotation.

10532 **TOWN GUIDE (10386)**

It was reported that a meeting had been held with members of the East Coast Group Printing department when they had agreed that they could print the guide for the Town Council but would not be able to seek advertising etc. It was suggested that the Town Council undertakes the compilation of the guide which would likely engender a £1,250 profit. Updating the local organisations and community numbers had been completed but the biggest job would be seeking advertising. It had been suggested that the opportunity be taken to give the Guide a more modern look and photographs of Trackside, the tennis courts and play area were put forward for consideration. The next edition would be published in March, 2013.

Council's approval was sought to continue with the compilation of the guide, seeking advertising at the previous edition's rates, in view of the current financial climate and that printing of the Guide be carried out by the East Coast Group Ltd.

It was **RESOLVED**

That the officers be given approval to carry on the work for the 2013 Town Guide and that the East Coast Group undertakes the printing work.

10533 **PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS**

A detailed statement showing the payments and receipts amounting to £21,370.07 and £82,718.52 respectively was submitted and approved. It was also noted that on 1st October Mrs. West carried out a member's check on the accounts system and completed the tick sheets which were then given to Mr. B. Buck. Everything was satisfactory.

10534 **SKATEPARK**

It was reported that the Insurance playground inspection had flagged up that two of the ramps required attention due to a gap at the bottom of the ramps and there were two cracks which required welding. The original provider of the ramps was no longer in business and local welding firms had been asked to quote for the work. Freewheel had submitted a price to cut the two ramps apart and move to the side of the area; excavate a trench and cast a steel beam set at the tarmac level as worn by the ramp edges; replace the ramps and weld to the steel beam. The total cost to remove and replace the two ramps and weld the cracks would be £3,740. exclusive of VAT. It was noted that there was sufficient money in the estimates/reserve.

It was **RESOLVED**

That the work be carried out.

10535 **PLANNING**

The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 25th September, 2012 and 9th October, 2012 were received. (App. A)

10536 **PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the Parks & Cemetery Committee meeting held on 8th October, 2012 were submitted and the recommendations contained therein were approved. (App. B)

10537 **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

The minutes of the Christmas Lights Working Group meeting held on 16th October, 2012 were submitted and approved. It was reported that Mr. Cushion had given his services with a cherry picker. (App. C)

10538 **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Notice of Vacancy in the North Ward. Any requests for an election to be received by the Electoral Officer by 31st October, 2012.
2. Invitation to attend Victory Housing Trust Community Heroes Awards Ceremony at the Atrium on 9th November, 2012 at 6.30 p.m.
3. Notification of the Police and Crime Commissioner Election to be held on 15th November, 2012.
4. Copy of NNDC Full Council minutes.
5. Information re: Public inquiry – North Walsham and Dilham Canal
6. Annual Report 2011/12 – Norfolk ALC.
7. Invitation to attend Class of 2012 Celebration Evening, North Walsham High School on 14th November, 2012. The Town Mayor will present the Engineering Cup.
8. Notification that the Chief Executive Officer and Leader of the District Council will meet the Town Council on 13th November, 2012 immediately following the Planning Committee meeting.
9. Letter from the District Council re: Changes to Premises Licence – Live Music Act 2012 and the Licensing Act 2003.

10539 **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

1. Car parks
2. Sports Centre
3. Update on Pigeon situation
