

NORTH WALSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Town Council
Held in the Council Chamber
On 25th September, 2012.

PRESENT

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

10496 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.

10497 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted from Mr. F. Choudhury and Mr. T. Cornwall.

10498 MINUTES

The minutes of the monthly meeting of the Town Council held on 31st July, 2012 were approved and signed by the Town Mayor.

10499 MATTERS ARISING – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

(a) Laundry Loke (10471(a))

A letter was submitted from the District Council confirming that the signs are in place at Laundry Loke and a decision on the CCTV will be made once the effectiveness of the signage has been gauged.

(b) Parking (10476)

It was reported that the local Police had been paying attention to both Northfield Road and Cromer Road and no offences with reference to obstruction had been found. The Civil Enforcement Officers had been asked to pay attention to these two areas.

(c) Ambulance

As reported at the Planning Committee meeting, a meeting will be held on Wednesday, 17th October 2012 at Cromer and members were asked to let the Clerk know if they wished to attend.

(d) Tennis Courts

It was reported that the tennis courts had been officially opened on 8th September, 2012 by the Town Mayor, in the absence of Norman Lamb MP who was unable to attend.

10500 POLICE

PC Charlotte Reed attended the meeting and stated that she had been in post for 3 weeks as a beat officer and was also working within the community in

schools.

She said she worked with PC Gywn who was responsible for licenced premises within the town. The monthly crime figures were submitted. Information was also given regarding the incident in the town during the early hours of Saturday morning. The SNT priorities remained the same as last month. A joint partnership meeting with the residents of Stanley Road has been held. Work has started with North Walsham High School regarding entering into a Safer School Partnership.

Questions from councillors related to the play area at Stanley Road; anti-social behaviour at Sadlers Wood both of which were being monitored by the Police. PC Reed was thanked for her report.

10501 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

A written report was submitted from Mr. P. Morse relating to further complaints regarding speeding and bad driving in Lime Tree Road and the street lights being switched off. The County had agreed to fund 10 new dropped kerbs in North Walsham. There were concerns regarding cars not stopping at the Mundesley Road pedestrian crossing. It was confirmed that Mr. Morse was Chair of the High School Governors and information was given regarding the Sports Centre.

Concern was expressed that the County Council had not informed the public the date of the lights being switched off and that the suggestions made by the Town Council had been ignored by the County Council.

A written report was submitted from Mr. N. Lloyd relating to the Sports Centre; Melbourne House parties; Sainsbury's loading bay area which required tidying; Petre Close drainage issues; Acorn Road play area and Waitrose.

It was agreed that an item regarding the Melbourne Road issues be placed on the next agenda. Mr. Lloyd stated that Sgt. S. Blyth had informed him that the level of policing on these nights is not sustainable.

A list of engagements undertaken by the Town Mayor was submitted.

10502 RESIGNATION

A letter of resignation as a town councillor was submitted from Mr. T. Cornwall.

It was **RESOLVED**

That the letter be accepted.

10503 SPORTS CENTRE (10478)

A letter was submitted from the District Council referring to the meeting with Mr. D. Robertson and the Town Clerk on 7th August, 2012 and addressing questions raised in the original objection. Mr. Robertson gave further details of the meeting. Members gave permission for Mr. Lloyd to join the discussions and he stated that the Sports Centre Committee had no confidence in the District Council working with the community to improve matters as they cannot sustain the cost. North Walsham was being deprived of over £70,000 from the District Council and the centre would be difficult to run without any subsidy. The 2012-1015 strategy is still in place. What the school decides will be pivotal. The consultation report was not yet available.

The District Council had not handled the situation at all well and had created anger by those involved.

It was agreed that an item regarding the Sports Centre be placed on the next agenda.

10504 **LEADERSHIP OF PLACE**

Mr. Seward stated that the next Board meeting would be held on 15th October and it was hoped that the retail consultants' report would be considered. He also referred to the second consultancy report relating to the buildings in the town. It was hoped that within the next two months there might be a positive outcome to put together a financial package for the Market Place.

10505 **TOWN TEAM**

Mrs. Uprichard reported that the Town Team was set up several months ago, with the support of the District Council together with a number of people representing different organisations interested in promoting the regeneration of the town centre. The aim was to secure funding from the Mary Portas initiative and if successful, it had been agreed to employ an events organiser to promote activities in the town centre. However, the bid was unsuccessful and other sources of funding have been found and bids lodged with the Big Society and also the Department of Communities and Local Government. The first event would be a Flea Market in the St. Nicholas Court Precinct on 27th September, 2012. An action plan for the Team was also submitted.

It was noted that Mrs. Uprichard's involvement with the group was as a Trustee of the Griffon Area Partnership and not as a town councillor.

10506 **CAR PARKS (10461)**

A report of a meeting held on 23rd August, 2012 with officers of the District Council was submitted. Following a request from the Town Clerk some members had visited Mundesley Road car park and expressed grave concern at the state of the surface following the rain of the last few days. A large crater had appeared at the entrance to the car park with several smaller holes elsewhere. It was also reported that 6 Elite taxi vehicles had been parked in the car park on Monday. It was further reported that if the District Council did not continue with the lease of part of the Midland Road car park that the County Council would be prepared to enter into talks with the Town Council. It was agreed that the further updates would be submitted when available.

10507 **PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS**

A detailed statement showing the payments and receipts to £43,269.20 and £31,795.63 respectively together with the comparison of actual receipts and payments against the estimates was submitted and approved. It was noted that the Town Clerk has signed the overall bank reconciliation statement as at 8th September, 2012.

10508 **EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT**

The External Auditor's report for the year ended 31st March, 2012 was submitted and approved. Thanks were recorded to Mr. B. Buck for his excellent work in relation to the Council's finances.

It was reported that Mazars LLP had been appointed as the Council's external auditor for a five year period from 2012/13.

10509 **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 31st July, 2012, 21st August, 2012 and 11th September, 2012 were received. (App. A)

10510 **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

The minutes of the meeting of the Christmas Lights Working Group held on 4th September, 2012 were submitted and approved. (App. B)

10511 **FUNDAY**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Funday Committee held on 4th September, 2012 were submitted and approved. (App. C)

10512 **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the meetings of the Personnel Committee held on 7th August and 21st August, 2012 were submitted and approved. (D) It was reported that the interview date had changed due to re-advertising the post.

10513 **INFORMATION OFFICE**

The minutes of the meeting of the Information Office Steering Committee held on 18th September, 2012 were submitted and approved.

10514 **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. As reported previously works will begin on or shortly after 24th September to carry out highway works to reconstruct the footway along the B1145 Greens Road, North Walsham. The works are expected to take 2 weeks to complete.
2. The NNDC is carrying out a consultation on new Allocation Scheme and an event will be held at the Cromer offices on Monday 8th October from 6.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.
3. Information from NCC re: road surface in the Market Place which is wearing badly and breaking/cracking in places, particularly near the parking areas. The surface will be sealed with a micro asphalt and the date for this work is 9th October.
4. Copy of the minutes of the Griffon Tourism Forum meeting held on 28th August, 2012.
5. Copy letter from Dept. for Communities and Local Government to the Town Team.
6. Thank you letter from the Bluebell Pond Society for the maintenance grant.
7. Letter from the Brite Sprites Community Toddler Group re: Masquerade Ball.
8. Letter from The Benjamin Foundation – Happy 18th Birthday celebrations.
9. Diary Date – Norfolk ALC AGM to be held on Thursday 1st November, 2012. Mrs. Uprichard reported that she had resigned as the Town Council's representative on the Executive Committee.
10. Information from NCC on Better Broadband.
11. Proposed road closure – Little London Road on 9th October, 2012 for drainage repairs.

10515 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

1. Melbourne House
2. Sports Centre

10516 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.

10517 CO-OPTION

Minutes of a meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 18th September, 2012 when, in agreement with the Town Council, members had met the two candidates – Mr. G. Bull and Mr. M. Tatt for an informal chat regarding their interest in being co-opted on to the Town Council. The minutes were received.

The Town Mayor proceeded to ask members to vote for either Mr. Bull or Mr. Tatt. Voting for Mr. Bull was unanimous and he was duly declared elected to the north ward of the Town Council.
