

NORTH WALSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Town Council
Held in the Council Chamber
On Tuesday, 31st July, 2012.

PRESENT

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

10468 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mrs. V. Uprichard declared an interest in all District Council matters.
Mr. E. Seward declared an interest in the item relating to Leadership of Place.
Mr. B. Wexler declared an interest in the item relating to the North Walsham and Dilham Canal.
Mr. C. Peck declared an interest in the item relating to the Sports Centre.

10469 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted from Mrs. J.R. Belson, Mr. F. Choudhury and Mr. T. Cornwall.

10470 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the monthly meeting of the Town Council held on 26th June, 2012 were approved and signed by the Town Mayor.

10471 **MATTERS ARISING – FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

(a) Laundry Loke (10442a)

A letter was submitted from the District Council giving information regarding the security of the derelict site in Laundry Loke.

(b) Council Offices (10442b)

A letter was submitted from the District Council giving information regarding the fire measures and stating that a carbon monoxide detector would be fitted without delay.

(c) Information office (10457)

It was reported that the First Anniversary celebrations had been a success and that £205 had been raised which would be put in an earmarked reserve for future leaflet requirements.

(d) Toilets (10462)

It was reported that the Vicarage Street car park toilets had been officially opened on 17th July 2012 and the Town Mayor had attended.

10472 **POLICE**

PCSO L. Collyer and PCSO R King submitted the monthly crime figures. It was noted that the number of crimes were less than for the same period last year. A Safe Scoot (Mobility Scooter Safety Awareness Event) would be

held on Tuesday, 30th October 2012 at the Community Centre. The current SNT priorities for North Walsham area were 1. Vehicle ASB at Midland Road, North Walsham. 2. ASB on Melbourne Road and Stanley Road, North Walsham – children playing football and banging on windows. 3. Speeding through White Horse Common.

Reference was made to the community patrols query at the last meeting and PCSO Collyer agreed to follow this up. It was noted that figures for domestic violence had not been included and it was agreed to include this each month.

The officers were thanked for attending the meeting.

10473 **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

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

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

10474 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

See memorandum

10475 **RECONVENING OF MEETING**

On the proposition of Mr. Sims seconded by Mrs. Rose
It was **RESOLVED**

That the meeting be reconvened.

10476 **PARKING**

Letters were submitted from a resident in Northfield Road and a resident in Cromer Road both expressing concerns about cars parking on the road. Mrs. Sadler of Northfield Road had spoken during public participation.

An email was submitted from the County Highways Officer stating that there is an item on the traffic programme to look at restrictions in Hamilton Close and that Northfield Road will be included in the same scheme. A letter was submitted with regard to the problems of parking in Cromer Road stating that double yellow lines require a legal traffic order and there was currently a 2-3 year backlog for requests to be investigated. The County Council would look to residents to improve their own access and in their experience the removal of parking would also lead to high vehicle speeds.

The letter was received.

10477 **DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

A written report was submitted from Mr. Morse stating that the white line painting for the cycle lane in Church Street would be completed shortly. The 20 mph sign at the junction of Church Street would be reinstated. The Permissive Path from Furze Hill to White Horse Common was very overgrown and the County Council had confirmed that they would cut it and it was hoped the volunteer would be able to carry on. Kickz had closed until September but there were sufficient funds to take it into 2013. Reference was made to the Sports Centre and Mr. Morse considered that the District

Council's plans were an abdication of their responsibilities to North Walsham. If this happened, the High School must try to see if they could provide a financially viable community sports facility.

Mr. Seward submitted a written report stating that the decision notice for the Waitrose Planning Application was now available; a financial package for the development of the magical museum is close to being put together. The drainage issues on the site were also moving closer to being resolved. If the progress is maintained and the outstanding planning application approved the site could be opened to the public in the Spring of 2013. There still remained a further outstanding planning application for the site but the District Council had heard nothing from the agents. The town was unsuccessful in the second round of the Mary Portas Bid but the group was exploring further options to attract funding for the town centre. Sadlers Wood site has recently been awarded Green Flag status and plans for a play area at this venue using Section 106 money from a local housing development is well advanced. Mrs. Uprichard stated that plans were available in the Council Offices. A hole had appeared in the Vicarage Street car park which had now been filled in. It was thought to be the result of wet weather which caused material in an old drain to move. The outstanding landscaping works at the new exit at the Sainsbury's store will be carried out in the second week of August. NWACTA will shortly be leasing offices at the Council Offices and land at Hall Lane for their vehicles. The problems at Melbourne House have re-emerged. It is now for the Police/NNDC officers to see what can be done to effectively resolve these matters.

Mrs. West reported that there was a pollution problem on the former Crane Fruehauf site.

A written report was submitted from the Town Mayor giving information on the events he had attended since the last meeting.

10478 SPORTS CENTRE

Mr. Robertson reported that he had made requests under the Freedom of Information Act to both the County Council and District Council. In the first instance the County Council had denied any involvement with the Sports Centre but had been reminded that in the Agreement it states that the County Council is in partnership with the District Council. Concern was expressed that if the proposal went ahead in 2 or 3 years time there might not be any sports facilities. A written report against the proposals was submitted from District Councillor Nigel Lloyd who is the District Council representative on the Committee. It was suggested that if the District Council want to close the Centre they should close it now and take the blame. It was reported that in lieu of the 2 year notice period required by the Dual Use Agreement, the Council would pay the school a lump sum of £159,000 and at that point would end the formal Dual Use agreement. The proposals went against the District Council's own sport and leisure strategy, which said that the authority was best placed to provide facilities to encourage sports in disadvantaged communities. It was confirmed that the Council was not looking at similar moves at other centres in the District. Concern was expressed that no consultation had been made with the Sports Centre Management Committee. Reference was made to various communications taking place between the School and the Strategic Director of the District Council. A paper had been

submitted to the June Cabinet meeting and deferred to September. The six district councillors for North Walsham had opposed the proposal. It was reported that the District Council is not short of funds and had just put £250,000 into reserves. The Sports Committee were urged to get people who use the centre to sign a petition. It was reported that the Leader of the District Council had promised that there would be consultation but this has not happened. It was also reported that the proposals had arisen from the school saying two year's ago that they could do this better.

It was **RESOLVED**

That the strongest letter of opposition be written to the District Council pointing out that the Sports Centre Management Committee had been shabbily treated; no officers have been to speak to them and that the Sports Committee were being urged to set up a petition. If the proposals were not withdrawn this Council will lend its support to any action that is taken by the Sports Centre Management Committee.

It was agreed that an item be placed on the September meeting agenda.

10479 **LEADERSHIP OF PLACE**

Mr. Seward reported that a review was taking place of where we have reached with regard to the Leadership of Place project. It was noted that Section 106 money was not attached to the Waitrose planning conditions because the independent retail consultant found that there was no adverse effect to the town centre.

A letter was submitted from Norman Lamb MP suggesting that a meeting be held with the County and District Councils, Chamber of Trade and Town Council to discuss the town centre scheme, in particular the funding. This was agreed.

Notes of a meeting held with County Council officers to discuss the bus movement in the town centre was submitted and received.

10480 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Special meeting of the Council held on 17th July, 2012 to discuss the Midland Road and Mundesley Road car park proposals were submitted and approved. It was reported that a reply would be received shortly.

10481 **AMBULANCE**

Members considered the Unison newsletter regarding the proposed cuts to the NHS ambulance service for North Walsham and Cromer. A letter was submitted from Cromer Town Council objecting to the plans to cut ambulances across Norfolk and asking for the Town Council's support. Members also noted the concerns expressed from an ambulance personnel who feared that lives would be lost. It was stated that North Walsham is the largest town in north Norfolk; the new hospital is opening and the proposal is to take away another service which was a cut too far. It was suggested that the Town Council should register its opposition to the proposals and ask what savings are going to be made and the safety impact on the service; whether

management posts had been cut and the adverse effect on employment for the service. It was suggested that the Chief Executive be invited to attend a meeting to answer the Council's concerns.

It was **RESOLVED**

That the Town Council registers opposition to the proposed plans to cut ambulances across Norfolk and invites the Chief Executive to a meeting to explain the reasons for the cuts.

It was agreed that Cromer Town Council and Norman Lamb MP be invited to attend.

10482 **NORTH WALSHAM AND DILHAM CANAL**

Correspondence was submitted from the Environment Agency regarding an issue on the River Ant, locally known as the North Walsham and Dilham Canal. Some work has started between Ebridge Mill and Bacton Wood Mill to re-instate a canal. The Environment Agency has called for this work to be halted as a result of various environmental concerns. A copy letter from the Old Canal Company Ltd., to the Secretary of State appealing against the Stop Notice was also submitted. It was noted that Mr. Ashton was not part of the Canal Trust but closely involved with the work. It was noted that a similar scheme was being worked up in the north which had gained an award from the Agency and what was happening here was almost the same thing. Members were reminded that they had fully supported the work being carried out by the Dilham Canal Trust. It was pointed out that wildlife would always find somewhere to live and would in due course return.

It was **RESOLVED**

That the Environment Agency be informed that the Town Council has always been very supportive of this work and hope that the difficulties can be resolved as quickly as possible to enable the work to carry on.

10483 **GREENS ROAD**

A letter was submitted from the County Council stating that the Greens Road Footway scheme will be carried out using temporary multi-way traffic signals on or shortly after 17th September 2012 for a duration of three weeks. A plan showing the extent of the works was also submitted. The letter was received.

10484 **AUGUST RECESS**

Members were reminded of the August Recess, in accordance with Standing Order No. 1.9, and the delegated powers given to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

10485 **PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS**

A detailed statement showing the payments and receipts to 31st July, 2012 amounting to £46,966.91 and £7,092.75 respectively was submitted and approved.

10486 CEMETERY LODGE

It was reported that the copper cylinder had had to be replaced, the cost of which would be taken out of the estimates but it might be necessary to use the earmarked reserve if any more costs arose during the financial year.

10487 ESTIMATES

Members were asked to submit any items they wished to be considered for 2013/14 estimates to the September meeting.

10488 TENNIS COURTS

A report of a meetings held with members of the Tennis Club, Sports Centre and Griffon Area Partnership to discuss the way forward to meet the figures projected in the grant application to the Sport lottery was submitted. It was reported that the posts and nets had been put in position and the Clerk was seeking a meeting with the contractor before play commenced on the courts.

Members were asked to approve the increase in fees. It was suggested that the fee should be per court. It was explained that the attendees had discussed this but felt it would be fairer to charge per person. (App. A)

It was **RESOLVED**

(a) That the report be approved but that a £5 deposit be required regardless of age.

(b) That the fees be monitored for the next six months.

10489 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 26th June, 2012 and 10th July, 2012 were received. (App. B)

10490 GRANTS COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Grants Committee meeting held on 10th July, 2012 were submitted and approved. (App. C)

10491 PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 10th July, 2012 were submitted and approved (App. D) , including the request for an allocation of £500 from the grants' reserve to be made available this year, should the need arise.

10492 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The minutes of the Christmas Lights meeting held on 17th July, 2012 were submitted and approved. (App. E)

10493 FUNDAY

The minutes of the Funday Working Group held on 17th July, 2012 were submitted and approved. It was reported that a total of £1003.32 had been received resulting in £501.66 being paid into the Christmas Lights account.

10494 CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from NNDC re: Council Offices in reply to the Council's concerns regarding the gas leak and fire measures.

2. Copy of NNDC Full Council minutes for meeting held on 25th July, 2012.
3. Letter from Poppies Day Nursery thanking the Council for approving the extension to their garden on the Memorial Park.
4. Notification of Casual Vacancy (North Ward)
5. Email from Waitrose thanking the Town Council for supporting the application.
6. Copy letter to Mrs. E. Cornwall from Annabel Whitehead Lady in Waiting to Her Majesty the Queen thanking the schools for their poetry album.
7. Thank you letter from Chairman of League of Friends, North Walsham & District War Memorial Hospital for the charity donations forwarded from Mrs. Uprichard during her term as Town Mayor.
8. Thank you letter from North Walsham Multisports Club for the grant of £500.
9. Correspondence from John Mullen re: unsuccessful bid to The Portas Pilots (2nd round)
10. It was reported that the Town Crier had been invited to take part in the Sheringham Town Crier's 25th birthday celebrations on 5th August, 2012.
11. Email from Norfolk Association of Local Councils regarding a LAIS1340 Payment Methods consultation. It was agreed that the Personnel Committee be given delegated powers to consider the consultation.
12. Email re: Sainsbury's anti-social delivery times. Mr. Seward explained that there was a loop hole in the planning conditions and Sainsbury's were making deliveries at the front door of the supermarket. This was currently being investigated.

10495 **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

1. Sports Centre proposals
2. Sainsbury's delivery times.
