

**NORTH WALSHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council  
Held in the Council Chamber  
Held on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2012.

**PRESENT**

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

10312 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mrs. V. Uprichard declared an interest in all District Council matters.

10313 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted from Mr. F. Choudhury and Mr. D. Turner. It was noted that Mr. E. Seward was attending a meeting at the District Council and would be late in attending the Town Council meeting.

10314 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 31st January, 2012 were approved as a true record and signed by the Town Mayor.

10315 **MATTERS ARISING – FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

(a) Market Place (10296)

It was reported that the owner of the fishmongers shop had given permission for the shop windows to be used for painting displays.

(b) Car Parks (10310)

Concern was expressed about the article in the newspaper regarding the car parks when this had been discussed as a Part 2 Business. It was confirmed that the article referred to District Councillors and not Town Councillors.

(c) Localism (10311)

It was reported that Trevor Ivory would be attending the March meeting.

10316 **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

It was **RESOLVED**

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

10317 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

See memorandum

10318 **RECONVENING OF MEETING**

It was **RESOLVED**

V. Uprichard

**That the meeting be reconvened.**

**10319 POLICE**

P.C. D. Keeble submitted the monthly crime figures and it was noted that the figures were lower than those for the same period last year. The priority setting meeting would be held on 7<sup>th</sup> March.. The change over to the new Policing model on 9<sup>th</sup> January had gone very smoothly and the more localised units responding from North Walsham should help see a difference in the service delivered. Calls to the Police during the month were approximately 251 relating to incidents in the catchment area. The current SNT priorities for the North Walsham area are 1. Vehicles being driven anti-socially in North Walsham, around Vicarage Street and Mundesley Road, and 2 speeding on the Coast Road, Bacton. The Town Mayor stated that taxis were continuing to park on double yellow lines at Manor Road school. P.C. Keeble stated that following decriminalisation, the Police did still deal with dangerous parking and obstruction and he made a note to investigate. P.C. Keeble explained the new arrangements regarding the new team set up and confirmed that North Walsham is better served with Police Officers.

P.C. Keeble was thanked for his report.

Mr. Seward entered the Chamber during the Police report.

**10320 DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

A written report was submitted from Mr. Seward giving details of the District Council Tax requirement for 2012/13 and stating that the District Council is not short of money and the question needs to be asked what they are doing with it. An update on the problems with the clay pigeon shooting activity at Melbourne House was noted. It was noted that the required public consultation notice had been issued for a third taxi rank in Market Street. Work on the new toilets in Vicarage Street car park had commenced; the toilet block being delivered last week. Further work arising from Nigel Morgan's report on St. Nicholas Court was being considered. A new application for 4 Market Street was being prepared by the owner.

A written report was submitted from Mr. Moore regarding the Enviroco planning application at Spa Common.

A written report was submitted from Mr. Morse stating that the consultation period for the Schools Federation would close on 19<sup>th</sup> March. It was becoming very difficult to get Traffic Road Orders through; the consultation period could be as long as 9 months. The proposed double yellow lines for Hamilton Close was an example of a TRO being stuck in the system. A scheme to alleviate some long standing flooding problems at the junction of St. Nicholas and Nelson Roads is scheduled for Autumn 2012 and it is hoped to sort out difficulties with the gullies at the bottom of Park Avenue.

**10321 MARKET BARRIERS (10280)**

Mr. Robertson gave a verbal report on a meeting with Mr. Tupper, Senior Highways Officer to discuss the County Council's proposal to cease reimbursing the Town Council for putting in place the market barriers on a Thursday. Mr. Tupper had agreed to take back the Council's concerns to the North Walsham

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County Councillors and the portfolio holder, Graham Plant and would come back to the Town Council in due course.

10322 **PIGEONS (10295)**

It was reported that a cull had taken place and further use of this approach was being kept under review. The local Police were being kept informed. Correspondence was submitted from the agent of the *Bird Free* product which included references from other users of the product. The agent had suggested that a site should be selected in the town and a trial takes place. A copy had been forwarded to the District Council.

10323 **MARKET PLACE (10296)**

A written report was submitted from the District Council agreeing with the Council's comments regarding the impact the former fishmonger's shop was having on the vitality and viability of North Walsham town centre. This property had been added to the list of initiatives under the Leadership of Place action plan in order to facilitate a co-ordinated approach. Investigations are also taking place into what further action can and should be taken.

With regard to 4 Market Street it was reported that the developer will be submitting a revised proposal. Advice had been sought from the District Valuer to gain an independent and realistic valuation. The replacement toilets scheme is well underway and once they are in operation the existing toilets in The Butchery will be closed.

10324 **FRENCH TWINNING (10298)**

It was reported that the visiting French party had been taken to the Beechwood Hotel, Pigney's Wood and Happisburgh. Following a light lunch visits had been made to The Atrium and St. Nicholas Church. The visit had gone extremely well and St. Paul les Dax would be discussing the visit at a meeting on the following Thursday. The Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Cllr. Sims, had been joined by Mrs. Ann Moore to show the visitors around and had been pleased with the way the day had progressed and suggested that the twinning should be explored further. An invitation had been extended to visit St. Paul in May. It was suggested that there are other French towns nearer which could also be explored and to keep the options open. St. Paul Les Dax was 15 hours by road.

It was **RESOLVED**

**That the twinning proposals be further explored.**

10325 **TOWN MEETING**

Members were asked to consider the format and speaker for the Town Meeting to be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Mrs. Uprichard reported that she had attended a talk on a Health Trainer Service which operated from the District Council office. Another suggestion put forward was how to cut your household bills through energy efficiency and other initiatives.

It was agreed that the Clerk explore the possibilities of talks on both subjects.

10326 **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2012 reference The Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency be approved. (App. A)

10327 **FIXED TERM TENANCIES (10299)**

Notes of a meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2012 with Victory Housing Trust regarding Fixed Term tenancies was received.

10328 **PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS**

A statement giving details of the payments and receipts to 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2012 amounting to £13,282.27 and £5,604.79 respectively was submitted together with a report from Mrs. West regarding an internal financial check carried out on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2012. Both reports were approved.

10329 **FOOTWAY LIGHTING**

It was reported that, of the three tenderers invited to quote for footway lighting maintenance for a three year period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012, two tenders had been received.

Details in respect of the first year were

MHB Services Ltd.	£6,350.19 + VAT
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T T Jones Electrical Ltd.	£5,341.88 +VAT
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It was **RESOLVED**

**That the tender received from TT Jones amounting to £5,341.88 + VAT. be approved.**

10330 **INFORMATION OFFICE**

The minutes of the Information Steering Committee meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2012 were submitted and approved. It was reported that to play the Royal DVD in the Church would cost £100 for a licence. (App. B)

It was **RESOLVED**

**That the Town Council submits a display.**

10331 **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2012 were received. (App. C)

10332 **DIAMOND JUBILEE**

The minutes of the Diamond Jubilee Working Group meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2012 were submitted and approved. (App. D) A letter was submitted from St. Nicholas Church inviting organisations to take part in their Jubilee Flower Display. The Town Council agreed to submit a display.

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10333 CORRESPONDENCE

1. Invitation to attend Free Community Composting Seminar and Launch of the Norfolk & Suffolk Community Composting Network at Redgrave & Lopham Fen on Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> March.
2. Notification that Midland Road car park will be closed for one week from 5<sup>th</sup> March.
3. Copy of NNDC Full Council minutes for meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2012. Information received from District Council that Kier are currently litter picking on all the major road verges across the district – North Walsham bypass in both directions is included in the programme.
4. Copy of Minutes of North Walsham in Bloom meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2012.
5. Invitation from NALC to attend Affordable Housing Seminar on 20<sup>th</sup> March at Walsingham
6. Letter from Mr. Ramsbotham regarding petitions against wind turbines.
7. Email from Norfolk ALC regarding prayers at parish Council meetings.
8. Copy of NNDC Annual Action Plan 2012/13 – Consultation. It was agreed that Mr. Robertson and Mrs. Uprichard consider the report on behalf of the Town Council.

10334 BITTERN LINE

It was noted that several members had attended the launch of the North Walsham Station Travel Plan and an executive summary was submitted. Mr. Seward gave a verbal report on a meeting of the Bittern Line and stated that the new operators of the Bittern Line are known as Greater Anglia and they have a franchise until July 2014. Their priorities under the franchise are improvements to customer service and an increase in passengers. The concentration on increasing passenger numbers would be off peak services as some of the peak trains were operating to capacity. Greater Anglia also had new responsibilities for infrastructure and heavy maintenance at the station under the franchise. Any future discussions on the Norwich bound side of the station would involve just the two leaseholders. It is to be hoped that this could expedite progress on any improvements that are made.

Mr. Seward was thanked for his report.

10335 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was **RESOLVED**

**That due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed relating to Grass Verge Cutting, Midland Road and Mundesley Road car parks and Grazing Licence, the public and press be excluded from the meeting.**

10336 GRASS VERGE CUTTING

A report was submitted giving details of the previous history of grass verge cutting in North Walsham. It was reported that discussions had taken place with two contractors, who operate in the town, to get an indication of the cost of cutting the verges. It was noted that there would be a financial shortfall for the highway safety cuts before any amenity cuts were undertaken. Members were

asked to consider taking on the grass cutting delegation from the County Council or whether they wished to seek prices from other contractors during the year to see if there would be any advantage in seeking a delegation agreement for a future year.

It was **RESOLVED**

**That the Town Council declines the offer to take on grass verge cutting delegation at present but keeps the matter under review as suggested in the report.**

10337 **CAR PARKS (10310)**

Notes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2012, of the small working group set up to consider a contingency plan should the District Council proceed with the proposed introduction of charges for Midland Road and Mundesley Road car parks, were submitted. It was reported that the Chamber of Trade had submitted a petition against the charges. It was also noted that the Community Centre had secured 1,000 signatures with regard to the proposed evening charges.

It was **RESOLVED**

**That the Town Council enters into discussions with the District Council negotiate a flat fee for maintenance costs, insurance and rates in order to keep these car parks free.**

10338 **GRAZING LICENCE**

It was reported that the current Licensee had given notice due to ill health but the person who had bought her ponies would like the Licence transferred to her.

It was **RESOLVED**

**That the Licence be transferred to Ms. K. Cave.**

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V. Upchurch