

**NORTH WALSHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Council  
Held in the Council Chamber  
On Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2012.

**PRESENT**

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

10288 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mr. E. Seward and Mrs. V. Uprichard declared an interest in all District Council matters. Mr. R. Sims declared an interest in the item relating to Vicarage Street – Grit Bin.

10289 **APOLOGY**

An apology for absence was submitted from Mr. F. Choudhury.

10290 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2011 were approved as a true record and signed by the Town Mayor.

10291 **MATTERS ARISING – FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

(a) Police (1027X9)

A letter was submitted from Chief Inspector C. Edwards thanking the Council for highlighting the excellent service given by PCSO Imogen Palmer.

(b) Market Place Barriers (10280)

It was reported that a meeting had been arranged with Mr. Tupper for 28<sup>th</sup> February at 10.00 a.m. It was agreed that Mrs. Uprichard, Mrs. Cornwall and Mr. Robertson attend the meeting.

10292 **POLICE**

Apologies for non attendance were submitted from the Police.

10293 **DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

A written report was submitted from District Cllrs. N. Lloyd and E. Seward giving information regarding the proposed new fencing at the rear of Mundesley Road car park and other modifications to the surface. Representations had been made to the District Council Cabinet Portfolio holder for car parks on keeping the car park free and not restricting it to season ticket holders. A briefing meeting with the District Council officers had been held regarding the situation at Melbourne House. Since that time a number of complaints had been received from residents on noise from clay pigeon shooting. Further information was submitted regarding the problems surrounding Melbourne House. It was also noted that as Chairman of the

Leadership of Place Project Cllr. Seward continues to spend time on its development. At the last meeting members considered a District Council commissioned report on possible options for the future of St. Nicholas Court. Mr. Seward reported on the discussions held at the meeting. It was also reported that the County Council would not be proceeding to occupy the former Connexions building. The District and County Councils were holding discussions on the use of the building. A consultation notice regarding an additional taxi rank in Market Street had been advertised in the local paper.

Mrs. Cornwall reported that the Cycle shop in the Precinct had changed hands as the previous owner had had enough. It was reported that the police were using the Melbourne House site for shooting practice. Mr. Seward agreed to contact Inspector Dyson.

A written report was submitted from County Cllr. P. Morse and Mrs. D. Clarke stating that Anglian Water was still checking their systems in Brick Kiln Road and Spa Common so that the problem of flooding can be solved. The County Council's "U-turn" on bus passes for the blind was noted. The poll of Hipperson and Petre Close residents revealed that they did not want a cycle barrier on the footway between the two roads. The Junior and Infant & Nursery Schools at Manor Road were discussing forming a "Federation".

Both Councillors had attended the Leadership of Place meeting; there had been some issues with the street lighting on Aylsham Road. Both Councillors were working to ensure students and potential students were not significantly affected by the County Council's cuts to the Post 16 Transport subsidy.

In answer to a question of whether he involved the district councillors in the problem at Spa Common Mr. Morse replied that both the District Councillors for the East Ward were aware of the problem.

Mrs. Cornwall raised the matter of an incident involving a resident and Vicarage Street car park.

Mrs. Uprichard submitted a report on her Mayoral duties. Before Christmas she had attended an open day at Walsham Grange; attended the Churches Together Christmas lunch on Christmas Day; attended meetings concerning Waitrose, the Jubilee celebrations, car park charges and Leadership of Place. Attended preliminary discussions with interested parties regarding use of the Connexions building as an Arts Centre and gave more details on this possible venture before asking for the Town Council's support. It was confirmed that the staff in North Walsham would remain but in a different building. Members gave a show of hands in support.

#### 10294 GRIT BIN – VICARAGE STREET

An email was submitted from Mr. Hicks, the landlord for the properties 3/5 Vicarage Street, requesting that the recently moved salt bin, that had been placed in his yard for many years, be reinstated "as Vicarage Street is the main route to Sainsbury's supermarket". Members were reminded that the salt bin was removed from this location as Vicarage Street is on the main gritting route and due to the County Council's restrictions on the number of bins permitted, because of the salt availability, it was agreed the bin should be relocated to a requested location which was not on the gritting route. The County Council continues to support the Council's decision.

It was **RESOLVED**

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**That the request is denied but the situation be monitored.**

10295 **PIGEONS**

A report was submitted from Mr. Wilson stating that his team had taken another walk around the town and were requesting that 3 problem areas were addressed before the end of January 2012. These were the alleyway to the rear of the Co-op Pharmacy, the Break Shop roof space and Bocadillos shop front. During the visit Mr. Wilson had spoken to Broadland Travel and the sonic deterrents will be installed at the beginning of February covering the top end of the Market Place. The team were still looking for a suitable location for the pigeon loft.

As requested enquiries were made of Crawley Borough Council who confirmed that they had had good success with the problem in the Town Hall car park. The product is called Bird Free: it was developed in Korea and it is a gel that is placed in small flat pots and placed strategically in the affected area. Mr. Wilson had been made aware of the product.

10296 **MARKET PLACE**

A letter was submitted from Ms. Harrison commenting on the state of the Market Place in particular the former fishmonger's shop and calling for something to be done to tidy it up. One of the suggestions was to put something in the windows and it was reported that it was proposed to ask the school children to undertake painting tasks to cover the windows subject to permission being granted. It was reported that the North Walsham district councillors had expressed concern about the state of this shop to the Conservation Officer in August last year. In September Mr. Godwin had replied that there were steps that could be taken and confirming that the shop was a Grade II listed building. To date no action had been taken. It was suggested that a letter be written to the Chief Executive drawing her attention to this correspondence and that nothing appears to have happened to this building which is an eyesore in the centre of the town. It was agreed that the District Council should take urgent action by using the powers available to deal with this building and that the District Council submits regular reports to the Town Council's monthly meeting.

It was **RESOLVED**

- (a) **That a letter be written to the Chief Executive as suggested above**
- (b) **The District Council to use the powers available to them to deal with this building.**
- (c) **The District Council is also requested to provide a monthly report for the Town Council's agenda.**

10297 **DINNER/DANCE**

Mrs. Uprichard stated that she had planned to submit a different format for the Town Dinner/Dance but due to her personal circumstances she could not proceed with the idea. Members were asked if they wished to continue with the same format as previous years. It was agreed that in view of the timescale that the Dinner/Dance be held as usual for this year.

10298 **FRENCH TWINNING (10255)**

It was reported that the organisers of the proposed twinning project with a British partner were very pleased to hear that the Town Council had expressed an interest in their request. An information pack had been received and it was hoped to receive an extra visual documentation compiled by St. Paul les Dax Town Council. Members of the twinning committee would be visiting the area in February, staying at Bury St. Edmunds. In consultation with the Town Mayor, an invitation had been sent inviting them to visit North Walsham on 27<sup>th</sup> February. It was agreed that a small sub-group arrange a day's visit.

10299 **FIXED TERM TENANCIES**

A letter was submitted from Victory Housing Trust stating that from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 there will be a revision to the Tenant Services Authority Tenure Standard that will allow registered providers to use Fixed Term Tenancies on new tenancies let at either social or affordable rent. It was agreed that Victory Housing Trust be invited to attend a meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> February to give members further information before making any comments.

10300 **PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

The notes of a meeting to discuss the proposed public conveniences held on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2012 were submitted and approved. It was noted that the concerns of the Town Council had been met satisfactorily and the District Council instructed to acquire the public conveniences, subject to any surplus money staying within the town. Written assurances had been received and it was reported that the pantiles would be reddish in colour and the existing dark green colour would be painted on the walls.

10301 **PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS**

A statement giving details of the payments and receipts to 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2012 amounting to £18,437.11 and £4,724.50 respectively was submitted together with the comparison of actual payments and receipts with revised estimates. Both reports were approved. It was pointed out that the Chamber was in need of decorating particularly as it is being used by outside bodies.

10302 **DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS (10236)**

Minutes of the inaugural meeting of the Diamond Jubilee Working Group held on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2012 was submitted and approved. (App. A)

10303 **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2011, 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2012 and 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2012 were received. (App. B)

10304 **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

The minutes of the Christmas Lights Working Group meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2012 were submitted and approved. It was reported that the Continental Market would be held on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2012. (App. C)

10305 **FUNDAY**

The minutes of the Fun Day Committee meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2012 were submitted and approved. (App. D)

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10306 **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Letter from NNDC confirming the changes made to the polling stations at North Walsham as follows:- **MC2 North Walsham North** to be re-designated from the Community Centre to St. John Ambulance Hall, North Walsham and **MD2 North Walsham Town** to be re-designated from The Saddlers Shop to Sacred Heart Parish Hall, North Walsham.
2. Invitation to attend Neighbourhood Planning – “How can we make it work” on 7<sup>th</sup> March at Aylsham Town Hall.
3. Invitation to attend the launch of the North Walsham Station Travel Plan on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2012.
4. Letter from Waitrose giving information regarding the planning exhibition to convert the former Focus DIY unit in Cromer Road into a Waitrose food shop. The exhibition to take place on 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2012. It was also reported that an expression of interest to develop a convenience store at Midland Road had been received by the District Council. The agents were going public due to the Waitrose exhibition.
5. Letter from Working Party via the Clerk to the Governors for both the Junior and Infant/Nursery Schools at Manor Road regarding the formation of a Federation between the two schools. Consultation evenings were being held on 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> February.
6. Email from North Norfolk Labour Party regarding the proposals to increase car parking charges.
7. Information was submitted that two notice boards would be positioned near the Yarmouth Road bus shelter for both train and bus timetables.

10307 **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

1. Pigeons
2. Former Fishmongers Shop
3. Town Meeting

10308 **CAR PARK - PROPOSED CHARGES (10278)**

The minutes of a meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2012 with the Chamber of Trade representatives and Cllr. Wyndham Northam to discuss the proposed charges was submitted and approved. Mrs. Cornwall stated that Wellingborough Council had reduced the rates to shop keepers and approved free car parking resulting in the shops being full. Details of the consultation period were submitted and it was agreed that the Town Council should register its objections relating to the car parks at Midland Road and Mundesley Road; the introduction of evening charges in relation to the Community Centre and the likelihood of on street parking as a result. It was suggested that the Community Centre and Paston College be encouraged to send the strongest letter of objection. The Chamber of Trade to be encouraged to set up a petition in all the shops. It was agreed that there is no certainty that the District Council will raise the projected increase in income. Also, if the increase in charges went ahead there would be a considerable increase in on street parking and congestion.

It was **RESOLVED**

**That the Town Council submits a letter of objection to the proposed car parking charges.**

10309 **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

It was **RESOLVED**

**That due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed relating to Midland Road and Mundesley Road car parks the public and press be excluded from the meeting for this item.**

10310 **CAR PARKS – MIDLAND ROAD/MUNDESLEY ROAD**

Following the meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2012 Mr. Wyndham Northam had put forward the idea that the Town Council might like to consider taking on the responsibility of the Midland Road car park. This idea had also been voiced by other members who had attended the meeting. It was reported that these car parks currently cost £5,475 per annum in terms of annual maintenance and rates. The Midland Road car park was leased to the District Council from the County Council. It was stated that the Mundesley Road car park carried liabilities with regard to the surfacing and maintenance. Various options were discussed and it was agreed that if the District Council approved the charges a contingency plan should be considered and approved. It was suggested that a small working party look at all the issues and report back to the Town Council.

It was **RESOLVED**

**That a small working party be set up calling on the Chamber of Trade and Paston College at the appropriate time to obtain their contributions.**

(Working Party - Mrs. Uprichard, Mr. Robertson, Mrs. Cornwall and Mr. Sims)

10311 **LOCALISM**

Mr. Robertson submitted a letter he had received as Deputy Mayor from Cllr. Trevor Ivory regarding setting up an Internal North Walsham project group. It was suggested that Mr. Ivory be invited to the next meeting to give more information regarding this project.

It was **RESOLVED**

**That Mr. Ivory be invited to attend the February Council meeting.**

*V. Uprichard*