

**NORTH WALSHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Town Council  
Held in the Council Chamber,  
On 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2011.

**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.R. Robertson	Mrs. B. West
Mrs. RA Rose	Mr. B. Wexler

10270 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mr. E. Seward and Mrs. V. Uprichard declared an interest in all District Council matters.

10271 **APOLOGY**

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

10272 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2011 were approved as a true record and signed by the Town Mayor.

10273 **MATTERS ARISING – FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

(a) Leadership of Place (10257)

A reply was submitted from NPS stating that no formal meeting was held and that a meeting would be arranged shortly to discuss a number of issues affecting the town. The Town Council would be invited.

(b) Vicarage Street Car Park (10260)

It was reported that the car park work had now been completed.

(c) Corporate Plan (10261)

It was reported that no reply had been received following Mr. Robertson's conversation with Mrs. Oxtoby regarding the Council Office car park. It was noted that the tractor had received a parking ticket.

10274 **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

It was **RESOLVED**

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

10275 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

See memorandum

10276 **RECONVENING OF MEETING**

It was **RESOLVED**

**That the meeting be reconvened.**

10277 **DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

A written report was submitted from Ms. Gay stating that the following the retirement of Philip Burton, the new Chief Executive would be Sheila Oxtoby. Interviews would take place in the New Year for the appointment of two corporate directors. The Midland Road car park proposed parking charges had been submitted together with objection from Ms. Gay. The papers had been received at the District Council regarding the surface water drainage and were being looked into. Concern was expressed at the lack of housing and the reluctance of private landlords to allocate housing to those on benefit. Waitrose had shown interest in the former Focus site.

Mr. Spencer stated that the problem was that the Government was not guaranteeing the full payment of rent and landlords would not drop their rent charge.

Mr. Lloyd submitted a written report for the North ward and stated that the problem of dog fouling in the town was being addressed. Discussion had taken place with Sainsbury's after a number of reports had been received from people who could not obtain fuel lately. Complaints had been received from the Cockerel regarding the Vicarage Street car park works. Highways had been asked to investigate whether more parking restrictions could be applied to Cromer Road between the town centre and bypass. A meeting was planned for Thursday with Steve Blatch to discuss Melbourne House concerns. Conditions were included in the decision for demolition on the Mace site to include special safety control measures for the presence of asbestos and steps to protect existing sewage and drainage pipework. Work on the new wall/fence at Mundesley Road car park was scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> December. Additional parking for taxis was being progressed.

Mr. Morse submitted a written report on behalf of the two North Walsham County Council wards. Work to reduce the risk of homes flooding at the bottom of Bluebell Road had been completed. The problem of flooding at Spa Common was being investigated; concern had been expressed regarding the current drainage arrangements at Sainsbury's new exit. Whether a pedestrian crossing could be provided on the Cromer side of the traffic lights at the Cromer Road/bypass junction was being explored. Work was continuing to develop the Atrium as a community resource. Mr. Cornwall stated that he had attended the visionary day on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

It was reported that there was water running on the road at the junction with Arnold Pitcher Close and a pothole had appeared. Mr. Morse made a note.

Mr. Morse reported that the Sainsbury's new exit would not be open before January due to the non-completion of the zebra crossing.

10278 **CAR PARK – PROPOSED CHARGES**

Mrs. Uprichard submitted a report on the proposed car parking tariff changes being considered by the District Council. Details of a conversation with Trevor Ivory on the proposed changes were submitted. It was stated that if District Councils didn't increase the Council tax the Government had offered financial incentives and the District Council had taken advantage of this.

There were issues in relation to the charges but it was hoped that they would produce a significant profit for the authority. The charges would take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April but there was no guarantee. Mr. Seward reminded members that the improvements to Mundesley Road car park were capital costs and not revenue.

Midland Road and Mundesley Road car parks will be free in the evening after 6.00 p.m. Members were unanimously against the imposed charges and felt that this would be of detriment to the trading in the town and to commuters and Paston College students using the Midland Road car park. Mrs. Uprichard reported on a telephone call from Cromer Town Council who would be calling a meeting inviting parish and town councils to join together to take a stand against the proposals and asked if the Town Council would be willing to take part.

It was **RESOLVED**

- (a) **That a combined submission involving the Chamber of Trade, members of the Town Council and Paston College students seek a meeting with the relevant Cabinet portfolio holder to ask there should be increased charges and to walk round the various car parks.**
- (b) **That the Town Council takes part in any joint discussions with other towns included in the proposed charges**

10279 **POLICE**

PC D. Hack submitted the monthly crime report and it was noted that the figures were considerably higher than those during the same period last year. It was suggested that this was due to the bad weather last year. Mrs. West asked a question regarding the police cars parked at Bacton.

It was reported that PCSO Imogen Palmer would not be covering North Walsham in the New Year following the changes on 9<sup>th</sup> January. PCs Reed and Gwynn would be the Parish Liaison Officers for North Walsham.

It was agreed that a letter be written to the Chief Inspector thanking Imogen for all she has done for the town and Council.

10280 **MARKET PLACE BARRIERS (10132)**

A letter was submitted from the County Council informing the Council that Mr. Tupper had considered the issue of the reimbursement of the Market Place barriers and agreed to fund this year's cost for moving the barriers but this will cease at the end of the financial year. It was hoped that this will give the Town Council sufficient time to plan for funding as part of next year's precept and to let him know if we wish for the signs to be changed in the future. Members still considered that the County Council should take responsibility for the barriers. Caution was expressed that if the barriers were not put in place congestion would occur through people not reading the signs and this might result in the market traders giving notice.

It was **RESOLVED**

**That Mr. Tupper be asked to meet with the Town Council to discuss a way forward.**

10281 **PIGEONS (10256)**

A report was submitted from the District Council as requested at the last meeting. It was agreed to approach the schools in January regarding posters. Mr. Wexler reported that Crawley Borough Council had trialled a relatively new pigeon repellent product and had reported good results. Network Rail had also found it to be effective. The Clerk was asked to seek further information from Crawley Borough Council.

10282 **DATA TRANSPARENCY – CODE**

It was reported that The Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency had been issued by the Department of Communities and Local Government in September and relates to the voluntary publication of information by local authorities about the discharge of their functions.

The application of the code includes parish councils which have a gross annual income or expenditure of at least £200,000, as is the case for North Walsham. It was agreed that the Personnel Committee considers the recommendation for report back to the Town Council.

10283 **PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS**

A statement giving details of the payments and receipts to 20<sup>th</sup> December 2011 amounting to £7,155.11 and £5,444.84 respectively was submitted and approved. It was noted that part payment of the Grazing Licence fee had been made.

10284 **CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

The calendar of meeting dates for the year 2012 was submitted and approved.

10285 **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2011 were received (App. A). Mr. Robertson referred to the Park and Ride application for the former Crane Fruehauf site and suggested that as a matter of urgency a meeting be arranged with the other parish councils who had objected to discuss the application and object to the District Council as one voice.

This was agreed.

10286 **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Copy of NNDC Full Council minutes for meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2011.
2. Copy of Norfolk Gritting Routes Leaflet from NCC.
3. Letter from RCC re: new Broadband service ThinkingWISP
4. CPRE Field Work magazine Winter 2011

10287 **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

1. Pigeons
2. Car Park Changes