

NORTH WALSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly meeting of the Town Council
Held in the Council Chamber
On 29th November, 2011.

PRESENT

Mrs. V. Uprichard (Town Mayor)
Mrs. J.R. Belson Mr. D. Robertsson
Mr. F. Choudhury Mr. E. Seward
Mrs. E. Cornwall Mr. D. Spencer
Mr. T. Cornwall Mr. A. Thirtle
Mr. B. Hester Mr. D. Turner
Mrs. R.A. Rose Mrs. B. West
Mr. B. Wexler

10242 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

10243 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted from Mr. Peck and Mr. Sims.

10244 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th October, 2011 were approved as a true record and signed by the Town Mayor.

10245 **MATTERS ARISING – FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

(a) **Bus Consultation**

It was reported that the working group's comments had been forwarded to the County Council.

(b) **Wood View Planning Application**

It was reported that the Town Council's complaint had been forwarded to the District Council.

10246 **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

It was **RESOLVED**

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

10247 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

See memorandum

10248 **RECONVENING OF MEETING**

It was **RESOLVED**

That the meeting be reconvened.

V. Uprichard

10249 **POLICE**

PC L. Stoker submitted the monthly report. It was noted that the crime figure was higher than the same period in 2010. The next priority setting meeting would be held on 7th December. It was noted that an ASBO had been issued as a result of two assaults carried out in Market Place and the Churchyard. Tatters window had been broken but this was accidental damage caused by a member of staff. Mrs. Rose referred to an incident at the Community Centre when a crime number had not been issued. It was also reported that cyclists in New Road were riding without lights. P.C. Stoker made a note of both these issues.

10250 **COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Mr. Morse submitted his monthly report which also contained a report from Mrs. Clarke. Some work had been carried out by the Fire Station to sort out the flooding problems; calls from residents regarding the Sainsbury's new exit had been dealt with and it was confirmed that the pedestrian crossing must be in place before the exit is opened. The views of residents were being sought on the provision of a barrier at Petre Cose and Hipperson Close. Including the proposed contribution from the Town Council it was reported that £34,000 a year would be required to keep the scheme open.

Mrs. Clarke submitted a written report on the visit to North Walsham on 15th November by County and District Councillors. Concern was expressed on whether consideration had been given to parking for the proposed employees. It was noted that the deputation visiting the town had not included any North Walsham District Councillors or the Town Council member.

Mr. Morse stated that work on the pedestrian crossing would start this week.

Mr. Seward reported that a car had severely damaged a property in Bacton Road next to the SJAB building. The property was not habitable; the landlord had taken steps to secure the building and the tenants temporarily rehoused.

10251 **COAT OF ARMS**

It was reported that North Walsham in Bloom requests the Council's permission to use the Town's Coat of Arms on some small flags they are hoping to put in the hanging baskets for next year's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations. The proposed colour scheme is red, white and blue colours.

It was **RESOLVED**

That the request be approved.

10252 **OLYMPIC TREASURE HUNT**

Mrs. Uprichard stated that she would hate to see North Walsham not make any recognition of the Olympic Games being held in London and also she felt that one of the ways the Town Council can most help the traders in North Walsham was by having activity going on in the town to bring people in to do business and hopefully improve the town's image. It was suggested that to mark the Olympic Games a quiz is prepared with clues giving locations of different shops; work out the clue to find an item related to the games. In the first instance Mrs. Uprichard sought the Town Council's support before going to the Chamber of Trade.

It was **RESOLVED**

That the Town Council supports the idea of an Olympic Treasure Hunt.

10253 **BLACK SWAN – LICENCE**

Mrs. Uprichard submitted background information and an update on the licence application for the Black Swan Public House. After giving the report Mrs. Uprichard abstained from taking part in any discussions or decisions. Members were appalled at the way the applicants had been treated by the District Council and it was suggested that their costs should be reimbursed. It was **RESOLVED**

That a letter be written to the Director of the Licensing Department pointing out that the way this application had been dealt with had caused a lot of concern to the proprietors and loss of business. Every support should be given to help small businesses stay in the town; this is a local facility and more forethought should have been given in the first instance. The Town Council considers the matter should now be closed.

10254 **SCHOOLS REPORT**

Following a meeting with both the Manor Road and Millfield Primary School councils on 4th November, 2011 Mrs. Uprichard reported that together with Norman Lamb, MP they had been very impressed with the views expressed by the children. Some thoughts about the town were submitted and it was noted that the three main concerns were dog mess, brick rubble on the derelict sites and the need to clean and tidy up the precinct. It was agreed that the comments should be sent to the Director of Environmental Services, NNDC. It was also agreed that a thank you letter be sent to both schools.

10255 **FRENCH TWINNING**

It was reported that the District Council had received an enquiry from Saint Paul les Dax, France to find a twin town, large village, education establishment or community group in the Eastern Region. The request had been forwarded to members and Peter and Ann Moore had in turn sent it to the Town Council. A group of 5 representatives from the French town would be visiting Norfolk in February and would like to be introduced to anyone who may be interested in exploring twinning opportunities. The Clerk reported that the letter had been discussed with the Friesenried Committee who would be in favour but felt that a separate committee should be organised. It was agreed to seek information from towns already twinned with towns from more than one country.

It was **RESOLVED**

That the Town Council expresses an interest and would be pleased to receive the visitors in February, if they so wished.

10256 **PIGEONS (10231)**

A verbal report was submitted on a meeting held with the District Council on 23rd November, 2011 prior to a District Council meeting with traders in the

town centre. Various options were considered including a dovecote which seemed to be the best approach. Some buildings had not had any proofing carried out and the District Council was encouraging the owners to take some action. The District Council had pointed out that it was not their responsibility to control the pigeons only for droppings left on the pavement. They could only enforce the property owner if it was an environmental issue. It was noted that an article in a local magazine had stated that it was now a political row in the Chamber. It was pointed out that this subject would go round and round and the District Council must take responsibility. It was **RESOLVED**

That (a) the District Council be asked to confirm in writing the various matters agreed at the meeting and ask for a monthly report for submission to the Town Council and (b) The District Council be informed that the Town Council will be monitoring the situation and an item will be placed on the monthly agenda.

10257 **LEADERSHIP OF PLACE (10206)**

Mr. Seward as Chairman of the overarching project board since its inception in the autumn of 2010 submitted a position paper on the project. Concern was expressed that surfacing the Mundesley Road car park could mean the loss of free parking. Mr. Seward gave an update on the problems relating to this car park and stated that it was capital money being used and therefore did not have to raise revenue to do the work.

Mr. Robertson raised the point that under the rationalisation and more effective use of public sector assets the Town Council had not be invited to send a representative to the meeting on 15th November, 2011 and he considered that out of protocol an invitation should have been extended.

It was **RESOLVED**

That the Town Council, as a matter of protocol, expresses its' displeasure that neither a Town Council or local District Councillor had been invited to the site visit

10258 **CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR**

Members were asked to consider the opening hours for the Town Council office over the Christmas/New Year period. It was normal to operate the same hours as the District Council.

It was **RESOLVED**

That the Town Council office close for the Christmas/New Year period on 23rd December 2011 and reopen on 3rd January, 2012.

10259 **PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS**

A statement giving details of the payments and receipts to 29th November, 2011 amounting to £18,482.59 and £10,408.57 respectively was submitted and approved.

W

10260 **VICARAGE STREET CAR PARK**

During public participation members had listened to Mr. Rushen's complaint that the Vicarage Street car park was displaying notices that it would be closed for the duration of the resurfacing works. Members were reminded of the reasons for the delay and that the District Council had stated that 40% of the car park would be open at all times. It was reported that both Mr. Seward and the Town Clerk had emailed the appropriate officers at the District Council asking for confirmation that the car park would not be closed completely. It was agreed that every effort should be made to help businesses at this time of the year.

10261 **CORPORATE PLAN**

Mr. Robertson submitted a written report on a meeting he had attended, as substitute for Mrs. Uprichard on 14th November, 2011. It was stated that the creation of the Big Society fund would provide a lot of the community funding but no firm details were available as to eligibility. It was suggested that Trevor Ivory be invited to a future Town Council meeting. The report was received.

10262 **INFORMATION OFFICE**

The minutes of a meeting of the Information Office Steering Committee held on 1st November, 2011 was submitted and approved. (App. A)

10263 **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

The minutes of the meetings of the Christmas Lights Working Group held on 2nd and 22nd November, 2011 respectively were submitted and approved. (App. B)

10264 **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 8th November, 2011 were received. (App. C)

A reply was submitted from Victory Housing regarding the Wood View planning application. It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Chief Executive stating that if Victory Housing is minded to develop this site a meeting is sought with the directors to explain the Town Council's concerns on the site.

10265 **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Invitation to attend A celebration of Carers and Older People in north Norfolk organised by NNOPF and GAP to be held on Friday 2nd December at 10.00 a.m. at the Community Centre.

2. Invitation to attend the launch of the North Norfolk Holiday Guide 2012 on 12th December 2011 4.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. at the NNDC offices.

3. Letter from Chairman of The Benjamin Foundation asking for help for Christmas support to young people in supported accommodation by donating gifts to fill shoe boxes.

4. Minutes of North Walsham in Bloom Committee meetings held on 1st November, 2011. (AGM and monthly meeting)

5. Thank you letter from Citizens Advice North Norfolk on receipt of Council's grant of £2,500.

6. Email re: Norfolk Public Rights of Way service from the County Council.

- 7.Email from the East of England Specialised Commissioning Group submitting Major Trauma newsletters for November and December.
8.Email from NALC on The Localism Act.

10266 **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

1. Pigeons

10267 **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

It was **RESOLVED**

That, due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed relating to the contents of the Personnel Committee minutes, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for this item.

10268 **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Mr. Buck and Mrs. Foster left the Chamber during this item. Mr. B. Hester declared a personal interest and did not take part in the discussions.

Mrs. Rose, as Chairman, submitted a verbal report on the Personnel Committee meetings held on 15th and 29th November, 2011. (App. D)

It was **RESOLVED**

That the recommendations of the Personnel Committee be approved.

10269 **ESTIMATES**

The minutes of the Estimates meeting held on 8th November, 2011 were submitted and approved. (App. E). Members were asked what percentage increase in precept they would like to consider and it was agreed that a 5% increase would be acceptable. Further information was submitted on the accounts for NWACTA and CAB.

Mr. Robertson and Mr. Wexler did not take part in the voting on these two charities being the Town Council's respective representatives.

It was **RESOLVED**

- (a) That the NWACTA's grant be increased to £1,000.**
- (b) That CAB's grant be increased by £250.**
- (c) That the precept for 2012/13 be set at £152,250**

Upward