

NORTH WALSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council
Held in the Council Chamber
On 25th October, 2011.

PRESENT

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

10222 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of interest were submitted from Mr. E. Seward and Mrs. V. Uprichard on all matters relating to the District Council.

10223 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the monthly meeting of the Town Council held on 27th September, 2011 were approved as a true record and signed by the Town Mayor.

10224 **MATTERS ARISING – FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

(a) **Church Street (10201)**

It was reported that a consultation letter had been sent to all traders in Church Street.

10225 **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

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

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

10226 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

See memorandum

10227 **RECONVENING OF MEETING**

On the proposition of Mr. Robertson seconded by Mrs. J.R. Belson
It was **RESOLVED**

That the meeting be reconvened.

10228 **SKATEPARK**

The Clerk gave a further explanation on the request to extend the skatepark following PCSO Spinks' report in Public Participation and confirmed that

PCSO Spinks would contact the High School and post notices at the skatepark to arrange a meeting to find out what the users would like in the way of more equipment. Information would be sought from various manufacturers together with prices. Lottery money would also be sought. It was suggested that members of the Parks & Cemetery Committee be involved in the discussions.

It was **RESOLVED**

That the Council supports, in principle, an extension to the equipment and that the Parks & Cemetery Committee be involved in the discussions.

10229 **POLICE**

Sgt. Kersty Brooks submitted the monthly Police figures which showed an increase for the same period in 2010, which was mainly due to crimes relating to motor vehicles. The SNT would be carrying out a campaign highlighting that values should not be left on display. The next priority setting meeting would be held on 7th December. The current SNT priorities for the North Walsham area were 1. Anti-social behaviour, Gold Park Mundesley; 2 Vehicles parked causing obstructions in Northfield Road; 3 ASB and drinking and drug dealing Mundesley Road car park, North Walsham.

10230 **COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

A report was submitted from County Cllrs. P. Morse and Mrs. D. Clarke. Mr. Morse had recently met with the new Area Manager for Anglian Water discussing the main trouble spots regarding flooding. A start has been made on fundraising for Kickz with a grant of £3k from a national football charity and applications would be made to other funders. A complaint regarding older children using the young play equipment in the Memorial Park had been passed to the Town Clerk. The County Council is cutting back quite dramatically on the maintenance of footpaths and bridleways and it is also very tight for road repairs. Complaints had again been received regarding traffic in Lime Tree Road. It was agreed that every avenue had been explored to improve the situation.

Mrs. Clarke reported on the Fair Fares petition; Rights of Way as mentioned by Mr. Morse. There is a very small amount of money available for the development of youth projects to support activities for young people. Mr. Morse agreed to give this information to the Town Clerk. The Over 16 School Transport cuts were hitting this area and asked to be kept informed of any issues relating to residents particularly if they attend Paston or City Colleges.

It was pointed out that more names were needed for the Fair Fares petition.

It was reported that the small junction in Acorn Road had been missed out of the line painting schedule.

Mr. Seward and Mr. Lloyd submitted a report stating that an enquiry from North Walsham football club about dog fouling and fly tipping on their grounds after complaints were received from parents of children using the clubs grounds had been investigated. Access rights across the fields are being investigated and Environmental Health are reviewing dog signage and bins in the area. Working with NWACTA to seek improved premises and parking in

North Walsham. Consultation with Steve Blatch (Strategic Director) and a meeting with Jill Fisher (Property Services) were held to discuss options. Followed up on enquiries from North Walsham Sports Centre on proposals for new management/supervision structure for the centre. Discussed requirements with Leisure Services for maintaining the Kickz youth football project viable when funding runs out in January next year. Both councillors expressed disappointment to the NNDC about the planning consent at Woodview which was approved last week. This decision makes a mockery of the current administration's rhetoric on empowering local decision making at town and parish levels. It was significant that the proposal was voted through by people living outside the area despite opposition from local district council members. Mr. Seward had worked on getting Victory Housing to agree a significantly reduced rental agreement for the Stanley Road fish and chip shop. Mrs. Cornwall voiced concerns regarding the congestion with work being carried out at Sainsbury's car park and the likelihood of the white line painting being carried out at the Vicarage Street car park at the same time. Mr. Seward agreed to take this back to the District Council. Mr. Seward also agreed to take back to the District Council the Town Council's concerns regarding dog fouling. The Town Mayor, Mrs. Uprichard, gave a report of the various functions she had attended since taking up office.

10231 **PIGEONS**

A report was submitted from James Wilson, Environmental Protection Team Leader stating that the baiting and trapping of pigeons had been unsuccessful. The Council is changing the way it intends to progress this matter and would be inviting the owners of the buildings within the town centre to a meeting to put forward a plan where all parties involved contributes to the effective proofing of the town centre buildings and look at the feasibility of an artificial breeding location. It was reported that the pigeon mess had been a problem when putting up the Christmas lights and North Walsham in Bloom had received complaints from supporters. It was reported that to date North Walsham in Bloom had not received a reply to their letter of 22nd September. There seemed a lack of urgency on the part of the District Council. Further discussion took place about the health issues relating to the pigeon mess and it was felt that the businesses should not have to pay for what is a District Council problem.

It was **RESOLVED**

That a letter be forwarded to the Director of Environmental Health stating that "This Council expresses grave disappointment with the District Council at the lack of urgency it has demonstrated in dealing with the pigeon problem in North Walsham. The Town Council seeks an urgent meeting with the Director of Environmental Services and Cabinet members to urgently resolve this problem.

This Council believes reducing the number of pigeons to be of significant importance, not only because of public health concerns but also in view of the concerns expressed over the appearance of the town centre by the Leadership of Place project.

Finally, in view of the high cost of business rates in North Walsham, businesses should not be expected to pay for the cost of resolving what is, in fact, the District Council's problem."

Copy of the letter to be sent to Philip Burton, Sheila Oxtoby, Trevor Ivory, Norman Lamb, MP and the North Walsham Chamber of Trade.

10232 **STREET CLEANING**

Members expressed concern at the lack of street cleaning in the Market Place, particularly at the weekends. Mr. Seward reported that the operative should start work in the town at 5 am on Saturday mornings and work until about 10 am by which time the town should be clean. It was suggested that the working schedule and standard of cleanliness be requested from the District Council. This was agreed.

10233 **REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES**

Details of the Boundary Commission for England initial proposals for new Parliamentary constituencies in England was submitted. It was noted that the proposals did not affect North Walsham and the letter was received.

10234 **BUS CONSULTATION**

It was reported that the County Council is undertaking a consultation on changes to bus services in Norfolk. Council's views are sought on:-

1. Whether the factors we have taken into account in developing these proposals are the right ones or if we should be considering our factors.
2. What the impact of the proposed changes would be
3. If there is anything else you would wish to comment on in relation to rural buses.

It was agreed that a small working group be set up to consider the consultation. (Mrs. Cornwall, Mrs. Rose, Mr. Robertson, Mr. R. Sims)

10235 **HIGHWAYS**

A letter was submitted from the County Council stating that in addition to the Highway and Community Ranger scheme the County Highways are welcoming communities maintaining their street scene. Members have agreed to consider grass cutting agreement at estimates time. The letter also includes gritting of footways and road sign cleaning activities. Mr. Seward stated that gritting pavements is essential in the town centre and suggested that the Town Council seek further information regarding financial assistance for submission to the Estimates meeting.

10236 **DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS**

It was suggested that a small working group be set up to organise the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. It was suggested that pupils from the High School and students from the College be included as well as the Historical Society, Mr. Mike Ling and Griffon Area Partnership.

It was **RESOLVED**

That a working group be set up to consider how to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee. The Town Council representatives to be Mrs. Cornwall and Mrs. West. (Mr. Hester – publicity)

10237 WOODVIEW PLANNING APPLICATION

Mr. Robertson, Chair of Planning Committee reported on the District Council Planning meeting he had attended when the Woodview Planning Application was discussed. He considered that the behaviour of the Chairman was appalling particularly when referring to the Town Council's points as being frivolous and that the District Council were changing the Core Strategy policies to suit themselves. Members still agreed that they supported affordable housing in the town and there were plenty of sites to provide it. It was **RESOLVED**

That -

- 1. North Walsham Town Council feel that in the light of information received a complaint should be made to the District Council in the first instance followed by a formal complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman.**
- 2. To ensure all the facts are correct, the complaint should be drafted by the Chair of North Walsham Town Council Planning Committee, Mr. D. Robertson and a member of the Woodview residents, Mr. D. Fitzhugh, and any other person who the committee feel can make a valuable contribution.**
- 3. Mr. Robertson be allowed to proceed with this process in the best way and to keep the Council informed.**

10238 PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

A statement giving details of the payments and receipts to 25th October, 2011 amounting to £76,199.54 respectively was submitted and approved.

10239 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The minutes of the meeting of the Christmas Lights Working Group held on 11th October, 2011 were considered and approved. (App. A) Mr. Robertson reported that he had spoken to Rev. Earis who would be very supportive of the Continental Market being held on Palm Sunday. Accordingly the organiser had been advised that we would look favourably for the Market to be held on Saturday, 31st March/Sunday 1st April. The Chamber of Trade had also been consulted.

10240 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 27th September 2011 and 11th October 2011 were received subject to the addition that "Mrs. Uprichard left the meeting before consideration of the Woodview application" – for both meetings.. (App. B)

10241 CORRESPONDENCE

1. Invitation to attend Ellen Grover's tree planting ceremony on 19th November, 2011. Names of attendees were given to the Town Clerk.
2. Invitation to attend seminar where Val Keitch CICJP will discuss her work around Community Justice Panels on 7th November at Broadland District Council.
3. Invitation to attend event on the future role of small schools in Norfolk. (see <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/norfolksmallschools>)
4. Copy of Full Council minutes.
5. Copy of Norfolk RCC – Signpost October 2011.
6. Copy of NHS ERINN Report and Equality Delivery System Outcomes Framework 2011 – 2013.
7. Invitation to attend rededication of the War Memorial stone at the North Walsham and District War memorial Hospital on 11th November, 2011. Names of attendees were given to the Town Clerk.
8. Details of the Police and Crime Survey 2011 were submitted.
9. Invitation to get involved with the North Norfolk Health Improvement Forum. Mrs. Cornwall and Mrs. West to represent the Town Council.
10. Notification of Remembrance Day Service to be held on Sunday, 13th November, 2011 at 3.00 p.m. Names of attendees were given to the Town Clerk.

M. Puchard