

NORTH WALSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council
Held in the Council Chamber
On Tuesday, 27th September 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

10196 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of interest were submitted from Mr. E. Seward and Mrs. V. Uprichard regarding all District Council matters.

10197 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the monthly meeting of the Town Council held on 26th July, 2011 were approved as a true record and signed by the Town Mayor.

10198 **MATTERS ARISING – FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

(a) **Diamond Jubilee Celebrations (10183)**

It was reported that an email had been received from the District Council asking parish and town councils to get involved in the celebrations. It was confirmed that the Chamber of Trade and Area Partnership would be involved in organising the event. It was suggested that a small Working Group be set up – to be discussed at the next meeting.

10199 **POLICE**

PCSO Lucy Collyer submitted the monthly crime figures and it was noted that the number of crimes were lower than for the same period in 2010. The next priority setting meeting would be held on 12th October, 2011. In preparation for the new policing model being implemented in January 2012 18 new officers have been moved to North Walsham from 19th September. North Walsham would not be losing any PCSO's in the new model. It was reported that there had been smashed windows over 2 weekends, three windows were smashed at retail premises in North Walsham. One was broken as part of a domestic argument and a person arrested. The other two windows were broken over separate weekends but no arrests have been made to date. There were approximately 1196 incident calls to the police in the catchment area. The current SNT priorities for North Walsham area remain as: 1., speeding through White Horse Common; 2. dropped kerbs blocked by parked vehicles in North Walsham; 3. ASB on Sadlers Way, North Walsham.

V. Uprichard

Mrs. Cornwall enquired as to the regulations relating to motorised scooters on the pavements. It was stated that pedestrians have the right of way. It was suggested that another scootsafe event be organised as some users were considered to be a danger to pedestrians.

10200 COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Cllr. Paul Morse submitted a written report informing members that the comments made by the town council, police and district/county councillors about the streetlights "switch off" had so far been ignored. It was agreed that the consultation had been a waste of money. It was noted that a volunteer had agreed to take responsibility for cutting the permissive path at Furze Hill/White Horse Common. The County Council had refused to install a light on the Wilkinson Way/Yarmouth Road footpath. Funding was being sought to continue the successful Kickz project for young people at the Sports Centre. Work to remove the surface water problem outside the Fire Station should start shortly. There was no further progress regarding the exit onto Mundesley Road from the Sainsbury's site. Mr. Morse had presented medals recently at the Library for the 'reading challenge'.

County Cllr. Mrs. Clarke submitted a written report stating that the access group had raised issues of the pavements on Buxton Road. A meeting was held with the police to update on the new structures to be implemented in January. As a Governor at Paston College Mrs. Clarke was concerned about the proposals for post 16 Transport subsidies and changes to eligibility criteria. Concern was expressed at the £4.5m deficit relating to bus passes. It was pointed out that many people relied on the bus passes and by using the buses it was saving the environment. Mr. Morse stated that if the gap isn't covered something would be found to fill it. Mrs. Belson asked if the lights at Millfield remained under threat. It was suggested that the Town Council writes to the County Council enquiring whether the Council's suggestions had been considered.

District Cllrs. Eric Seward and Nigel Lloyd submitted a written report giving further information on the Mundesley Road car park. Following tests it had been found that the level of contaminants was well below the level that would endanger public health and the car park could continue to be used in its current form. A hard surface or any other building could not be installed unless the tar well is removed as this would prevent any vapours from the tar well being able to escape into the atmosphere. This was being explored. Ward councillors had asked the District Council to consider what improvements could now be made to the car park to improve its visibility and surface. It was reported that the Bacton Gas plant application for a park and ride car park at Crane Fruehauf site would be considered by the District Council on 13th October. It was reported that Highways did not raise any objection to the extra volume of traffic. It was noted that the bus left the site at 10.30 a.m. It was agreed that in order to get a firm idea of the volume of traffic the bus should have left between 6.00 – 8.00 a.m. and again at 5.30 – 7.30 p.m. It was suggested that the Town Council should inform the District Council and reinforce the point that this proposed bus route is not acceptable.

Vu.

It was noted that Howards Garage site, Mundesley Road was up for sale again. Ward councillors have asked the District Council to actively explore if this land could be bought and used for affordable housing.

Mr. Robertson reported on the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 legislation which would allow the District Council to compulsory purchase land for housing purposes. It was agreed to put this on the agenda of the next Planning Committee meeting.

In answer to a question from Mrs. Cornwall, Mr. Seward reported on the history of the Mundesley Road car park. It was suggested that if the District Council considered charging for this car park following surfacing then thought should be given to the effect on the Mundesley Road traders.

Mrs. Cornwall suggested that the Leadership of Place should be asked to look at funding for the Carpenters Arms and other youth facilities in the town. It was stated that the District Council was hoping to maintain some youth provision. Town Council to look at financial support at estimates time.

A report was submitted from Cllrs. Ann Moore and Virginia Gay regarding the planning application at Woodview and officers were preparing a table of sites which may come forward together with the number of affordable housing numbers. A meeting had been held with the owner of the land and reservoir connected to the Crane Fruehauf application; Mr. Blatch the strategic director had also attended. It was commented that the surface water problem should have been dealt with when the Victory Housing offices were built. A visit had been made to the Motorcycle Museum; the director was looking to expand into the old warehouse. An update was given on the HL Foods site vision. Concern was expressed that the Town Council had not been invited to the meeting.

10201 **CHURCH STREET**

It was reported that during the August recess a letter had been received from the County Council asking for comments on HGVs using Church Street. A response was sent and in reply a letter was submitted to Council from the County Council. This gave various options on the direction of large vehicles at the junction of North Street/Mundesley Road and two options for Church Street to prohibit the length of vehicles entering Church Street but providing an exception for loading/unloading or providing an exemption for loading/unloading and accepting that some problems would occur with long delivery vehicles. It was suggested that consultation take place with the relevant traders.

It was **RESOLVED**

- (a) **That heavy lorries be directed to turn right at the junction of North Street/Mundesley Road.**
- (b) **That a consultation is undertaken with the relevant traders to see whether they would wish for (a) a complete ban on all lorries entering Church Street, with the exception of loading/unloading or (b) prohibit the length of vehicles.**

10202 **GRASS VERGE CUTTING**

It was reported that the County Council had again approached the Town Council regarding a service delegation agreement for grass cutting services.

The agreement states that the County Council would give parish/town councils a certain amount of money to carry out the service. Members agreed to defer this item to allow officers to discuss with other parish/town councils who are undertaking this service for report back to the Estimates meeting.

10203 **DELIVERING LOCAL HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS**

A letter was submitted from the County Council stating that they are looking for ways in which the County Council can work more closely with town and parish councils so that the limited funds available can be used to meet local needs. In July 2011, councillors agreed that £100,000 of next year's 2012/13 highway improvement budget should be made available to work in partnership with parish/town councils, to share the cost of delivering small improvements in their area. Members agreed to defer this item to allow time to consider projects to bid for. The deadline for bids is 20 January 2012.

10204 **NORFOLK ALC**

It was reported that the Norfolk ALC AGM would be held on 1st October and Council was asked to nominate two councillors to attend and vote on their behalf. Three proposals were submitted and it was agreed to leave the decision to the two councillors attending.

It was **RESOLVED**

That Mr. D. Robertson and Mr. D. Turner represent the Town Council.

10205 **AREA OFFICE**

It was reported that the Town Council offices were now in operation on the ground floor. The telephone system had partly been installed and the installation of the new photocopier was imminent. The Service Agreement had been signed in accordance with Council's previous instructions and bookings had been received for the Council Chamber.

10206 **LEADERSHIP OF PLACE**

Mr. Seward reported that there would be an officer led group involved in the progress of the Action Plan. A further meeting would be held with the Griffon Area Partnership, Town Council, District Council and the Atrium to arrive at a common view about the future community development trust. The Atrium project at the High School needs instant funding and the Area Partnership had agreed to help with this. The next visible thing would be the improvements to the car parks.

10207 **PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS**

A statement giving details of the payments and receipts to 27th September 2011 amounting to £43,613.38 and £15,042.31 respectively was submitted and approved together with a comparison of actual payments and receipts with estimates at 27th and 20 September 2011 respectively. The accounts were approved.

It was noted that the Council's CCTV contribution had been paid and it was queried whether the CCTV was effective. It was agreed to arrange a visit to the Monitoring Room and investigate the costs.

✓

With regard to the grant for North Walsham in Bloom it was reported that the pigeons were nesting in the baskets

10208 **AUDITOR'S REPORT**

The external Auditor's Report for the year ended 31st March, 2011 was received. It was noted that there were no matters to bring to the Council's attention and that the completion of the audit had been advertised, as required.

10209 **ESTIMATES**

It was reported that the officers would shortly be working on next year's estimates in order to bring the draft to the meeting on 8th November. Members were asked to let the officers know in advance if they wished any items to be considered to allow figures to be prepared. One item was suggested – youth provision.

10210 **GRANTS COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the Grants Committee meeting held on 9th August, 2011 were received and approved. (App. A) Mrs. Cornwall gave a verbal thank you from the Bluebell Pond Society.

It was also **RESOLVED**

That the Grants Committee be given delegated powers to spend up to £850 in the year and advise the Council of actions taken at the next available meeting.

10211 **COMMITTEES**

Members were reminded that at the Annual Meeting it had been agreed to leave spaces on the following Committees to be filled by co-opted members, if they wished.

It was **RESOLVED**

- (a) **That Mr. Peck be appointed to the Christmas Lights Working Group**
- (b) **That Mr. Thirtle be appointed to the Parks & Cemetery Committee**

10212 **AUGUST RECESS**

A report was submitted of items which had been carried out under delegation during the August Recess.

1 The grants sub committee recommended a grant to the Bluebell Pond Society for work to a tree at the pond. In view of the urgency it was agreed that the work be carried out at a cost of £250 + VAT from the grants estimate.

2 Despite extensive enquiries the vehicle which caused damage to the wall at the Mundesley Road entrance to the Cemetery could not be traced. The wall has been repaired, at a cost of £940, which can not be contained within the Cemetery estimates. However there will be a saving on Election costs.

3. Letter from NCC re: Church Street Traffic Management Programme

4. Letters of support were sent to the Youth Scrap Metal Project and North Walsham and Dilham Canal to assist with funding applications.

10213 **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 16th August, 2011 and 6th September, 2011 were received. (App. B) Subject to the amendment of the notes of a meeting held on 16th August 2011 regarding Mrs. Belson's concerns to read "due to financial restraints" and the following addition to the minutes of 6th September – It was agreed to invite the Highways Officer to a future meeting.

10214 **INFORMATION OFFICE**

The minutes of the meeting of the Information Office Steering Committee held on 13th September, 2011 were approved. (App. C)

10215 **FUNDAY COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the meeting of the Funday Committee held on 20th September, 2011 were approved. (App. D)

10216 **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the meeting of the Christmas Lights Working Group held on 20th September, 2011 were approved. (App. E)

10217 **COUNCIL CHAMBER**

The Town Mayor reported that she would like to invite the school councils from the Junior/Infant Schools to attend the Council Chamber to talk to both her and Mr. Lamb on North Walsham matters and asked for Council's approval. The event to take place on 4th November.
This was agreed to.

10218 **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Information from Voluntary Norfolk re: A voice for the voluntary and community sector in north Norfolk event to be held at Holt Community Centre on 20th October.
2. Information received re: proposed surfacing and patching works on the B1150 and B1354 Coltishall & Belaugh, which plan to run from 23rd October to 11 November 2011. Due to the potential impact on the surrounding parishes local members are being informed of the works.
3. Information received from the District Council giving advance notice of the forthcoming changes to refuse and recycling collections undertaken by Kier. The changes that will be undertaken are significant in scale, will affect most areas of the district, and will result in inevitable disruption for a period of time from their implementation on 3 October
4. Works to the North Walsham car parks will be undertaken as follows:- Bank Loke – 28th September 2011; New Road – 30th September, 2011. Resurfacing and Relining of Vicarage Street date to be announced, likely to be early October. Pothole repairs will take place during September for Midland and Mundesley Road.
5. The NHS Norfolk and NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney Cluster are consulting on the Equality Delivery System. A 90 day consultation period began on 5th September and will run until Sunday 4th December, 2011. Members may wish to reply as a Town Council or individuals. There are two websites – www.norfolk.nhs.uk – have your say pages and



www.gywpct.nhs.uk – your voice pages. It was agreed that members reply individually if they wished.

6. Norfolk County Council's Trading Standards Service is looking for volunteer Consumer Champions to help people in communities get information they need about their consumer rights. It was agreed to ask if one of the Information Volunteers would be interested.

7. Copy of Norfolk Link

8. Copy of NNDC Full Council minutes

9. Norfolk Police Authority – Receipt of Pocket Fact Guide 2011.

10. Email from Norfolk County Council – following the request from the Town Council and County Cllr. Morse Manor Road has been included in the gritting route. This includes Manor Road, Hall Lane/Brick Kiln Road, Plantation Road to Sadlers Way as a circular route.

11. A report was submitted of the Norfolk Village Games Final. It was agreed to send a letter of congratulations to Antony Davies.

10219 **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

1. Boundary Commission – consultation.
2. Update on the Keir cleaning schedule

10220 **ADMISSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

It was **RESOLVED**

That due to confidential nature of the business to be discussed regarding the Cemetery the public and press be excluded from the meeting.

10221 **CEMETERY**

Details of an incident were reported together with a report of a meeting held on 16th August, 2011 attended by the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Mrs. Rose (Chair of Parks and Cemetery) and staff. The actions taken were approved.

V Vpuchard