



NORTH WALSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting

held on Tuesday 19 December 2023, at 18 Kings Arms Street, North Walsham

Present:

Town Councillors:

Cllr Wright (Chair)
Cllr Beach
Cllr Gray
Cllr Covell
Cllr Shires

Cllr Spall
Cllr Dibben
Cllr Richardson
Cllr Heinrich
Cllr Eastwick

District Councillors: Cllr Heinrich Cllr Shires

County Councillors: Cllr Shires Cllr Penfold

Lead Officer: Cherrie Woods

Members of Public: 1

The meeting opened at 18.30.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr B Hester

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - (Standing Orders: 13b-pecuniary interest; 13c-personal interest if the code of conduct requires; Councillors will leave the meeting for the item, unless a dispensation is granted)

Personal interests: Cllr Eastwick 8.3

Pecuniary interests: None

3. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS - (Standing Order: 3t vii-approve resolutions made as an accurate record; Standing Order: 12a-emailed with agenda, taken as read)

As proposed by Cllr Gray and seconded by Cllr Richardson, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28th November 2023 were agreed as an accurate record.

4. UPDATE ON MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES – Decision/Action Log

4a) Lighting at Bank Loke was discussed.

4b) Co-option process was discussed. The skills audit is now complete, and applications will be discussed once the new Town Clerk is in post.

5. PUBLIC FORUM - (Standing Orders: 3e-Items on this agenda; 3f-Total duration max 15mins; 3g-Max 3mins per person; 3h-Questions do not require a response at this meeting)

No comments were made.

6. FINANCE

6.1 As proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Gray it was **RESOLVED** to approve income since November meeting.

6.2 As proposed by Cllr Gray and seconded by Cllr Wright it was **RESOLVED** to approve the expenditure since November meeting.

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6.3 As proposed by Cllr Shires and seconded by Cllr Henrich, it was **AGREED** to move this item to Part 7.
6.4 2024/2025 Budget – The budget showed earmarked sums in reserves. The item for a new vehicle was challenged by Cllr Shires as no decision has yet been made. Finance Committee to review earmarked reserves St next meeting.

7. TO RECEIVE MONTHLY REPORTS

7.1 District Councillors – Updates were received from Cllr Heinrich, including designs being nearly finalised for the Black Swan Loke Garden which will be very low maintenance. The work to this area should be completed in the next 3 months including resurfacing, sign boards and lights. The wall from Black Swan pub to the car park had become unstable and had to be taken down. Cllr Shires confirmed resurfacing in Bank Loke will be from the carpark to the high street. Cllr Shires confirmed she has had a meeting with Hopkins Homes, where it was discussed that they should be working with the community. Social Housing should be preserved, and good communication is being encouraged. The financial position of NNDC is not at risk, however due to significant costs NNDC has decided to double the amount of council tax due by 2nd homeowners. This has been delayed and should be implemented in 2025. There are increases to staff costs and temporary accommodation which is influencing their budget settings. Modular temporary housing is being considered by NNDC however, land is limited. They are working with housing providers to try and overcome this crisis.

7.2 County Councillors –Cllr Penfold reported that the Cromer Road resurfacing and traffic signal repair/ upgrade at the junction with the A149 is now complete and positive feedback has been received. There are no further updates to improve Grammer School Road roundabout and A149/B1150 junction improvements. This will be chased after Christmas. Local traffic diversions will need to be investigated to avoid the recent problems during Cromer Road junction works. Cllr Penfold confirmed he had received complaints regarding parking on Hornbeam Road. He met with the highways engineer and they felt that the NNDC car park was not very well signposted. Direction signs will be installed to highlight this car park. County Council agreed to proceed with the County Deal however a final decision will be made in July 2024. An election of a directly elected leader will be made in May 2025 which will coincide with the next County Council elections. Cllr Shires confirmed that there will be 20 million a year for the next 30 years from the Government, but this is not inflation linked. This equates to 5.9p per person per day. NNDC are working with County to see if we can have a larger amount of this money earmarked for North Norfolk. Cllr Shires has sent out 2 invitations for the infrastructure highways person to come and visit North Walsham to discuss highways issues and she has not heard anything; she will be chasing this up. Cllr shires has written to DWP re a complaint received concerning Kings Arms Street. An appointment will be arranged after Christmas.

8. MATTERS ARISING FOR DECISION/DISCUSSION BY THE TOWN COUNCIL

8.1 **Lease Saddlers Rooms/Heritage Centre.** The maintenance costs for this lease are minimal and a budget line could be set up to cover any costs which are estimated to be approx. £250 a year. As proposed by Cllr Shires and seconded by Cllr Gray. it was **RESOLVED** to renew the lease for another 5 years.

8.2 **Update on the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for North Walsham.** A meeting has been held with various people from the community. Information packs have been handed out laying out what the Neighbourhood plan and why North Walsham should have one. There will be various roles for the people on the working party. It was discussed how the community should be engaged including the

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young people in North Walsham. Another meeting is arranged mid-January. This will be a standard Agenda item.

8.3 Agree name of dinosaur from nursery school suggestions. It was agreed to be deferred to the January meeting.

8.4 Review and discuss four year objectives. The Council should be looking at lighting of the Market Cross, overhead wires for bunting and lights and New Cemetery which is ongoing. The Neighbourhood plan will be included in this as well. Overhead wires lights will be discussed at D & A meeting and brought to full council. Cllr Shires has spoken to a local lady who has supported a successful tourism and PR campaigns in the past and she has offered her support for a campaign to promote and raise the profile of North Walsham. An events calendar should be looked at showing all events that are happening in the Town, surrounding areas and across the country so clashes can be avoided.

8.5 Agree quotations for cemetery borehole. Three quotes have been received and circulated. The quotes were discussed but as councillors had not had time to look at them in detail it was agreed to defer to the January Meeting. Cherrie to contact the companies who quoted to see if they can extend their quotations. Cllr Wright will check to make sure there are no underground wires/pipes with utility companies.

9. CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

9.1 Correspondence

None received.

9.2 Clerk's decisions - (by either Financial Regulation 4.1-In conjunction with Council Chair or Vice Chair, or Committee Chair within budget under £1,000; OR 4.5-Urgent, essential, health & safety or if the Clerk deems necessary)

No decisions made.

10. TO RECEIVE UPDATES

Nothing to report.

11. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND GROUPS

M&I – 12.12.23

Markets – 12.12.23

Finance - 17.12.23

D&A – 14.11.23

Personnel - 15.11.23

12. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA/LATE ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION ONLY - (Standing Orders: 9b-Agenda items to be received at least 7 clear days before the meeting; 9f-The Proper Officers decision whether to include the items on the agenda shall be final.

12a) Agree name of dinosaur from nursery school suggestions.

12b) To establish an Events working group.

12c) Cemetery Borehole

13. DATES OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

D & A 09.01.23

Finance January tbc

Full Council 30.01.23

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M&I 13.02.24
Personnel tbc

14. TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC AND PRESS, UNDER THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 for confidential matters

14a) Staffing matters were discussed; no decisions were made.

14b) As proposed by Cllr Dibben and seconded by Cllr Richardson it was **AGREED** to make the payment 292 (Ice and Roller Magic)

The meeting closed at 19.45.

Signed:

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