



NORTH WALSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting

held on Tuesday 30 January 2024, at 18 Kings Arms Street, North Walsham

Present:

Town Councillors:	Cllr Wright (Chair)	Cllr Spall
	Cllr Beach	Cllr Dibben
	Cllr Gray	Cllr Richardson
	Cllr Covell	Cllr Heinrich
	Cllr Shires	Cllr Eastwick
	Cllr Hester	

District Councillors: Cllr Heinrich Cllr Shires

County Councillors: Cllr Shires

Town Clerk: Wendy Murphy

Members of Public: 1

The meeting opened at 18.30.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr S Penfold - County Council

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 8.2 Cllr Shires 8.7,10.1,14.2 Cllr Heinrich 8.7,14.2

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 Wright and seconded by Cllr Beach, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 19th December 2023 were agreed as an accurate record.

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

The Action Log will be looked at by the Clerk and old items to be actioned as soon as possible.

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)

Robert Murphy thanked the Council for the grant of £750.00 to go towards Bands for North Walsham Childrens Day

6. FINANCE

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

6.2 As proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Richardson it was **RESOLVED** to approve the

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expenditure since December meeting. Cllr Shires asked for the Electricity charges be added to the next Development& Amenities Agenda so these could be reviewed.

7. TO RECEIVE MONTHLY REPORTS

7.1 District Councillors – Cllr Heinrich reported that work was progressing at Black Swan Loke Garden this will be a low maintenance area and it was expected to be complete by the end of March. The application for planning on a narrow strip land off New Road which leads on to Hall Lane has been refused. Hopkins Homes planning application was approved with firm conditions including 15% affordable homes. Work is expected to start this Summer with the first occupancies in Summer 2025. Cllr Shires reported that the NNDC budget for 2024-2025 there is a deficit of 1.8 million pounds. Proposals have been put through for internal savings by officers of approximately 1 million pounds. This will have very little effect on local residents. Reserves will be looked into too. Homelessness cost is rising at a considerable rate and there is no extra money provided by the Government. Cllr Shires confirmed that NNDC are stable in what they are trying to achieve financially.

7.2 County Councillors –Cllr Shires reported that County Council have an approx. deficit of 50 million pounds. They are looking at cutting services including people who are supported by Social Services for care, there is a minimum income guarantee, and this is how much the government says a person should be left with after you have paid for your care. Councillor’s allowances are looking at being increased along with a back date, but this is being challenged. The Finance meeting will be next month where the budget will be discussed.

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

8.1 **Neighbourhood Plan** Cllr Gray gave an update and confirmed that a stakeholders meeting had taken place, and it was felt that this was a good idea and keen to get the young community involved. Costs are being explored, there is money set aside in 2024-2025 Budget and there are funds available including £10k from a neighbourhood scheme. A planning consultant will be required, and they will be interviewed to make sure that they can meet the needs of North Walsham. The plan will need to be reviewed every 5 years so that polices and the plan can be kept up to date. The working group are tasked with getting the information together and this will all be brought to Full Council. The timeframe will be between 2 and 3 years to produce the Neighbourhood plan.

8.2 **Agree name of Dinosaur.** All agreed by a show of hands that the name of the dinosaur should be Chester. The Clerk confirmed this was Chestnut Nursery’s suggestion.

8.3 **To receive a report and agree a quote for cemetery borehole.** As proposed by Cllr Heinrich and seconded by Cllr Wright it was **RESOLVED** to accept quote 3. A F Howland Associates. Contact will be made to ask for a start date for this.

8.4 **Co-option Vacancies - agree a date for interview.** It was agreed for this covered under Agenda 14.

8.5 **To agree an amount to charge for additional grave digging** – it was agreed for prices to be brought to the next Council meeting for nonstandard charges.



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8.6 **To discuss the naming of a street.** As proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Heinrich it was **RESOLVED** a bench should be placed at the Skate Park as the Town Council are not consulted in the naming of streets.

8.7 **Introduction of Parking restrictions Bank Loke.** As proposed by Cllr Wright and Seconded by Cllr Richardson it was **AGREED** to support this scheme.

8.8 **Events Working Group** – It was proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Hester that all councillors should be involved. An Events Calendar will be presented to councillors for them to agree.

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)

2 Headstones dislodged. Clerk asked for the Stone Mason to make safe.

10. TO RECEIVE UPDATES

10.1 **Update on Cedar House** – it was **AGREED** to arrange for Solicitors to look at the Lease when it is received – The Clerk will obtain 3 quotes to be brought to the next meeting.

10.2 **Update on Haz Project** - A meeting is arranged for 31st January to receive updates regarding signage etc.

11. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND GROUPS

D&A – 24.01.24. The workload of the Grounds team is being reviewed due to the expansion of the town and the possibility of having to adopt more green spaces.

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.

4-year plan

13. DATES OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

D & A	12.03.24
Finance	tbc
Full Council	27.02.24
M&I	13.02.24
Personnel	tbc

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

14.1 Staffing matters – An update was given. It was proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Hester that all decisions on staff matters should be done by the Personal Committee for the time being.

14.2 Co- Option – As proposed by Cllr Hester and seconded by Cllr Dibben it was **RESOLVED** that Co – Option of new councillors will take place in February Full Council meeting.

14.3 Midland Car Park – information which had already been circulated was discussed and it was **AGREED** to let NNDC that their proposal was of interest. – More information will be provided at future meetings.

The meeting closed at 20.09