



# ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Annual Town Meeting held on 25 April 2016 at 1900 at The Methodist Room

Chairman: Councillor Allen Frary

1) Small Industrial Units

Councillor Ray Hewitt expressed his concerns about the lack of small industrial units in Wells and was surprised that the designation of the land surrounding the Old Mill on Maryland had been changed from light industrial to residential; he suggested it should be changed back to light industrial. Councillor Gary Anthony said there was also a need to bring the existing units into use. Melvyn Fickling, representing the Wells Coastal Communities Team (WCCT), said there had been meetings with the owner of the empty units on Maryland, members of the WCCT and local fisherman, to investigate the possible provision of a shellfish processing facility. Greg Hewitt suggested the designation of the Old Mill could be discussed with the planners as part of the consultation for the new NNDC Local Plan.

2) Coach Park

The coach park was identified as another possible site for industrial units although others thought it should remain as a coach and lorry park. Greg Hewitt explained the site is currently owned by the Lindum Group, builders of the Co-op, who have a five year option to build a filling station. If no filling station is built the land reverts back to the District Council. It was generally agreed NNDC should not be allowed to sell off the Town's assets.

3) Old Railway Cutting, Mill Farm

Councillor Lindsay Dew said she thought the cutting should be brought into use as a walkway or cycleway. David Horton-Fawkes representing Holkham Estate said it was something that was being investigated.

4) Campsite

Steve Brundle was concerned about the lack of a campsite for the Town. Melvyn Fickling said the provision of an affordable seasonal campsite was a main project for WCCT and it was hoped there would be one open for the summer.

5) Stearmans Yard Car Park

Melvyn Fickling suggested that the Stearmans Yard Car Park could be used to provide a mixture of residential, business and industrial accommodation, such as affordable residential premises with integral workshops. Others thought the site should remain as a car park; it was considered essential the town has sufficient car parking. District Councillor Vincent Fitzpatrick said the district council needs to ensure all assets provide value for money and if there were any proposals for change stakeholders would be consulted.

6) Captain's Table Public House

Lindsay Dew thought the Captains Table site was starting to look a bit dilapidated. Steve Brundle said the site was subject to a legal dispute and nothing was likely to happen this year. Lindsay said the situation would be discussed by the Town Council at the next meeting. Vincent Fitzpatrick said he would be taking a keen interest in the site.



## MINUTES CONTINUED

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7) Town Visitor Advisors

Mike Strong mentioned a previous idea that had been considered in the Town to have volunteers who were identifiable to visitors and could give them advice and directions; there is a similar scheme in Norwich. It was suggested that Mike speak with the Maltings Trust who are responsible for the Tourist Information Centre

8) Car Parking

Melvyn Fickling asked why a town surrounded by fields has such car parking problems. David Horton-Fawkes said that there were so many planning restrictions and site designations that it was very difficult to get planning permission. The Chairman said the main problem was that most visitors on busy days were all trying to get to the beach. The capacity of the new Freemans Street car park was discussed with Peter Terrington asking if the total number of spaces proposed in the planning application would ever be provided. David Horton-Fawkes said the car park had already cost £699000 to build. Marie Strong said that it was now time to look at the feasibility residents only parking.

9) 'Welcome to Holkham' Sign on Beach Road

Ray Hewitt said a number of people in the town were offender by the sign at the top of Beach Road that says "Welcome to Holkham". David Horton-Fawkes said the sign had been erected to inform people that the road was privately owned because of the amount of abuse that the parking attendants receive by people who think they are on a public road. David said he would have the sign changed.

10) Illegal Parking

Marie Strong reminded people that where vehicles were causing an obstructing or parked on the footpath it was a matter for the police and people should report the offence by dialling 101. If the offending vehicle is on yellow lines it is a matter for parking enforcement and an email should be sent to [parking.operations@west-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:parking.operations@west-norfolk.gov.uk) who will monitor sites for which they receive regular reports.

11) Defibrillator

Pauline Catton asked where defibrillators were available in the Town and was there one available out of hours. It was agreed the Town Council would considered the need for a defibrillator that would be available to the public 24 hours a day as an agenda item.

The meeting was closed at 2008

