

# WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

THE SACKHOUSE, JICKLINGS YARD, WELLS-NEXT-THE-SEA NR23 1AU

# MINUTES

2009/33

#### Town Council Meeting held on 2 November 2009 at 1913 at The Methodist Rooms

<u>Those Present:</u> Allen Frary (Chairman), Gary Anthony, Steve Clark, Rodney Crafer, Lindsay Dew, Mark Frary, Andy Gates, Mike Gates, Ray Hewitt, and Maggie Ward,

Keith Leesmith (Clerk), 6 Members of the public and 2 Members of the press (EDP & The Quay)

#### 1) Public Forum

A tree has partially fallen down in the former east end railway cutting. The light on Tug Boat Yard is still not working. The blocked drain on the corner of The Quay and Standard Road makes it very difficult for the nearby retail premises, as customers coming and going can be soaked by passing vehicles.

## 2) Apologies

Campbell MacCallum & Joyce Trett

#### 3) Declarations of Interest

AF – personal interest in item 7 : RC – personal interest in item 16

#### 4) Minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2009

Agreed and signed with two minor amendments

#### 5) Reports

5b - North Norfolk District Council

Nothing received

### <u>5c – Wells Safer Neighbourhood Team</u>

Nobody from the team was able to attend but they had sent a report: There had been two recorded crimes in the past month, both assaults and both alcohol related. In the same period there had been three calls to police for rowdy or nuisance behaviour.

Marie Strong (NCC) arrived during the following report

#### 5d – Town Clerk

A letter had arrived that morning, mentioning a meeting at County Hall on the evening of 15 December to which we would be invited. The meeting would be chaired by Cllr. Harry Humphrey. KL asked if we should object to this as he was a member of the police authority. It was agreed that we should object. AF, MG, RH and KL would be prepared to attend the meeting.

A poster had been received advertising volunteering opportunities at Holt Country Park, but this could not be displayed as we cannot accommodate A3 size posters.

The plan of the proposed car park in Freeman Street now excludes the rear gardens of some local properties which had been included in the original by accident.

From next April we are supposed to make PAYE and VAT payments online. This presents problems as the 1972 Local Government Act requires all payments to be signed by two Councillors.

A local enquiry will be held into the stopping up of Malthouse Yard. This is likely to be next summer.

Various NCC street light columns in the town would be replaced in the next twelve months.

> Keith Leesmith Town Clerk 01328 710564 clerk@wellstowncouncil.org.uk



### 5e) Portfolio Holders

Cemetery – The number of rabbits is beginning to be a nuisance – they are eating the floral tributes. KL would ask Holkham whether their gamekeepers can assist. The large conifer has now been cut down and the cemetery looks better.

Allotments - One of the asbestos sheds has been demolished by the owner — saving us the trouble.

### 5a) Norfolk County Council

With regard to Cherry Tree Corner MS advises that in discussions/letters we should emphasise the danger (rather than the inconvenience) of the junction. The police have only issued one ticket during the summer to people illegally parking on the verges near the junction.

In Staithe Street several drains had been covered in tarmac, and surface water is now flowing better now that this has been corrected. Highways are looking into the problem at the junction of The Quay and Standard Road.

The western sluice will be repaired by Holkham.

To save money some street lights may be switched off after midnight. It is also proposed that some Household Recycling Centres will close on some weekdays – Wells is one of these.

NCC has made a grant of £150,000 to the Norfolk Credit Union to enable them to launch a current account, making financial transactions easier for many people.

## NB: Items 16) and 14) taken out of order

# 16) To discuss an appeal for funds by the Wells United Charity

Colin Rattee gave a short presentation on the work of the Charity and its current assets. They are seeking donations to increase their capital fund, and have so far achieved approximately an additional £1000 in the past 18 months. They have received more applications for fuel allowances this year than last. They had been looking for an additional trustee and Rodney Crafer had agreed to act. Resolved to donate £100.

# I4) To formulate a response to the Shoreline Management Plan consultation

KL had prepared a draft letter for discussion. It was agreed that we should ask for physical protection measures (fencing) on the dunes and that we should protest at the apparent loss of the gabions between the far eastern end of the dunes and the Lifeboat House. With regard to the proposed flooding of the Warham Slade we should not only point out the possible problems (the surface water sump etc) but should respond strongly stating the apparent total opposition of local people to the proposition.

#### Marie Strong left at this point.

# 6) To receive a report of work being done by the committee discussing the future of The Maltings Complex.

KL gave the report in the absence of Campbell MacCallum. The consultants are now progressing the work and speaking to various interested parties. They carried out market research interviews in the street during half-term and also spoke to most of the retailers. There will be a "drop in" session at The Maltings between 1730 and 1930 on the I0<sup>th</sup> of November, for local people to find out what is going on. There would be a proper public meeting on 4 December at which the consultants would present their preliminary findings, and gauge public opinion. They would like to meet the Town Council, and have suggested the evening of 18 November. It was agreed that we would meet at 1900 on that day, at the Methodist Room if available.

# 7) To approve the latest scheme for parking bays and bus stops in Freeman Street

(This item Chaired by RC)

Resolved that we were in agreement with the scheme suggested by County Highways.

# 8) To discuss application for Your Parish, Your Decision grant

This scheme was making grants available to Parishes for community projects. Wells in Bloom in partnership with the Junior School, wanted to improve the roundabout (bus lane) in Polka Road. It was agreed that KL could apply for a grant for this purpose in the name of the Town Council.

### 9) To discuss the cleaning of bus shelters

Another contractor had cleaned the shelters recently. Whilst their work was satisfactory it was agreed that the Congregational Church who had offered to clean the shelters in exchange for a donation should be tried. It seemed that the Perspex of the original shelter was more difficult to clean than the plate glass of the others. KL would contact the manufacturers to see if they had any suggestions

#### I0) To discuss the problem of fly posting in the town

Photographs had been provided of typical problem areas in the town. Most of the posters seemed to have been placed by official or semi-official bodies such as the adult education service and Homes for Wells. It was agreed that the posters were not really a problem provided that they were removed when the event was over. *The Quay* would publish a notice asking organisers to do this.

- It had been mentioned several times during the summer that *Pinewoods* did not seem to be operating this to its full potential. KL had spoken to the Holkham Agent who had asked if the Town Council were interested in operating the site. Councillors decided to delay the discussion until next month to enable them to think about it.
- 12) To discuss the need for a set of rules for the Cemetery

Because of a recent problem it seemed that we may need to publicise rules for the Cemetery more than we do. The only set that we have is nearly 30 years old, and needs some modification. LD, MW, and AG would form a working party to suggest revisions and would also try to get Guy Stratton to assist.

#### 13) To appoint a representative for Armistice Wreath Laying

AF would be away on RNLI business at the time of the commemoration. RC would undertake the wreath laying this year.

### 15) To discuss a quotation to repair/improve the roadway beside the football field

Norse had supplied a quotation of £1862.50 (plus VAT) to improve the roadway and to re-seed the area in front of the pavilion. It was agreed that they are likely to provide a better job than any other contractor and that therefore it was not necessary to seek alternative quotations. However, RH asked whether it would be worthwhile to spend a bit more to obtain a two-lane roadway instead of the single track that we had at present. It was agreed that we would seek a new quotation.

### 17) To agree the budget and precept for the year 2010/2011

18)	Financial Report and Accounts for Settlement		
ĺ	A report had been circulated at the beginning of the meeting. The following had been paid during the month:		
	North Norfolk District Council	Sackhouse Rates	58.00
	North Norfolk District Council	Cemetery Rates	51.00
	Brightview Internet	Broadband	14.61
	Keith Leesmith	Clerk's Salary Deposit	1000.00
	The following were agreed for payment:		
	R & M Playford	Cleaning Bus Shelters	15.00
	Norfolk Landscaping	Buttlands work	1925.00
	Keith Leesmith	Salary (net of deposit) and expenses	347.50
	Norfolk Pension Fund	Monthly contribution	427.99
	MHB Services Ltd	Street Lighting Maintenance	279.89
	E-on Energy	Street Lighting electricity	442.14
	Norse Commercial Services Ltd	Grounds maintenance	1221.88
	Jimmy Tottle	Bollards	220.00
	RBL Poppy Appeal	Remembrance Wreath	16.50
	Norfolk Lowland Search & Rescue	Donation (last month)	25.00
	E-on Energy	Buttlands (estimate) £100.82	
	E-on Energy	Sackhouse £45.09	145.91
	M & L Walsingham & Son Ltd	Hardware	14.05
	North Norfolk District Council	Lease of dog bins	138.00
	Viking Direct	Stationery including stamps	195.25
	Veolia	Cemetery waste disposal	29.37
	Campbell MacCallum	Return mileage to Cromer	18.40
	Mick Chestney	Litter Picking	269.50
	Terry Corbishley	Litter Picking	254.10

# <u>To confirm Date of Next Meeting</u> Confirmed as Monday 7 December 2009 19)

The meeting closed at 2155