

WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

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

MINUTES

2010/01

Town Council Meeting held on 4 January 2010 at 1925 at The Methodist Rooms

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

Keith Leesmith (Clerk), 5 Members of the public, PC Jason Pegden and PCSO Andrew Dixon and 2 Members of the press (EDP & The Quay)

Marie Strong (NCC) arrived during the public forum

1) Public Forum

There is concern over the future parking restrictions in Freeman Street. The proposed highway order is not easy to read, and can be confusing. KL/CM explained that the basic idea is that parking will be allowed all the time on the north side (summer and winter, day and night) but that (with the exception of some marked bays at the western end) there would be no parking at any time on the south side. KL had the proposed map in the office which made it clearer. People were invited to call in to look at this if they were confused.

There are still too many irresponsible people allowing their dogs to foul footpaths and not clearing it. Perhaps Councillors and others could put their cameras in their pockets when they go out. People will be prosecuted if they can be identified. Councillors were reminded that the next Quay Newsletter articles are required for publication before the end of the month. The Quay has received many comments regarding (the lack of) gritting in the Town.

2) Apologies

Steve Clark, Mark Frary, Joyce Trett

3) <u>Declarations of Interest</u>

None

4) Minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2009

Agreed and signed

5) Reports

5a - Norfolk County Council

A feasibility study had been carried out into the possibility of having a zebra crossing outside the primary school during December. The results were not yet known. The subject of gritting will come before the relevant committee this week. Of the amount collected as "second homes tax" (the difference between a 50% and a 10% discount) the County are intending to divert approximately £900,000 of this per annum from a special fund to build affordable homes to paying for infrastructure projects in the larger centres of the County. (Several Councillors felt aggrieved at this and delegated authority was given to the Chairman and Clerk to write a letter of complaint). The Flood Siren issue may get delayed because the application under the Sustainable Communities Act will not be decided until the spring.

5b - North Norfolk District Council

Reports had been received from Jonathan Savory and Joyce Trett and were circulated and are appended.

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



5d) Town Clerk

A letter was written to Parworth Developments just before Christmas asking for the address of the EDF office that is responsible for clearing the old substation away from the Staithe Street car park. Subsequently it was found that the grit bin was trapped inside the safety fencing and NNDC despatched a thirty ton lorry with a crane that extracted it for us. The order has now been published for the no-waiting area providing a bus stop in Mill Road (near the junction of Park Road). A drop-in session at The Maltings would be held by Natural England to explain the new Marine Protection Areas on Wednesday 6 January. The annual Police Budget Meeting would take place on the evening of 21 January in Wymondham – Councillors are invited. There will be a Coastal Pathfinder meeting at the NNDC offices in Cromer on the evening of 7 January. RC and KL are planning to attend. The planning enquiry into the closure of Malthouse Yard will be held on 11 May. It will be held in Blakeney because the Maltings is not available. Papers had arrived on the afternoon of the meeting for the consultation into the new Norfolk transport plan. These had been distributed to Members. A complaint had been received to the effect that the public toilets were closed on some of the days over the holiday period. KL was investigating, but had already established that they should have been open, if not cleaned, every day.

5e) Portfolio Holders

Communications – GA called for articles for the next newsletter. MG, AF, and CM (possibly) agreed to submit something.

Cemetery – The working party hopes to meet in the near future to look at new regulations.

(Traffic & Parking) – The plastic banner at the end of Northfield Lane advertising the Chinese Takeaway is a bit unsightly.

Allotments – despite the offer to listen to complaints/suggestions made at the last meeting, MW had received nothing.

- 6) To receive a report of work being done by the committee discussing the future of the Maltings Complex
 Because of the holiday period there was nothing further to report at present, but a meeting of the committee was expected at some time before the next Council Meeting.
- 7) <u>To make arrangements for the Priory Parishes meeting on 9 February.</u>
 At the next meeting (in Binham) WTC would be hosting the meeting. AF and KL would Chair and Clerk the meeting and AG would attend to refreshments. RH & MG would attend but all Councillors were welcome.
- 8) To discuss proposals from the traffic and parking working party re parking and speeding
 The committee wished to place the following items on the agenda of the next meeting for discussion:
 - a) Proposal to request the placing of double yellow lines on the east side of Plummers Hill
 - b) Proposal to surround the telephone box "island" with wooden posts to prevent parking on the grass
 - c) Proposal to request that a mini roundabout be provided at the junction of Beach Road and The Quay
 - d) Proposal to request that the speed limit in the whole of the town be reduced from 30mph to 20mph
- To assess quotations for the removal of asbestos from allotments and any implications of so doing. Three quotations had been received. MW had met each contractor and believed that each was capable of undertaking a proper job. They were all members of the relevant trade associations. It was therefore agreed to accept the cheapest quotation of £1860 plus VAT. MW and KL would work together to arrange the details.
- To decide whether to make further comments with regard to Local Government Reorganisation

 Resolved to send a letter reiterating our support for the Unitary process in general and in particular for one authority for the whole of Norfolk.

To decide whether anything can be needs to be done with regard to flood sirens

Despite AF and MG attending a meeting at County Hall in the previous month the situation is still not clear. Although Parishes have been offered the sirens (and Wells TC has said that it would like them) they have been told that they will each have to seek legal advice if they wish to set them off without the express permission of "silver command". It is currently believed by many that this permission would not be granted under any circumstances (remembering Walcott in 2007). Because it now looks as if the final decisions will be delayed from the original January 31st deadline, it was resolved to look at the situation again next month.

13) To discuss the question – should WTC increase the precept to improve snow clearance in the town?

KL had placed this item on the agenda following a large number of complaints to the effect that footpaths were treacherous because they were not being treated. Although County Highways have a responsibility for snow clearance on footpaths as well as roads, during heavy snowfall they are unable to move away from clearing major routes, particularly if they need treating several times a day. KL believed that we could provide a service locally clearing the footpaths. It was resolved that he and MG would look at the costs and logistics of doing this (including prioritising routes) and report back to the Council at a future date.

To discuss a letter from a resident of Jolly Sailor Yard regarding an extension of double yellow lines Since several Councillors seemed unsure of the exact location that was involved here, it was agreed to delay the discussion until next month, to allow them to individually visit the site.

15) Financial Report and Accounts for Settlement

A report had been circulated at the beginning of the meeting. The following had been paid during the month: Brightview Internet Broadband Clerk's Salary Deposit Keith Leesmith 1000.00 The following were agreed for payment: Veolia Cemetery waste collection 44.06 M E Ayres & Sons Allotment hedge cutting 164.45 Keith Leesmith Salary (net of deposit) and expenses 396.48 Norfolk Pension Fund Monthly contribution 427.99 MHB Services Ltd Street Lighting Maintenance 279.89 Street Lighting electricity E-on Energy 451.72 Inland Revenue PAYE 3rd quarter 1472.52 Jimmy Tottle Bollards 220.00 Anthony Ford Allotment taps check & repair 42.00 Wells Lighting Fund donation (last month) 300.00 travel to North Walsham re Pear Mapping Rodney Crafer 27.20 David Warnes allotment tap repair 6.40 Allen Frary travel to County Hall re flood sirens 34.00 Viking Direct stationery 18I.II Terry Corbishley Litter Picking 177.10

16) To confirm Date of Next Meeting

Confirmed as Monday I February 2010

The meeting closed at 2130