

MINUTES

2009/29

Town Council Meeting held on 5 October 2009 at 1907 at The Methodist Rooms

Those Present: Allen Frary (Chairman), Gary Anthony, Steve Clark, Rodney Crafer, Lindsay Dew, Andy Gates, Mike Gates, Ray Hewitt, Campbell MacCallum, Joyce Trett, and Maggie Ward,

Keith Leesmith (Clerk), Police Sergeant Andy Smith, 4 visitors from SCIRA, 4 Members of the public and 2 Members of the press (EDP & The Quay)

I) Public Forum

One of the flashing lights on the zebra crossing is still not working. (It has been reported several times). The Harbour Commissioners have received a lot of criticism lately – should the Town Council state publicly that they approve of their policies? The Town Council agrees with a lot that they are doing, but not necessarily everything, each policy would have to be debated. Several people wanted to publicly acknowledge the assistance of Norfolk Property Maintenance for donating their time and some of the materials to provide the new notice board. Thanks were also due to Leftleys.

2) Apologies

Mark Frary

3) Declarations of Interest

None

4) Minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2009

Agreed and signed

5) Reports

5a – SCIRA

Einar Strømsvåg presented the first of what are intended to be quarterly reports to update the Council on the Sheringham Shoal project. SCIRA intends to be working in the area for many years, and will therefore do all it can to ensure that local people are happy with their operations. They currently have three short term objectives; to establish a base, probably close by rather than actually in Wells, to appoint a contractor who will regularly transport personnel from that base to the new pontoons near the lifeboat house, and to meet with Siemens who will be supplying much of the offshore equipment. They will have a permanent physical presence in the area from early 2010, with work starting on the windfarm in the spring. As well as SCIRA looking for a base, some of their sub-contractors may also be doing so. Personnel will be regularly working from Wells Harbour, but heavy equipment will not. They want to be good neighbours with the local population. A questioner asked what would happen if the dredging caused sand to disappear from the beach. They would certainly be regularly monitoring the situation, as they had no intention to spoil the beach. They intend to be here for several decades.

5c – NNDC – Joyce Trett

With regard to Grays, work is continuing behind the scenes. *Look East* may be interested in publicising the problem on our behalf. Roger Howe (planning legal officer) and other members of planning would be prepared to come to a meeting in Wells to talk about the problem. Members thought that they would prefer a separate specific meeting rather than try to deal with the issue at a normal Council meeting. JT would try to arrange this.

[illegible]

5d) Wells Safer Neighbourhood Team

Apologies were given for the fact that no officer attended the September meeting. The recorded crime figures for August and September are as follows: August (14): 2 assault, 6 theft, 1 possession of drugs, 1 common assault, 1 public order offence, 3 criminal damage. September (6): 2 shoplifting, 1 assault, 3 criminal damage.

AS said that with regard to problems with traffic issues his officers had had holidays during the summer and they were entitled to be off on bank holidays.

Marie Strong (NCC) arrived at this point

5b) Norfolk County Council

MS has the assurance of Highways that Station Road will definitely be resurfaced in the spring. With regard to the revised plans for parking in Freeman Street the consultation should be published in the next two weeks. Drainage problems in Staithe Street are also being working on. With regard to the proposed Dudgeon windfarm the fishermen will be consulted soon. The County believe that smoke alarms should be fitted to every property, and the Fire and Rescue service are prepared to carry out a free survey and advise householders.

Jonathan Savory (NNDC) arrived at this point but had nothing to add to his circulated report.

Marie Strong left at this point.

5e) Town Clerk

We have received a quotation from Playfords to clean the bus shelters. The Congregational Church would also be prepared to clean them as and when necessary in exchange for a donation. It was decided to ask Playfords to clean them towards the end of the month and discuss the matter at the next meeting. The coast road between Warham and Stiffkey will be closed for re-surfacing for approximately four weeks from 18 January. NCC are asking us to confirm acceptance of the proposed new bus stop on Mill Road near the junction with Park Road. We have received an official notice stating that the Fakenham and Wells CAB will be merging with the North Walsham CAB next year. The Audit has been completed without any problems. The CAB has invited us to its AGM on 13 October, although this clashes with the Priory Parishes meeting. Letters of thanks for being able to operate a summer car park day have been received from Homes for Wells, Heritage House, and the La Ferté Twinning Group. A letter from Chris Beale with regard to the low numbers of scouts was passed to *The Quay* in the hope that they might raise some publicity which could help. The Shoreline Management Plan will not now be discussed until next month as the consultation period has been extended and an additional meeting will take place in Wells on 20 October. An invitation has been received to the larger councils meeting at Cringleford on 29 October. A letter has been received from NNDC stating that they will be investigating the possibility of joining NCC in civil parking enforcement. The Field Study Centre has asked if the Council has any objections to them closing the joint fund that was established some years ago to provide amenities in the outside areas – no objections. Articles for the quarterly supplement in *The Quay* need to be passed to GA for onward transmission to Sara Phillips by 26 October.

5f) Portfolio Holders

Communications GA reiterated the need for articles for the Newsletter soon

Traffic & Parking Issues Holkham say that the planning application for the new car park is likely to be sent to NNDC before the end of the month. The deep gully on the west side of Two Furlong Hill is unlikely to be a Highways priority.

Allotments MW was concerned at the fact that several East End Allotment holders had signed a letter which showed that they did not understand the way that the Council dealt with families after the death of an allotment holder. She had written a letter and would distribute this when rents were paid for the year. MG said that the new notice board was attracting commercial notices and adverts for events outside Wells. Councillors agreed that she could police the board.

Housing Homes for Wells has recently held their AGM. John Rest has taken over as coordinator and Peter Terrington will continue as Chairman. There would be a fund-raising wine and cheese evening and auction of promises on 16 October.

Tourism The TIC has been very busy during the summer although final numbers are not yet available. They are looking at the possibility of renting out the office during the winter on a commercial basis. >>>>>>>>>>

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- [illegible]

- 16) Proposal to purchase a digital mapping system for Asset Management etc (2010 budget)
The system circulated would cost approximately £1600 in the first year and about £200 each year after that. It would enable accurate cemetery and allotment plans and records to be held and also have other benefits. It was agreed that it could go forward into the 2010 budget.
- 17) To discuss any other proposals for “special projects” to be added to the 2010 budget
i) MG would like to increase the SI37 budget from £1000 to £3000 so that £2000 each year could be distributed like the area partnership or carnival grants. Agreed to go forward to the budget
ii) RH asked for £2500 to build a chain-link fence between the children’s playground and the western dyke. Agreed to go forward to the budget.
- 18) To discuss a proposal to transfer £1000 from the “windfall” car park turnover to the donations budget
£6000 had been budgeted as income from the car park this year, but the excellent summer had produced over £12000. It was agreed to transfer £1000 of the surplus to the donations budget.
- 19) To discuss an appeal for funds by the Wells United Charity
This was held over from last month but KL had been unable to obtain the extra information required because Colin Rattee was apparently away. Agreed to defer until next month.
- 20) To discuss an appeal for funds from Norfolk Lowland Search and Rescue
Resolved to send the £25 suggested by the organisation.
- 21) 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:
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| 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: | | |
| Norfolk Property Maintenance | Repair of Notice board | 108.00 |
| HM Revenue & Customs | VAT | 1383.54 |
| Keith Leesmith | Salary (net of deposit) and expenses | 550.47 |
| Norfolk Pension Fund | Monthly contribution | 449.13 |
| 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 |
| Inland Revenue | PAYE – 2 nd quarter | 1492.99 |
| Anglian Water | Cemetery - £31.31 | ----- |
| Anglian Water | East End Allotments - £198.30 | ----- |
| Anglian Water | West End Allotments - £98.94 | 328.55 |
| Campbell MacCallum | Materials for new notice board | 33.25 |
| Mazars | External Audit | 460.00 |
| Wells Hope & Smile Club | Donation (last month) | 100.00 |
| Norfolk & Norwich Assoc for Blind | Donation (last month) | 100.00 |
| Holkham Enterprises | share of car park turnover | 5652.65 |
| Quay Publishing | August supplement | 100.00 |
| Viscount Coke Fund | Playing Field Rent | 155.47 |
| Veolia | Cemetery Waste Collection | 29.37 |
| Friends of Beach Rd Playing Field | Mole Control on Cemetery | 575.12 |
| Mick Chestney | Litter Picking | 284.90 |
| Terry Corbishley | Litter Picking | 246.40 |
- 22) To confirm date of next meeting
Monday 2 November 2009

Meeting closed at 2145