

WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

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

MINUTES

2009/29

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

<u>Those Present:</u> 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)

1) 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.

<u>5c – NNDC – Joyce Trett</u>

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.



2009/30

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 (I4): 2 assault, 6 theft, I possession of drugs, I common assault, I public order offence, 3 criminal damage. September (6): 2 shoplifting, I 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.

- To receive a report of work being done by the committee discussing the future of The Maltings Complex
 The committee would meet again on Wednesday 7 October to decide between the three shortlisted consultant teams. It was then hoped that the following week the consultants chosen would outline their plans for the process. The intention was that there would be plenty of consultation with every sector of Wells throughout.
- To discuss the question —"Are we getting a good service from the Safer Neighbourhood Team?"

 Councillors gave their views of policing during the summer. They were most concerned at the number of cars illegally parking. AS said that only three of the officers at Wells could issue parking tickets, and they were not always on duty. RH asked how it was possible to speak to officers who appeared to be in the police station; there did not appear to be a door bell or other way of attracting the attention of anyone inside. AS said that the station was not only used by members of the safer neighbourhood scheme but also from visiting response officers. The latter would not respond to someone at the door of the police station.
- 8) To discuss the continuing problem of Grays Arcade/ Yellow Shop site on The Quay This would be held over pending the meeting that JT is intending to arrange.

Joyce Trett left at this point

- 9) To discuss the possibility of a 20mph speed limit in Town
 Councillors were against the idea of a blanket 20mph limit throughout the Town. However, they believed that a
 case might be made for certain areas. The Traffic and Parking working party would discuss the matter with the
 idea of bringing recommendations to Council
- To discuss the situation with regard to Flood Sirens

 Councillors fell into two groups; those who thought that it was vital that the sirens be maintained, (by ourselves if necessary), and those that argued that it was pointless to do so if the police were going to order us not to use them. After a long debate KL was instructed to write to NCC saying that we would like to take over the sirens, provided that in an emergency situation we would not be prevented from operating them.
- 11) <u>To discuss representation at the Priory Parishes meeting on Tuesday 13 October</u> RC, AF, RH, MW and KL would attend.
- To discuss a proposal to ask for a revised parking scheme in Clubbs Lane (all parking to be on one side only) KL had spoken to Karl Rands about this idea and he was against all the parking being on one side, because he thought that it would speed up the traffic. Councillors decided to ask Highways to investigate the problem and suggest a solution.
- To discuss a proposal for a revised parking scheme in Station Road (double yellows on corner of High St.)
 KL had also discussed this matter with Karl Rands. He had said that Ohe would be against such a scheme because if the police were not enforcing the existing regulations it is unlikely that they would enforce any new scheme, but putting the scheme into effect would be expensive. Councillors decided not to proceed.
- 14) To discuss a proposal to erect an additional street light near the top of Stearman's Yard (2010 budget)
 It would cost approximately £1100 to erect a light, provided that there was power within 3 metres. However, an attempt had been made before to undertake this, and it was found that the nearest supply was in The Glebe.
 KL to make enquiries from EDF.

- 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 S137 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.
- 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) <u>Financial Report and Accounts for Settlement</u>

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:

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|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| 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 |
| Iimmy Tottle | Bollards | 220.00 |

Jimmy TottleBollards220.00Inland RevenuePAYE - 2^{nd} quarter1492.99Anglian WaterCemetery - £31.31-------Anglian WaterEast End Allotments - £198.30-------Anglian WaterWest End Allotments - £98.94328.55Campbell MacCallumMaterials for new notice board33.25

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 PublishingAugust supplement100.00Viscount Coke FundPlaying Field Rent155.47VeoliaCemetery Waste Collection29.37

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