

## WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

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

# MINUTES

2008/31

#### Town Council Meeting held on I September 2008 at 1913 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), Jonathan Savory (NNDC), PC Jason Pegden two members of the Press (EDP & Quay) plus 7 members of the public.

Allen Frary thanked all those who had signed the "get well" card sent to him after the last meeting, with regard to his broken leg.

#### 1) Public Forum

One of the benches on Tug Boat Yard has no concrete slabs in front of it, although all the others have. It appears that the black and white tape is coming unravelled from one of the beacons at the zebra crossing on Standard Road. Colin Rattee was unable to come to the meeting, but sent a message that he would like it minuted that several people had said how nice the floral displays provided by *Wells In Bloom* looked.

Cars are driving too quickly on Theatre Road, which is dangerous because there are no footpaths.

All the political parties at NCC support the continued use of flood sirens, but the Police and the Environment Agency were still being "stubborn". Norman Lamb MP is "on the case".

The Public Forum closed at 1925

## 2) Apologies

Mark Frary; at Sea Derek Baxter: at Field Dalling PC meeting.

#### 3) Declarations of Interest

None

## 4) Minutes of the meeting held on I September 2008

Agreed and signed

#### 5) Reports

#### a) Norfolk County Council

Derek Baxter's full report, which had been circulated before the meeting is appended.

## b) North Norfolk District Council

- (JS) The LDF Core Strategy has been published with effect from 24 September, and has now replaced the Local Plan. The next stage (December to March) is to examine the individual Site Specific plans. This will be done in open public meetings, which will be similar to NNDC planning committee meetings, with the Parish, one objector, and one proposer entitled to speak.



#### c) Safer Neighbourhood Team

There were II recorded crimes since the last meeting, as follows: I Hate Incident; I Burglary; I Malicious Wounding; 4 Theft; 3 Criminal Damage; I Domestic.

Another PC (Simon Blakeley) will be joining the Team soon. There will be a public enquiry office at the new Police Station/Beat Base if volunteers can be found to man it.

## d) Town Clerk

The speed gun will now be obtained for half the price previously quoted, due to bulk purchasing elsewhere in the County.

The enquiry into the closure of Malthouse Yard is continuing.

The new residential home on the gas works site will be known as Dorrington House. Walsingham's new building will be known as Walsingham's Barn.

The results of a survey of tourists undertaken by the area partnership have been circulated to Members.

The estimated costings sent to the Boundary Committee by NCC in mid-September, have been circulated.

Copy is now required for the November newsletter, due for publication soon.

The CAB has sent an invitation to their AGM in Fakenham on 14 October.

The Audit for 2007/8 had been concluded satisfactorily, although there was a technical query over Trusts.

NNDC would be holding a Parish Conference at Aldborough Village Hall on 13 November.

A complaint against the purchase of the speed gun has been received and copied to Members.

NNDC say they will return the "new" litter bins - probably in late October.

For the first time, Wells has been invited to the larger councils meeting of the Norfolk Association on 7 October. GA will attend on our behalf.

An invitation has been received to the AGM of the area partnership in the Maltings on 21 October.

A letter has been published in the EDP from a tourist from Aylesbury saying that Wells toilets are a "disgrace".

The planning application for the new bus shelters was to be posted the day after the meeting.

The Norfolk Association of Local Councils will hold an Emergency Management Seminar on 5 November.

#### d) Portfolio Holders

RH said that the noticeboards had been removed from Leftleys wall because the wall needed attention. The old boards had fallen to pieces on removal. Leftleys had no objection to new boards being placed there, but permission would be needed, as the wall was listed. We would discuss the matter next month.

GA said he would like to see feedback from the public on the quarterly newsletter. What did people want?

CM wanted it minuted that Patrick Weston has kindly cleared the nettles in Marsh Lane.

AG reported that Homes for Wells had had a successful launch

## 6) To receive a report following the Shoreline Management Plan Meeting of 11 September

RC had attended this, and reported that as far as the Environment Agency were concerned; the Harbour Commissioners seemed to have as much authority as the District Councils. They were trying to draw up a plan of the predicted changes to the coastline in the next 100 years. Since 1900 the sea level on this coastline (Old Hunstanton to Kelling) has risen by between one and two millimetres per annum. There are various predictions for the future, but it is thought that the sea level will rise by at least 1.2 metres by 2105. There are many factors to be taken into account, for instance; the way that Scolt Head and Blakeney Point change. Wells is regarded as the most important settlement on this part of the coastline, with many vulnerable properties. The East Bank alone protects sixty homes.

## 7) To receive a report concerning the Regeneration of Wells using assets currently held by NNDC

Over the past two or three months consultants had been drawing up a plan. The final draft of this was due in the middle of October, and we should be able to debate the various options suggested at the next meeting.

- 8) To receive a report from the Traffic and Parking working party.
  - The working party, consisting of AF, MW, RC and CM had met on 10 September. Their main concern is road safety. They asked why they could have flashing road signs in Creake and Walsingham but not in Wells. They want the road surface at the edge of the Town marked in red, and they want the PCSO's to attend the Primary School at the close of the school day. They want railings on the Beach Road to stop people crossing at the dangerous place between the Harbour and the Children's Playground. It was agreed that these items should be placed on the agenda for discussion next month.
- 9) To receive a report following the Cemetery Management Training Day

KL had discovered that our records are probably inadequate, particularly with regard to mapping. We should run the Cemetery (not the Undertaker) because we would be responsible if anything went wrong. On the other hand, we could be charging more, particularly for non-residents who wanted to be buried in Town. This subject needed more work in the future.

- I0) To receive a report following the SLCC regional conference at Cambridge
  - KL and RH had attended. They believed that the most important message of the day concerned the *Planning Portal*. This was a scheme promoted by central Government to place all planning matters online. This would save considerable amounts of paper, and would make it easier for Councillors and others to access and inspect plans and other details. However, it would mean that every Parish would need the equipment (laptop and projector) to enable them to display plans at meetings. The system had already been adopted in many parts of the Country, but had been delayed in Norfolk because of uncertainties over the Local Government Review.
- II) To receive a report on the use of the Recreation Field during the summer of 2008 and consider any changes required for the 2009 season.

KL provided a comprehensive report and a list of questions that he thought Councillors should consider. However, since this had only been circulated at the beginning of the meeting, it was agreed that the matter be discussed next month or (if too busy) the one after, so that Members have a chance to study the report.

- To consider a request from Wells in Bloom to plant flower bulbs on the Little Buttlands Resolved that they may do so.
- 13) To consider a request for funding from Wells in Bloom Resolved to donate £250.
- To undertake a preliminary discussion with regard to the precept 2008/2009 (full debate next month)

KL asked that any particular "wants" be mentioned, so that he could build them into his figures, for discussion next month. With regard to railings in Beach Road, he already had a quotation (per metre) but CM would provide a note of the length required. RH would like to see the roadway beside the football pitch improved. He estimated that this would cost £2700. If possible he would like a donation of £2000 towards the *Bounty Project* and would also want a sum built into the estimates for any necessary repairs to play equipment. GA believed that a proper job should be done on the northeast corner of the Buttlands, and would supply figures to KL before next month. Money should be set aside for new Town Noticeboards, for mole control on the Cemetery (£1000), for asbestos on allotment sheds (£2/3000) and as a contingency sum for the Church Wall. We should also consider a contribution to the (joint) surfacing work in Old Staithe Walk.

15)	Financial Report and Accounts for Settle	<u>ment</u>	
	A report had been circulated at the beginning of the meeting. The following had been paid during the month:		
	NNDC	Sackhouse Rates	74.00
	NNDC	Cemetery Rates	56.00
	Brightview Internet	Broadband	17.99
	Keith Leesmith	Clerk's Salary Deposit	1000.00
	The following were agreed for payment:		
	NNDC	Planning for bus shelters	85.00
	Veolia (was CityCare)	Cemetery Waste Collection	26.09
	Keith Leesmith	Salary (net of deposit) and expenses	425.92
	Norfolk Pension Fund	Monthly contribution	242.00
	MHB Services Ltd	Street Lighting Maintenance	285.97
	E-on Energy	Street Lighting electricity	462.93
	Norfolk County Services	Grounds Maintenance	1248.44
	Jimmy Tottle	Bollards	220.00
	Inland Revenue	PAYE 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	1321.19
	Anglian Water	Cemetery - £30.31	
	Anglian Water	East End Allotments £225.15	
	Anglian Water	West End Allotments £84.19	339.65
	Viking Direct	Stationery & rubbish bags	128.21
	Mazars	External Audit	470.00
	Wells United Charities	Donation (last month)	250.00
	North Norfolk Community Partnership	Donation towards consultants fees	500.00
	Holkham Enterprises	share of car park turnover	3656.10
	Road Runner TCA Ltd	Speed Gun	684.73
	Viscount Coke Fund	Playing Field Rent	155.47
	Friends of Beach Road Playing Field	Cemetery Mole Control	351.58
	Mick Chestney	Litter Picking	256.02
	Terry Corbishley	Litter Picking	200.20

# 16)

To confirm date of next meeting
Confirmed as Monday 3 November 2008

The Meeting Closed at 2110