

WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

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

MINUTES

2010/19

Town Council Meeting held on 7 June 2010 at 1908 at The Methodist Room

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

Keith Leesmith (Clerk), Police Sgt. Andy Smith, Einar Strømsvåg (SCIRA), Sue Lake & Sarita Presland (Norfolk Association of Local Councils), 2 Members of the press (*EDP* & *The Quay*), and 5 Members of the public.

1) Public Forum

Dog mess and litter is still a problem in some areas in the Town. Councillors would make a point of carrying cameras or mobile phones with cameras when walking in the town at night. A 999 call at 10 o'clock at night took 30 minutes for a response, by which time the people committing the crime had fled. Andy Smith would investigate the problem. The zebra crossing now looks better after re-painting. There is a big problem with people cycling between the bollards in Staithe Street. (Cycles may be pushed but must not be ridden when the bollards are in place). The police would "keep an eye" on this. Sara Phillips would remind people in *The Quay*. People who own property in Gales Road say that the tracks behind their houses are not shown on their deeds. The question therefore arises of who owns these, and who is responsible for maintenance. KL would make enquires at NNDC.

2) Apologies

Steve Clark, Ray Hewitt

3) Declarations of Interest

None

4) Minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2010

Agreed and signed

Joyce Trett arrived during the following item

5) Reports

5a – SCIRA

Wells is now becoming well-known in Norway, as it features on websites owned by the partners in the windfarm construction. Good relationships continue with Wells Harbour, in the near future a "paper exercise" will start to plan regular movements from the outer harbour to the windfarm site. *Safety Boat Services* has been appointed as the first contractors for personnel movements. The office in Staithe Street has received 100 visitors since opening — both local people and holidaymakers. From Monday 14 June the office will be open six days a week. There were 35 applicants for the position of office person, several of a very high standard. The person appointed grew up in Wells and now lives in Fakenham. Onsite, the rock dumping continues and one of the two vessels that will construct the turbine foundations has arrived. Another vessel will join it in mid-July. The first foundations will be constructed soon. The two power cables from Weybourne to the site will start to be laid in early August.



5a) SCIRA continued

Planning permission is likely to be sought in the next month for the office in the Wells area. This will accommodate between 60 and 65 people. The first permanent job with SCIRA is likely to be available soon. Within twelve months it is expected that about 60 people will be employed by SCIRA or Siemens. Because of the large number of temporary workers that will be employed during the construction phase (until the end of 2011), a hotel ship is being sought. This will ease the pressure on accommodation and services locally. Einar was asked if he thought that SCIRA's operations are likely to place additional pressures on the local housing market. He said that he was aware that this could be a problem, and would welcome any suggestions to assist. But although people employed are likely to be well paid, it was unlikely that even senior staff engineers could afford a house in Wells. Indeed, Einar thought that he himself could not afford to buy a house here.

5c) North Norfolk District Council

NNDC, like all local authorities, is looking at possible cost savings. It is likely that the cash offices in Cromer and Fakenham will be closed to save money. Apparently public toilets in Sheringham have been praised. Councillors would like to see similar comments about the Wells public toilets (ironic laughter). JT would make enquiries about maintenance of the potholes in Stearman's Yard. MW said that there was also a problem with glass around the bottle bank in Stearman's Yard, and the continuing saga of the abandoned house in Bases Lane also caused concern. With regard to Grays Arcade the compulsory purchase process was to continue, despite the fact that the site is now up for sale.

5d) <u>Safer Neighbourhood Team</u>

There had been six recorded crimes in the past month; I theft from a shop, 2 thefts of pedal cycles (both left unlocked), I caution given for cannabis use, 2 vehicles damaged (same incident). Of the 81 calls to police, 5 were for rowdy behaviour. Illegal parking in Wells was now a priority issue, and two traffic wardens were now making visits, as well as local and traffic police. 38 tickets had been issued as well as several warnings given. It was pointed out that a lot of speeding seemed to take place in Burnt Street and Church Street between 7.30 and 8.30 in the morning. AS would see if he could arrange police presence at this time.

5e) Town Clerk

Homes for Wells are holding a Garden Party at Bishop Ingle House on 27 June, and hoped that some of the Councillors could attend. Holkham has apparently submitted plans for the Freeman Street car park, but these have not been sent out for consultation as yet. The North Norfolk Village Games would take place at Cromer Sports Village on 12 September. A circular for the Big Lunch on 18 July had been circulated to Councillors. A meeting had taken place that morning at the junction of Beach Road and The Quay between AF, CM, KL and Karl Rands the Highways Engineer and Marie Strong. For various reasons a mini roundabout would not be achievable, but the possibility of a seasonal "no right turn" restriction from Beach Road would be investigated. An Area Forum meeting would take place in Fakenham on 17 June. The NALC Larger Councils meeting would take place at Costessey on 23 June. KL would be on holiday, and hoped that one or two Councillors might attend. The final stage of the LDF process was now taking place at Cromer, with an inspector working through the various objections to the site specific proposals. A consultation document has been received from the Norfolk Fire Authority. Mark Frary had that day resigned as a Councillor, as he was unable to give the proper time to it as well as attend to his occupation. NNDC had issued the usual formal notice inviting calls for an election, and provided that this did not produce any result, it should be possible to discuss cooption at the July meeting. KL had received a letter which he assumed was from two Wells young people, regarding a request that they had made for the youth "red bus" to visit the town. However, they had not provided any address to contact them. MG would attempt to find details. Another large package had been received from NCC concerning the County Minerals and Waste Plan. KL suggested that money could be saved by only sending these to Parishes that were interested, as the nearest site was more than ten miles from Wells. Wells has been shortlisted in the Pride of Norfolk Awards following an entry by JT. KL and JT would prepare a presentation for the judges. MW asked if there was any reason why the police could not give their report first in future, to save them waiting; it was agreed that they should. >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

MINUTES CONTINUED

5f) Portfolio Holders

Communications: The next quarterly newsletter was due in August, and articles would need to be received during July. GA would be on holiday then, so KL would edit this issue.

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Housing: Homes for Wells are looking at the possibility of setting up a *Community Land Trust* and are investigating various sites in the town.

Tourism: Despite the indifferent weather, the Tourist Information Centre was recording higher numbers of tourists in Wells than last year.

Marie Strong (NCC) and Jonathan Savory (NNDC) arrived during the following item

6) To hear a presentation by The Norfolk Association of Local Councils on Participatory Budgeting

This was given by Sue Lake and Sarita Presland of Norfolk ALC. This idea started in Brazil as a way of getting people to decide how limited funds should be spent. There was a great deal of interest in the system, from such people as health and police authorities as well as local councils. In the current financial climate it was likely that District and County Councils would be using "PB" as a way of saving money. They were also likely to try to devolve functions to Parishes for the same reason, as the latter were still the only sector of local government with unlimited precepting power. For Parishes that were prepared to experiment with this idea, it would be necessary to have a "decision day" or some other method of voting. Norfolk ALC would be prepared to assist in the process. There were various ways to operate a "PB" system. You could ask for ideas from the public, or alternatively the public could vote on projects put forward by different Councillors. At present Parishes were not very good at publicising their achievements. Districts, Counties, and Unitaries had become far better at self publicity.

7) To discuss whether this Council might undertake a Participatory Budgeting exercise

Several Councillors thought this idea was worth further consideration. The Section 137 budget had been increased to £3000 this year and it was agreed that MG would investigate the possibility of distributing £2000 of this under Participatory Budgeting principles, and would present ideas for this to the July Meeting.

5b) Norfolk County Council

Sixty people had attended the Field Study Centre consultation evening on 24 May, at the end of which a proposal that the building should be "kept for educational purposes" received near-unanimous support. Since then, a meeting with environmentalists had proved useful. "Vulnerable" children cannot be accommodated at Holt; is this an opening for Wells? The continuing annual cost during mothballing is estimated to be £28,000.

The latest version of the shoreline management plan is out to consultation until the autumn. NCC had concerns over *Flood Warning Direct* and have suggested that an exercise should be held to test its effectiveness. MS, police, and highways officials visited Cherry Tree Corner in Fakenham on the previous Sunday morning. People were illegally parked on verges, and the police promise more vigilance. A roundabout at the junction is now estimated to cost £1.25million and hence will not be built until one or more people die.

5c) North Norfolk District Council

JS said that the potholes in Stearman's Yard had been reported, and should be attended to as soon as the main summer season is over. [actually repaired on Wednesday 9 June]

- 8) To receive a report of work being done by the committee discussing the future of the Maltings Complex

 There had not been a meeting since the last report, although one was planned for two days after this meeting.

2010/22

257.95

560.00

I0) To discuss a suggestion that we should provide adult outdoor exercise equipment in town

This suggestion had been made by a resident of the town, following press publicity of a scheme implemented in Westminster. It was thought that we should concentrate first on providing facilities for teenagers, and an item would be added to the agenda of the July meeting.

II) To decide whether to hold a Parish/Town Fair in 2011 and if so on what terms.

The first one or two fairs had been worthwhile, but had degenerated into a collection of "tombolas". It was resolved to abandon the event until further notice.

12) To discuss the Two Furlong Hill grazing agreement which currently expires on 31 August 2010

Resolved that the current tenant should be offered the field for a further three-year period, but at a rental of £1000 per annum.

- 13) <u>To decide whether to make comments to the Norfolk Coast Partnership Parish Representatives consultation</u>
 Resolved to make no comment
- 14) To discuss quotations for dealing with nettles on the edge of Church Marsh

Resolved to accept the quotation from *Norse* to strim the nettles for £80, on a "one off" basis.

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:

NNDC
Sackhouse Rates
56.39

NNDC
Cemetery Rates
57.30

Brightview Internet
Broadband
I7.61

Keith Leesmith
Clerk's Salary Deposit
I000.00

The following were agreed for payment:

The following were agreed for payment:		
Veolia	Cemetery waste bin	35.41
S P Marshall	Car park signs	80.00
Keith Leesmith	Salary (net of deposit) and expenses	432.15
Norfolk Pension Fund	Monthly contribution	483.97
MHB Services Ltd	Street Lighting Maintenance	285.97
E-on Energy	Street Lighting electricity	451.72
Jimmy Tottle	Bollards	220.00
Norse Commercial Services Ltd	Grounds Maintenance	1248.44
Antec Contracting Services	Asbestos removal from allotments	2185.50
Zurich Municipal Insurance	Annual Insurance & Inspection Policy	1881.06
Terry Corbishley	Litter Picking	254.10

Buttlands Posts round telephone box

Litter Picking

I6) To confirm the date of the next Council Meeting

Norfolk Property Maintenance

Agreed as Monday 5 July

Michael Chestney

The meeting closed at 2120