

# WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

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

# MINUTES

2007/01

# Town Council Meeting held on 8 January 2007 at 1930 at The Methodist Rooms

<u>Those Present:</u> Andrew Gates (Chair), Lindsay Dew, Joe Ellison, Tom Lynch, James Platten, John Richter, Jonathan Savory, and Maggie Ward,

Keith Leesmith (Clerk), plus 2 members of the press and 5 members of the public.

### I) Public Forum

Myrtle French asked for a definition of *Affordable Housing*. It was agreed that the definition was very loose and merely meant housing which was less expensive than *Market Housing*. It did not necessarily mean that everybody would be able to afford it. She also asked how many of the affordable houses planned for Market Lane (LDF Plan) would be available to rent. It was unlikely that anybody would know this until planning permission was sought, in several year's time.

Ray Hewitt said that the number of molehills on the Beach Road Children's Playing Field was worrying. It was a "health and safety issue". It was agreed to discuss this matter as urgent during the Clerk's report.

#### Derek Baxter Arrived

Public Session closed at 1947

#### 2) Election of Chairman

John Richter elected unopposed. Declaration of Acceptance of Office signed.

## 3) Election of any portfolio holders or office holders required

It was agreed that for an experimental period, until after the Annual Meeting, that planning matters would be dealt with in the main meeting.

The following would take over the vacant portfolios:

JE - Traffic and parking matters

LD – Housing matters

AG – Planning

#### Apologies

Trefor Jones – Ill: Shean Newman – Abroad on Holiday

## 5) Declarations of Interest

None

# 6) To approved the revised Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 November 2006

There was a debate on the intentions of the meeting of 6 November with regard to the Fisherman's Facility. It was agreed that because there was some confusion, the issue could be re-debated next month. The amended minutes were signed as correct.

#### 7) To approve the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 4 December 2006

AG said that the word "qualified" under item 19 should read "trained". This was agreed.

LD said that she had specifically asked for her disappointment to be minuted at the resignations of the two Councillors who left between the November and December meetings.

KL would re-submit the Minutes next month.

# 8) Reports

## a) Norfolk County Council

DB circulated a paper explaining the effect of *Grant Damping* on Norfolk County Council. The effect of Government calculations of the grant formula means that Norfolk is once again a "loser" in terms of the grant it would receive.

Keith Leesmith Town Clerk 01328 710564 clerk@wellstowncouncil.org.uk

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The "gate guard" Jaguar currently at RAF Coltishall would be moved to County Hall.

A new bus interchange was to be built at Norwich railway station.

The Norwich Orbital Bus experiment was to be discontinued, as it was costly and not very well used.

In answer to a query regarding the new double yellow lines in Church Plain, it is no longer necessary for plates to be affixed to poles by the side of the road.

NCC has recommended refusal for the proposed development off Bolts Close on highways access grounds.

In response to a query from AG, DB said that mud on the dry road, between Burnt Street and Ashburton House should be reported to Quentin Barker.

## b) North Norfolk District Council

JS had circulated a report prior to the meeting.

MW asked when the carpark signs where likely to be replaced, as the ones in Stearmans Yard were now virtually unreadable. It was also enquired whether the road sweeper could work around the bottle banks because a lot of litter tended to be found there.

#### c) Town Warden

SN was on holiday but had sent a report that was circulated.

## d) Town Clerk

The next Area Forum meeting would be held at Walsingham on Tuesday 16 January. KL said he gained the impression at the last one that NNDC may be thinking of phasing these out in favour of communicating with the area partnerships; he therefore thought it important that we send a delegation. MW, JE and KL to attend.

A Quality Status lunch would be held at the Links Hotel on Monday 26th of February. MW and KL to attend.

The NCAPTC Spring Seminar would be held at The Assembly Rooms in Swaffham on 8 March.

The collapsed hedge at the Polka was now going to cost more to reinstate than anticipated. It would be put on the agenda for discussion next month

Wells Hospital had appealed for there to be a dropped curb opposite the Hospital for pavement scooters to use. Their request had been passed to Highways.

Invitations had been sent out to previous hirers to book dates for the football field. Preliminary talks had started with planners to use the field for parking during the summer period.

A New Years Card had been received from La Ferte Saint Aubin. KL had asked the Twinning Association to reply on our behalf.

A site meeting was to be held on 2 February to discuss the Parochial Church Council's plans to make a new opening in the Church wall to be safer for pedestrians. A builder, a representative from the diocese, the conservation manager, and highways engineer would be present. JE and MW would also attend.

NCAPTC were prepared to carry out a local training session for Councillors at a cost of £150. Approximately 10 people were needed to attend. This would be discussed next month.

The CITB were not able to help with the entrance to the children's playground, because most of the work was manual. The Friends of the Playing Field believed that they could obtain volunteer labour however.

The steelwork for the bus shelter was ready but there was a delay because the fibreglass roof had been made to the wrong dimensions. It was hoped to obtain a new roof soon.

Despite comments in the *EDP* the Community Policing Team was still expected to start work in the Town on 12 February.

NNDC had found a need for more play opportunities in the District for over II's.

With regard to the proposed pedestrian crossing in the Polka, highways thought that a mini roundabout at the Northfield Lane Junction was unlikely to slow the traffic, but that one at Station Road might do. Members agreed to be guided by them.

The North Norfolk Housing Trust had erected locked bollards between two houses on Westfield Avenue, across a right of way for twelve houses in Mill Road (to the rear of the properties). KL had tried to obtain keys for these properties but had been told that each householder would have to apply separately.

An approach had been made to NNDC to see if the number of Councillors on WTC could be reduced, as we now had four vacancies, and little interest in filling them.

A complaint about the state of the Cemetery had been received by KL. He had replied to the complainant and would pass the papers to LD as portfolio holder.

It was agreed that the mole problem on the playing field should be dealt with by gassing as soon as possible. The Friends of the Playing Field would guard the area to prevent people from entering it for 72 hours.

## Derek Baxter left at this point

9) <u>To discuss letter from Graham Smith with regard to Bungee Trampoline</u>

Graham Smith had offered £2000 to site his bungee trampoline on the football field during the summer. He would also make a donation to the Carnival during their week on the field. Resolved that, subject to our lease with Holkham, we would accept the offer.

10) To receive a report of the working party into LGA section 137 grants

Resolved to accept the following policy (8 of the original I0 clauses)

- a) Applications should be made in writing
- b) Applications will be decided by full Council
- c) The Council will not give grants to fund costs to maintain the group
- d) The Council will not give grants to fund salaries
- e) The Council will not give grants to finance activities promoting religious beliefs
- f) The Council will not give grants to finance the repayment of a loan
- g) The Council will not give grants to fund other fund raising activities
- h) The Council will offer, as an alternative, use of the Playing Field at a subsidised rate as a fund raising venue.
- To consider request for an additional street light at the Eastern Junction of Northfield Lane & Northfield Way

KL to obtain a quotation for increasing the lamp wattage from 35 to 55 SOX and report back.

- 12) To discuss street naming of new development off Market Lane
  - Councillors did not like the developer's suggestion of "Obelisk Drive" since the name had no connection with Wells. A name that incorporated "Manor Farm" was preferred.
- I3) To consider quotation to repair the Church wall

A conservation builder had provided extensive quotations for different types of treatment to the wall. In view of the site meeting to discuss the proposed new opening, it was decided to defer the discussion until after this meeting - on 2 February.

14) To consider work required prior to application for "Quality Town Council" status

All Councillors had had a copy of the advisory booklet on Quality Councils. KL was asked to prepare a list of relevant activities that we should be addressing in order to apply for Quality status.

15) Financial Report and Accounts for Settlement

A financial report had been circulated at the beginning of the meeting. The following were agreed for payment:

Willowdale Pest Management	Cemetery Moles	105.75
Powergen	Buttlands Electricity	47.71
Keith Leesmith	Clerk's Salary	1025.34
MHB Services Ltd	Street Lighting Maintenance	285.97
E-on Energy	Street Lighting	461.67
Norfolk Pension Fund	Contributions December	331.21
Jimmy Tottle	Bollards	200.00
Terry Corbishley	Litter Picking	182.00
Shean Newman	Town Warden	169.26
Inland Revenue	PAYE 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	1255.65
Methodist Church	Room Hire 2006	140.00

- 16) <u>To confirm date of next meeting</u> confirmed as 5 February 2007
- To consider a resolution under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) 1960, as amended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude members of the public and press during consideration of an item regarding a personnel matter Resolved (6 for 2 against)
- To review the position of Town Warden in the era of Community Policing

Resolved that it was too early to carry out a review, as Community Policing would not begin until 12 February. A review would be carried out at the April meeting.

The meeting closed at 2144