

WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

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

MINUTES

2010/08

Town Council Meeting held on I March 2010 at 1913 at The Methodist Rooms

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

Keith Leesmith (Clerk), PCSO Becky Taylor, 2 Members of the press (EDP & The Quay) and 8 Members of the public.

Before the meeting, Allen Frary announced that a previous Councillor, Geoff Perkins, had died since the last meeting. Those present stood for a minute's silence in his memory

1) Public Forum

A large puddle forms on the east side of the pedestrian crossing when it rains. There are several potholes in Northfield Lane; Joe Ellison will advise KL where they are so that they can be reported. There is also a large puddle during rainfall near the junction of Mill Road and Clubbs Lane. The groundwork at the fisherman's shed has been held up by bad weather but should be finished this week.

The poll in *The Quay* into speed limits is not a "referendum" as mentioned in CM's letter in the same edition because it has not been conducted fairly. Many people get multiple copies of the publication and have voted more than once.

The new street lights (NCC) have not been fitted very well, and in several cases the concrete is not level with the pavement/road. It was thought that this will be adjusted when they are connected. There are bad potholes in Shop Lane and also in the tracks that form the rear entrances to Gales Road. These are however, unadopted and are the responsibility of individual householders.

2) Apologies

Gary Anthony would be late, Mark Frary, Ray Hewitt, Marie Strong (NCC) would be late

3) Declarations of Interest

None

4) Minutes of the meeting held on I February 2010

Agreed and signed

5) Reports

5b - North Norfolk District Council

Jonathan Savory had sent a report which had been circulated and is appended to these minutes

JT reported that the District had rescinded their compulsory purchase policy but will use the law when required. The burnt out arcade site was one of several throughout the district that NNDC would be looking at. NNDC's portion of the Council Tax would increase by 2.8%. This is larger than hoped for, but is necessary because of falling interest rates and extra costs in providing subsidised bus fares.

<u>5c – Safer Neighbourhood Team</u>

During the month there had been three calls for rowdy behaviour and 5 reported crimes; I theft from a motor vehicle, 2 criminal damage, I theft of a motor vehicle and I common assault.



Marie Strong arrived during the following item

5c) Town Clerk

In response to the resolution made at the last meeting, Highways had said that they were not prepared to provide a mini roundabout at the southern end of Beach Road because there had been no injurious accidents there. A meeting will be held on 29 March of those groups who would like to operate the car park on the recreation field during the summer. MG, MW and KL will attend. The double yellow lines requested at Plummers Hill will be added to the list of investigations to be carried out in 2011/2012. Jolly Sailor Yard will be closed on 29 March for up to four days for an electrical installation to be carried out. NNDC have circulated Parishes to say that recruitment will take place soon for people needed to operate the 2011 census. KL, with a representative of Wells In Bloom and a Primary School Governor had successfully made a bid for a grant of £2750 to revitalise the Polka Turning Circle at the recent *Participatory Budgeting Day* held by the Norfolk Association of Local Councils

Gary Anthony arrived during the following item

5a) Norfolk County Council

The cost of school meals has been frozen this year. MS has attended a meeting with regard to the next edition of the local transport plan. Station Road will definitely be resurfaced this year – as early as possible, having regard to the weather. The second homes tax "infrastructure fund" will be available in rural as well as urban areas. The *Flood Warning Direct* system (which replaces sirens) will go to NCC scrutiny. Letters will be going to Parishes, County Councillors, and Flood Warden groups asking them to advise of problems. In the Shoreline Management Plan, the idea of flooding the Warham Slade has been dropped, but further research will continue with regard to future editions of the plan. A stakeholders meeting would be held on 25 May.

With regard to the Field Study Centre, it has been confirmed that £250,000 will be cut from the joint budgets of Holt Hall (60%) and Wells FSC (40%). There is a certain amount of cross-party support to fight this decision, but MS believes that it needs representation from Wells people in order to be overturned. It is not intended that a formal consultation will take place with the Parishes. It has been said that the numbers at Wells are dropping, but they seem to be full most of the time. MG asked whether the two centres could be "hived off" from NCC and run as an independent trust. What was the position of the land? It is believed that Holkham sold the freehold to NCC in 1966 without a restrictive covenant. It is thought that Wells is more at risk than Holt. AF, MG, AG and JT will try to attend the meeting at County Hall to be held on II March.

With regard to the contractors that operate at the Field Study Centre, only approved contactors could undertake work. It was open for local firms to apply to go on the list, but this might mean that they had to offer to work county-wide.

5e) Portfolio Holders

Traffic: It is hoped that Holkham would be applying for planning permission for the new car park in the near future. Some of the traders in Staithe Street had asked if the bollards could be removed later than 4.30pm in the summer. (KL had also been approached, and had made some preliminary enquiries of Highways, and intended that the item should be on the April agenda). Nielsen Close gets blocked with parked vehicles. Why can't residents park on the front gardens? Currently Victory Housing would not allow this, but MG will make enquiries.

Allotments: The asbestos will be removed from sheds on 12th April.

Communications: GA thanked the public for their response to the traffic speed surveys in the Fakenham & Wells Times and in The Quay.

7) To discuss a proposal that the speed limit in the whole of the town be reduced from 30mph to 20mph, including results from the public consultation into this matter.

The results of the public consultations were as follows:

Fakenham & Wells Times - 56 replies

- 19 believe that the town should be 20mph throughout
- 15 believe that some, but not all roads should be 20mph
- 22 believe that 30mph is adequate

The Quay - 101 replies

- 62 believe that the town should be 20mph
- 36 believe that the town should be 30mph
- 3 had altered their slips to show that they favoured 20pmh in some areas but not all. (KL said that he thought it unfortunate that people had been prevented from voting for this option). A considerable number of people (approximately 10% of all the replies) had made a comment to the effect that the whole question was pointless unless there was going to be adequate policing.

Councillors engaged in a discussion into the issue. Those in favour of a 20mph limit said that it should be introduced as a safety measure. It would be easier and cheaper (in signage) to change the limit in the whole town, rather than have some areas 30mph and some 20mph. SC said that the current accident record (of nil) could not be improved on by slowing the traffic. Whilst he could understand the need for a lower speed limit in specific areas (Northfield perhaps) it was not necessary in the whole town, because when it was busy the traffic could not move faster than 20mph anyway. The same applied on the Polka when the school was coming and going because of the number of parked cars. SC asked for a recorded vote.

On the proposition that we ask Highways to introduce a 20mph limit on every road in the town. Those for: GA, RC, LD, AG, MG, and CM. Those against: SC, JT, and MW. Abstaining: AF. Resolved.

- 8) To discuss a proposal to put wooden posts around the Buttlands telephone box island
 - These are intended to be similar to those placed around the Little Buttlands, so that people can still pass through with wheelchairs, buggies and mowing machines, but that parking would be prevented. Resolved to accept a quotation of £560 to include 16 oak posts by Norfolk Property Maintenance. Councillors were reminded that this item had not been budgeted for, and could only be included as we were making savings in other budgeted areas.
- 9) <u>To discuss quotation to improve Old Staithe Walk track</u> Resolved to accept a quotation from Norse to supply type one hogging, roll and level at £400.
- To discuss quotation to improve allotment roadways
 Resolved to accept a quotation from Norse to supply type one hogging, roll and level at £2000
- To discuss proposal to update rules and regulations for the Cemetery

 Guy Stratton had supplied a copy of the regulations used at the Fakenham Cemeteries. It was resolved to accept the working party's recommendation that we adopt these with minor amendments.
- 12) To fix an annual date for the removal of "Christmas Wreaths" from the cemetery.

 It was resolved to accept the working party's recommendation to fix an annual date of 14 February, after which these wreaths would be removed.
- To discuss correspondence from Norfolk Rural Community Council regarding their Good Neighbour Project

 NRCC wanted to make a presentation to us to explain this scheme, which enabled volunteers in communities to assist neighbours with various small tasks. It was agreed to ask them if they would like to make the presentation at the Annual Town Meeting on 26 April.

2010/11

Financial Report and Accounts for Settlement I4)

A report had been circulated at the beginning of the meeting. The following had been paid during the month:		
Brightview Internet	Broadband	17.61
British Telecom	Telephone service	75.75
Keith Leesmith	Clerk's Salary Deposit	1000.00
The following were agreed for payment:		
Veolia	Cemetery waste collection	30.01
Quay Publishing	November 2009 & February 2010 inserts	200.00
Keith Leesmith	Salary (net of deposit) and expenses	365.16
Norfolk Pension Fund	Monthly contribution	427.99
MHB Services Ltd	Street Lighting Maintenance	285.38
E-on Energy	Street Lighting electricity	451.72
Anglian Water	East End Allotments 183.81	
Anglian Water	West End Allotments 82.19	
Anglian Water	Cemetery 27.47	293.47
E-on Energy	Buttlands I I 2.8 I	
E-on Energy	Sackhouse 181.66	294.47
Norfolk Rural Community Council	annual subscription	15.00
Jimmy Tottle	Bollards	220.00
Viking direct	Stationery	170.91
Terry Corbishley	Litter Picking	146.30

15)

<u>To confirm Date of Next Meeting</u> Confirmed as Monday 12 April 2010 (One week late due to Easter bank holiday)

The meeting closed at 2132