

## WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

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

# MINUTES

2009/04

# Town Council Meeting held on 2 February 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), 2 Members of the Press, and 7 members of the Public.

#### 1) Public Forum

Peter Rainsford invited all Members to a briefing/presentation (40-60 minutes) on the current position of the Hospital. It was agreed that the most convenient time for this would be at 6.00pm on Wednesday  $18^{th}$  of February – at the Hospital

The Observer newspaper of the previous day had carried a report of the threat to remove local flood sirens. Marie Strong has been appointed to the Norfolk Resilience Forum as a representative for all the flood wardens. It is now thought that a new modern emergency siren could be installed for around £5000 - much less than previously believed.

One of the white bands on the posts at the zebra crossing is becoming unravelled. There is a lot of dog mess at the western end of Northfield Lane. One of the drains near Invaders Court is blocked. Pat Weston has done a good job putting in a base to the seat on Tug Boat Yard.

Mike Strong suggested that it might be a good idea to publish the annual flood plan in *The Quay*. At the current time, flood wardens were still waiting for NNDC to distribute their annual sea surge flooding guide.

Closed at 1924

2) Apologies

Mark Frary.

3) Declarations of Interest

MG – personal interest items 8 and 14: AG – personal interest item 8

Derek Baxter (NCC) and Jonathan Savory (NNDC) arrived at this point

4) Minutes of the special meeting held on 5 January 2009

Agreed and signed

# 5) Reports

#### a) Norfolk County Council

Derek Baxter's report, which had been circulated before the meeting is appended. It looks as if the proposed "bin tax" may be dropped, as no authority was prepared to operate a pilot survey. Despite reports to the contrary, there is still a market for many re-cycled items. And although prices had dropped, it was still cheaper to re-cycle than to landfill. Following inland flooding in the summer of 2007 a new flooding protocol is almost ready. Districts, the County, the internal drainage boards and the Environment Agency are all involved. It should be available soon on the NCC website.

JT asked if DB could get anything done about the bad road surface in Station Road. KL had written to highways (again) the previous week. DB would speak to highways, but suggested that we should write to Mike Jackson and Adrian Gunson.



## 5b) North Norfolk District Council

The Cabinet had debated the *Wells for the Future* report and agreed to endorse it. Hilary Nelson would represent NNDC on the programme board, with the two local Members. The Boundary Commission are due to report to Government on the local government review on Friday 13 February. The website is now being revamped, and should be completed by the end of March.

The budget is nearly completed, and is likely to result in a 3.45% increase. 25% of housing allocations are now made by Victory Housing, but choice-based letting is likely to be introduced soon, probably in conjunction with West Norfolk. There are currently I400 on the local housing waiting list.

Councillors asked for something to be done about broken glass near the bottle banks in Stearman's Yard, rubbish in Bases Lane, and autumn leaves still on the ground in Church Street.

MG asked how much public money had been spent trying to defend NNDC against Unitary local government. JT said £25,000 had been budgeted but she thought only about £3,000 had been spent at present.

## 5c) <u>Safer Neighbourhood Team</u>

No report received

## 5d) Town Clerk

It was agreed that WTC could have three Councillors and the Clerk on the *Wells for the Future* programme board, but we could not use substitutes if any were unable to attend meetings. All Quality Councils had been invited to attend a presentation at County Hall, when Baroness Gillian Shephard would be presenting some of the latest certificates. The Wells Sea Scouts were intending to hold a motorcycle rally on the recreation field on 2I June. NCAPTC would be holding a meeting to encourage small businesses in rural areas at Fakenham Race Course on 7 March, and another on "Green agendas" at Ecotech Swaffham on 11 March. The two houses built on the site of Sherwood in The Polka will be known as *Sherwood One* and *Sherwood Two*. A meeting will be held by MG, MW, and KL at the Methodist Rooms on 23 March with those groups who wish to use the Recreation Field during the summer for car parking to raise funds. KL had written to highways again to complain about the bad road surface at the junction of Staithe Street and Station Road.

#### 5e) Portfolio Holders

CM said that some potholes had been attended to, but that others, including Station Road still needed doing. There had been an e-mail from a resident of Old Staithe Walk complaining about the bad state of the track.

- 6) To receive a report on the North Norfolk Quality Council Clerks meeting of 20 January.
  - The meeting was attended by Clerks from all the North Norfolk Quality Councils, but one, and Steve Blatch from NNDC. The meeting was to explore the possibility of devolving some services currently carried out by the District Council to the Quality Parishes. Several of the services concerned are currently undertaken by contactors, and therefore cannot be altered until the contracts expire in 2010 and 2011. However, it was thought that street signage could be devolved, including the budgets for undertaking this. It was thought that it would be more efficient, and cheaper, to undertake this on a local basis. NNDC would therefore investigate this and report back.
- 7) To consider an invitation to the Larger Councils Meeting at Cromer on 10 February GA and MG would attend on behalf of Wells Town Council.
- 8) To consider a request for sponsorship from Wells Primary School

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The school were looking for sponsors for prizes for Key Stage I and Key Stage II of £20 for the next three years (£120 in total). It was resolved to offer prizes in respect of the "Citizenship" category.

- 9) <u>To consider a letter from Graham Smith (Over the Moon Air Rides)</u>
  - Graham Smith would like to return to the recreation field as before, but would like the option to use different apparatus. Resolved that this was possible, subject to inspection, provided that it did not use more than half of the gravelled area. Rent to be £2000 as in 2007 and 2008.

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# 10) <u>To discuss representation at the Parishes Partnership meeting at Binham on 10 February</u> The following would be attending on behalf of this Council: RC, AF, AG, RH, CM, and MW.

## II) To consider any items for the agenda of the above meeting

KL said that he intended to raise the question of contributions towards the radar speed gun, and possibly also Cherry Tree Corner in Fakenham, which several Parishes had written to Highways about. Members did not have anything else that they wished to see on the agenda, but it was agreed that the meeting would be informal, and therefore other items could be raised on the night.

## 12) To consider relationships with the Press / use of a Press Officer

Resolved that GA include the function of Press Officer to his Communications Portfolio. This was so that members of the Press would have a known channel with which to communicate with the Council, and so that it would be clearer to the Press which were "official" Council statements, as opposed to personal comments made by individual Councillors.

# 13) To consider a response to the LDF Landscape Character Assessment.

The proposed assessment includes the following words in respect of land north of the AI49 between the West Bank and Lady Anne Drive: Extensions to the car parking areas or caravan/lodge site or developments at the southern end of Beach Road (around the Football Field or Pitch and Putt areas) would have considerable detrimental effect on the remaining character of the site. It was resolved that KL write opposing this, and to suggest that this be regarded as a site for leisure uses — in recognition of the uses made of the site over many years. The draft response is appended to these minutes.

## 14) To confirm/approve a budgeted donation to the Citizens Advice Bureau of £750

Resolved to make a donation of £750 to the Fakenham and Wells Citizens Advice Bureau (as budgeted).

## 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: Information Commissioner Data Protection annual fee 35.00 Sackhouse Rates **NNDC** 74.00 Brightview Internet Broadband 14.61 Keith Leesmith Clerk's Salary Deposit 1000.00 The following were agreed for payment: Veolia Cemetery Waste Collection 38.30 Wells Methodist Church Room Hire 150.00 Keith Leesmith Salary (net of deposit) and expenses 280.66 Monthly contribution Norfolk Pension Fund 247.92 Street Lighting Maintenance MHB Services Ltd 279.89 426.42

Street Lighting electricity E-on Energy Viking Direct stationery 79.76 Jimmy Tottle Bollards 220.00 Fakenham & Wells CAB Annual Donation 750.00 E-on Energy Buttlands Power 193.84 Terry Corbishley 192.50 Litter Picking

## 16) To confirm date of next meeting

Monday 2 March 2009

Meeting closed at 2053