

# WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

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

# MINUTES

2007/12

## Town Council Meeting held on 2 April 2007 at 1900 at The Methodist Rooms

<u>Those Present:</u> John Richter (Chairman), Lindsay Dew, Joe Ellison, Andrew Gates, James Platten, and Maggie Ward, Keith Leesmith (Clerk), Shean Newman (Town Warden), Joyce Trett (NNDC), PC Lee Anderton, plus 2 members of the press and 12 members of the public.

#### I) Public Forum

Myrtle French thought that the floral display in Staithe Street was looking better than usual, as were the daffodils on Two Furlong Hill.

Margaret Palmer read from a prepared statement, which was circulated, to Councillors. She wished to object strongly to the licence proposals for Arch House, which would be discussed under item 8. She, along with several of her neighbours, had no objection to a licence to serve alcohol to residents, but thought that the other provisions of the application were inappropriate in a residential area.

Campbell MacCullum said that he was glad to see that the Safer Neighbourhood Team were starting to tackle the parking problems in the Town. He approved of attempts to cut down on parking on The Quay, which was almost impossible to drive along at times.

Colin Ratee thought that a 20mph speed limit should be imposed throughout the Town. People drove far too fast, particularly on The Polka and The Quay.

Also mentioned was the possibility of local volunteers being trained to use radar guns to assist the police. (recently mentioned in the press).

The public session closed at 1912

2) Apologies

None

3) Declarations of Interest

None

- 4) Planning Matters
  - a) Applications
    - (i) Erection of a two-storey dwelling, at *Site off Bolts Close.* Resolved objection. The Council's concerns had not been addressed since the last application on this site.
    - (ii) Conversion and extension of outbuilding to provide studio at *I California Terrace* Resolved objection. This was obviously an additional living unit, and there appeared to be no off-street parking available.
    - (iii) Erection of replacement conservatory at *The Lookout, Warham Road* Resolved no comment.
    - (iv) Change of use of recreation ground to temporary car park for 48 days per annum at *The Recreation Ground, Beach Road* resolved good idea as the Council were the applicants (we were not sure whether we should have been consulted)
    - (v) Erection of extension to conservatory at *Boxwood, Northfield Lane* Resolved no comment
    - (vi) Erection of garage/domestic store at *Plot 9, Manor Farm* Resolved no comment
    - (vii) Erection of two-storey dwelling at *Plot II*, *Manor Farm* (revised plan) Resolved no comment
    - (viii) Retention of direction signs at *Branthill Farm* Resolved supported local business with potential for local employment.

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- b) Determinations
  - Change of use of I<sup>st</sup> floor from B&B to restaurant at *The Corner House, Staithe Street* approved Erection of front entrance porch at *12 Northfield Lane* approved
  - Various alterations including gateway and bay window at St Heliers, Station Road approved
- 5) Minutes of the meeting held 5 March 2007
  - Approved and signed
- 6) Reports
  - a) Safer Neighbourhood Team

Police had received 38 local calls during the month, mainly concerning parking matters. Reported crimes included one burglary, four instances of rowdy behaviour, five nuisance telephone calls, and one case of arson on the West End Allotments. The CCTV operators had called the Team when they spotted two youths one night lying on their backs on The Quay for fifteen minutes without moving. The police had found that they were amateur astronomers.

# Jonathan Savory arrived at this point

LA said that seasonal parking restrictions would be enforced from Good Friday. PCSO's cannot issue parking tickets but can "move people on" and if necessary can summon a police officer by radio. Radar guns could be provided in the future to volunteers to assist police. The idea being that these could identify likely times and places when offences were occurring. The police are likely to be looking for about twelve volunteers in the coming months. The Safer Neighbourhood Team will be providing visible policing all year round and spending approximately 80% of their time on the streets. A third PCSO will be joining the Team during the summer. Although the dedicated blackberry mobile had not been issued yet, the non-emergency number, or e-mail, could be used in the meantime.

### b) Town Warden

There has been some criminal damage to toilets during the month, and youths having been playing football in Staithe Street, and on the car park there. A house in Mill Road had had a window broken. More flints had fallen from the Church wall. The were more problems now that we had lighter nights, including children playing on the pontoons in the Harbour. SN asked if he could be present during the discussion of item 21. JR said that he could not stay during the discussion, but that he could make a statement at the beginning.

- c) North Norfolk District Council
- JS had circulated a report to Councillors beforehand, but added that a discussion on flood sirens had taken place at County Hall that day. The Flood Warden Coordinators were awaiting written confirmation of the current situation. MW asked JS if NNDC could assist carers working in Wells who needed their cars to visit patients. He would make enquiries. LA said that carers should put notices in their windscreens and police officers would use their discretion over the matter.
- d) Town Clerk

A Highways engineer would inspect drainage problems on East Quay, and in Mill Road.

A letter had been received from the flood wardens thanking Council for their promised contribution to the radio communications project.

The current situation with flood sirens was that the decision to scrap them had been delayed for a year, Norman Lamb MP was taking a keen interest in events, and a petition against abandonment had been started. NCC had just announced that they intended to spend £1.9m in the next year on road safety. KL said that compared to this £35,000 on flood safety did not seem too much.

KL had saved the Council over £150 by switching the cemetery rubbish collection from NNDC to CityCare.

The new swing on the Beach Road Playground had been inspected by Insurers and was now on risk.

JE had taken photographs of a van that had parked on a newly repaired area of footpath in Northfield Lane and damaged it. Highways had said that the repair was done by one of the utilities, and they would not pursue the driver, but the utility company as the repair should have been stronger.

The mobile police station is currently under repair and the operator has retired. Police will advise developments. A brighter light had been fitted temporarily in Northfield Waye. Councillors were circulated with comments from Cathy Gates.

A letter has been received from NNHT officially accepting responsibility for Neilsen Close Playground. >>>

KL had a copy of the executive summary of the Lyons Enquiry into Local Government Finance but had not had time to read it.

A letter (circulated) had been received from Jean Court with regard to parking in Northfield Lane. This would be added to the general discussion of parking matters in May

The new development off Market Lane will be called Manor Farm Drive.

It is hoped to replace the Buttlands Power Box soon with a smaller, neater metal cabinet. Cost will be in the region of £1500.

KL asked for an urgent decision on the following two matters. The Lions had asked to hire the football field for a car boot sale this summer, despite being very late with their payment and leaving the field unattended for the second year running. Resolved, that in view of the good work done by the organisation, they be given one last chance. The second matter was a suggestion by planning enforcement that a *Section 215 Notice* is issued to the owners of the Grays Arcade property, forcing them to tidy it up. Resolved that we ask them to do so.

e) Portfolio Holders

MW wanted to thank Robin Fish for agreeing to undertake a weekly inspection of the Beach Road playing field JE said that he wanted to discuss parking issues at the next meeting. Members had received notes for consideration before then.

- 7) To consider request from Wells in Bloom to insure their Public Liability Risk.
  - Wells in Bloom had been promised a donation of £250. To insure the hanging baskets for public liability would cost them £200 but it would only be £50 if added to the Council's policy. They asked if we could therefore donate £200 plus the cost of the insurance. Resolved that we do so.
- 8) To discuss the licence application for Arch House, Mill Road

Joyce Trett said that objectors were entitled to attend the committee meeting at Cromer when the matter would be discussed, and to speak. AG said he was particularly concerned about proposed off-sales and the serving of food between IIpm and 5am.

The proposed activities could affect not only the immediate neighbours, but the surrounding residential area including the new residential home. Several members mentioned the problem of parking in the area. Resolved that we strongly object to all the proposals other than the right to serve alcohol to residents.

- 9) To discuss current position with regard to the Bus Shelter and formulate further action.
  - KL had circulated copies of correspondence between himself and the company who were supposed to be building the shelter. Resolved that unless the shelter was in position by Tuesday IO April, or our deposit returned, KL should instigate legal action for the recovery of the deposit.

PC Lee Anderton left at this point

- 10) To discuss closure (or otherwise) of Cemetery Gates
  - LD said that in times past the gates were locked except for when funerals were taking place. The gates could now be opened outwards as well as inwards as the ground stop was worn. Resolved that LD investigate the possibility of a complete overhaul of the gates, including the ground stop and lock. Also the cost of painting the gate house and providing a "please close the gate" sign.
- II) To discuss long-term plan for Beach Road Playing Field
  - MW and LD had met Ray Hewitt to discuss the long-term plans of the Friends of the Beach Road Playing Field. A list of proposals was circulated. These did not necessarily present a cost to the Council, as the Friends were prepared to raise funds for agreed improvements. Resolved that we accept the plan in principle, but make it subject to an annual review in September.
- 12) To report on the NCAPTC Spring Seminar
  - JE said that he, MW and KL had found the meeting useful. He was impressed with the speakers, particularly the young Chairman of Trowse Parish Council and felt that opportunities for networking had boosted the image of Wells. Approximately 60 to 70 people attended.
- 13) To review success (or otherwise) of Councillor Surgeries
  - These were a requirement of Quality Councils, but the attendance at the first four surgeries had been disappointing. JE thought we should advertise them with an "A" board. AG thought perhaps they should be monthly rather than weekly. Resolved that we continue for the time being and review them again next month. LD would do 4th April and AG IIth April.

- 14) To discuss letter from Harbour Master regarding parking on The Quay.
  - Bob Smith had written to say that the he thought that the summer restrictions on parking/loading on the north side of The Quay should be extended all year round. Resolved that we agree, and ask the County Council to make them permanent.
- 15) To discuss arrangements for the Annual Town Meeting Monday 16th April
  - It was agreed that the format of the meeting should be similar to last year; informal with tea and coffee served. KL would obtain tea, coffee, milk and sugar, AG would obtain biscuits. We would invite any new candidates who intended to stand for the Council at the election, as they may want to speak.
- 16) To discuss arrangements for The Annual Parish Fair Saturday 21st April
  - It was suggested that we display copies of the annual report and the accounts. MW, LD, JE, JS and JP would attend.
- 17) To approve annual report and accounts for 2006/2007
  - JR and KL had compiled this document (a requirement for Quality Council). Resolved that it be adopted and circulated to every household in Wells at an approximate cost of £50.
- 18) Financial Report and Accounts for Settlement

A set of preliminary accounts for the year had been circulated with agenda papers. The following were agreed for payment:

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Norfolk Playing Fields Association		Annual subscription	20.00
NCAPTC		Annual subscription	319.04
Keith Leesmith		Clerk's Salary and expenses	1049.29
MHB Services Ltd		street lighting maintenance	285.97
E-on Energy		street lighting	461.67
Norfolk Pension Fund		contributions February	331.21
Jimmy Tottle		bollards	200.00
Anglian Water	Cemetery £23.71,Ea	ast Allotments £83.81, West Allotments £33.66	141.18
Wells In Bloom	-	Agreed donation	200.00
Viking Direct		Stationery	148.90
Environment Agend	су	Allotments drainage rate	8.04
Terry Corbishley		Litter Picking	217.00
Shean Newman		Town Warden	174.26
Inland Revenue		PAYE 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter	1001.89

- 19) To confirm date of next meeting
  - Confirmed as Monday 14 May 2007
- 20) 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 confidential matter
  - Resolved
- 21) To review the position of Town Warden in the era of Community Policing

Resolved – To continue to employ the Town Warden for a further three months whilst ensuring that his job description is performed to the satisfaction of the line manager (and then to undertake another review).

The meeting closed at 2127