

# WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

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

# MINUTES

2007/39

#### Town Council Meeting held on 3 December 2007 at 1916 at The Methodist Rooms

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

Keith Leesmith (Clerk), PCSO Andy Dixon, plus eight members of the public, and one member of the press.

#### I) Public Forum

Marie Strong said that flood wardens had moved the stock of sandbags from the police station (before demolition) to other dry places in Town. Senior wardens had met since last month and decided that they wanted to see how things went with regard to the sirens before they committed themselves to cover events other than flooding. We are still waiting for the criteria to be published with regard to which sirens are expected to be kept and which are expected to be scrapped. The NNDC flood leaflet has now arrived. It is understood that wardens in Sea Palling are being paid to deliver them.

Joe Ellison said that there was still a lot of rubbish under the Northfield Bridge, that drains needed attention in Standard Road and The Quay and that one of the lights on Tug Boat Yard had completely disappeared.

#### Joyce Trett arrived

With regard to the Northfield Bridge, KL would write to NCC and NNDC. He would also speak to PC Lee Anderton about his proposed "community day of action".

#### EDP Reporter arrived

It was very dark at the top of Stearmans Yard. Perhaps NNDC would provide another carpark light.

The public forum closed at 1930

2) Apologies

None

## 3) <u>Declarations of Interest</u>

AG – Personal Interest item 12.

4) Minutes of the meeting held 5 November 2007

Agreed and signed

#### 5) Reports

#### a) Norfolk County Council

A report from Derek Baxter had been circulated to members beforehand and is appended.

## b) North Norfolk District Council

A report from Jonathan Savory had been circulated with agenda papers and is appended.

MG said that he was pleased with NNDC's unitary proposals.

#### c) Safer Neighbourhood Team

The crime figures for the month were as follows:

Theft of bicycle – 2; Theft from shop – I; Theft of outboard motor –I; Theft, other- I; Possession of herbal cannabis – I: Criminal damage to vehicle – 3; Criminal damage, other – 2; Total II. There were 4I calls to police during the month, 8 of which were for rowdy behaviour. The team have now moved from the police station to the hospital, but at present they have no computers etc. and therefore have to spend a certain amount of time each day in Fakenham.

Derek Baxter & Jonathan Savory arrived.



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

The Team intend to publish a newsletter every three months, part of which will ask the public for their priorities. These will then be targeted in the period following. The first newsletter is now being distributed. Lee Anderton should be back to full duties this week.

# a) Norfolk County Council

DB read his report, which is appended

## b) North Norfolk District Council

JS said that he would like to mention that District Councillors had not yet seen the proposed flood siren Criteria.

#### d) Town Clerk

In response to a request from NNDC, KL had confirmed that the £1000 was still "on the table" for the fishermen's facility.

Planning permission for the bus shelter would only be granted if the colour were black. KL had therefore changed the colour, in the belief that Councillors wanted to expedite the plan as quickly as possible. It should be delivered in the week commencing 2 January. KL was talking to Highways with regard to erection.

The November Newsletter had not been delivered because the distributor had delivered the November *Quay* early. As the material was not time-sensitive, the newsletter would be delivered with the December issue.

The Council's CCTV system has been moved; thanks have been received from the previous users.

Fiona MacCallum would like to address the January meeting with details of the WAP survey. It was agreed that this could take place.

The Council's *Quality Certificate* had been collected from the NCAPTC Autumn Seminar meeting in Norwich. There were now four Quality Councils in North Norfolk, another being added in the last few days.

A Flood Siren Consultation would take place in Wells on 17 January. As well as the flood wardens, AF and GA would attend. KL had written to NNDC saying that we would have to have the details of the consultation by 28 December in order for any meaningful discussion to take place.

The contractor has been asked to start work on the Church Wall. It was hoped that the work could be completed between Christmas and Easter.

KL had received a letter from Police saying that the police station was about to be demolished, and it was hoped that the replacement would be completed by August 2008.

Frank Sawbridge who had been the Council's Chairman from 1974 to 1976 had died on 23 November.

NNDC had published their ideas for local government reorganisation in Norfolk.

A memorial bench had been placed at the top of Stearmans Yard

## e) Portfolio Holders

<u>Cemetery</u>. LD had asked several Councillors to visit the Cemetery so that they could give their opinion on the general state of tidiness etc. MW thought it was "not too bad" and GA agreed. The gates were not always closed and it was resolved to obtain a *Please close the gate* sign.

<u>Parking & Traffic</u> CM read out a long list of various ideas that the working party had discussed. He would agenda them for discussion next month, so that Council could decide which ideas would become Council policy.

Allotments. It is intended that the working party will visit the allotment sites, but it was thought advisable to wait for better weather.

PCSO Andy Dixon, and Derek Baxter left at this point.

## 6) To discuss and approve quotation for maintenance of trees on The Buttlands

Resolved to accept the quotation of £1900 from  $Tree\ Hopper\ Tree\ Services$  to thin the trees and dispose of the trimmings.

7) <u>To consider and vote on the following motion: Following the flood surge situation in the early hours of 9</u>
November 2007, this Council has no confidence in emergency arrangements that are supplied from outside this <u>Town.</u>

MG felt that the proposed motion was too negative and would not achieve anything. He therefore made the following alternative suggestion, following which the original was withdrawn.

- 7) Following the flood surge situation in the early hours of 9 November 2007, this Council has concerns over the emergency arrangements that are in place for the Town. We therefore request a meeting, between the relevant agencies and the stakeholders within Wells, to discuss and address these concerns. Motion carried
- To approve the recommendations of the Recreation Field Working Party with regard to the operation of the 8) field during the summer of 2008
  - The recommendations had been circulated with agenda papers and are appended. Resolved to accept them.
- To decide if any changes are needed to the Grounds Maintenance specification before tenders are invited for the 9) period commencing I April 2008
  - It was suggested that the turfs no longer need to be removed from the Buttlands before bonfire night, and that it might be wise to ask the football club if they had any suggestions, as well as the retiring contractor and Councillors. It was thought that because of the size of the contract, advertising should take place in the Eastern Daily Press.
- To discuss the proposal by NCC to site cycle stands in various parts of the Town 10) Resolved to agree with the proposal to site cycle stands at five locations throughout the Town.
- To decide if the Town Council should investigate promoting the publication of a Town Guide II)Resolved not to do so
- To confirm our agreement to the Station Road Amendments to Waiting Restrictions and Parking Places 12) Order

Resolved to agree to this scheme.

Financial Report and Accounts for Settlement 13)

A report had been circulated at the beginning of the meeting. The following had been paid during the month:

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Signs Express	Playground Sign deposit	300.00
North Norfolk District Council	Sackhouse Rates	71.00
Brightview Internet	Broadband Service	17.99
British Telecom	Telephone Service	71.98
Keith Leesmith	Clerk's Salary Deposit	1000.00
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The following were agreed for payment:		
City Care	Cemetery waste collection	60.57
M L Walsingham	Key Cutting	5.90
Keith Leesmith	Salary (net of deposit) & expenses	133.59
Norfolk Pension Fund	monthly contribution	349.32
MHB Services Ltd	street lighting maintenance	285.97
E-on Energy	street lighting electricity	462.20
Steve's Landscape Gardening Services	grounds maintenance	1033.75
Jimmy Tottle	Bollards	200.00
Terry Corbishley	Litter Picking	182.00
Society of Local Council Clerks	Annual membership	161.00

14) To confirm Date of Next Meeting

Confirmed as Monday 7 January 2008

To consider a resolution under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) 1960, as amended by Section 15) 100 of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude members of the public and press during consideration of items of a confidential nature.

MG argued that the item to be discussed should not be considered to be confidential. KL said that he had taken advice that confirmed this. The resolution was withdrawn.

16) To consider applications for co-option to the vacant position of Town Councillor

Two letters of application had been received; from Steve Clark and Joe Ellison. Since both of these were unsuccessful candidates in the May election JT proposed that the candidate with the highest votes at that time should be co-opted. Steve Clark was therefore co-opted (216 votes to 207).

The meeting closed at 2124