

WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

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

MINUTES

2007/35

Town Council Meeting held on 5 November 2007 at 1910 at The Methodist Rooms

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

Keith Leesmith (Clerk), PC Lee Anderton, plus six members of the public, two visiting Councillors from Fakenham and two members of the press.

I) Public Forum

Marie Strong said that she hoped that Councillors would welcome the move to change flood wardens to emergency wardens. There would be a meeting of the wardens soon when it was hoped to gain their agreement. During the last month there had been another eight meetings concerning the flood sirens, but the matter was still not resolved. It was hoped that the Environment Agency would soon be addressing concerns over rabbits and moles in the beach bank.

Joe Ellison said he was pleased to report that Water Pit Lane had at last been swept. There was still a lot of rubbish in the East End railway cutting. A road drain near the gantry on The Quay gets blocked from time to time and needs clearing.

The public forum closed at 1920

2) Apologies

Mark Frary – working; Campbell MacCallum – holiday; Ray Hewitt – on Council business elsewhere

3) Declarations of Interest

AG – Personal Interest item 8. GA – Personal Interest item 6. MG – Personal Interest item 10.

4) Minutes of the meeting held I October 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

JT announced that the Cabinet had that day agreed to underwrite the cost of the fisherman's shed if it were built but had to be demolished later. With regard to Clarence House the boards had been taken off of the outside of the front windows and had been relocated inside the building. With regard to Grays Arcade, NNDC were waiting for legal processes to be completed.

Derek Baxter arrived at this point

MW mentioned the problem to JT of the house in Bases Lane (previously Council now private) that was not lived in and had become covered in ivy. It was not known if anything could be done about this.

a) Norfolk County Council

DB summarised his report and added that there would be a countywide initiative that week with regard to parking outside schools. Police were assisting in trying to get people to park more-responsibly. The advantages of not using cars to transport children were being stressed.

QUALITY

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

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

The crime figures for Wells for October are as follows:

Harassment I
Criminal Damage 3
Assaults 2
Arson (attempt) I
Theft 3
Total Crimes 10

LA asked both the EDP and Quay to publicise the fact that 999 is still the number to ring when a crime is discovered actually taking place. The 0845 456 4567 number is for later discoveries and non-urgent calls. LA suggested that the Safer Neighbourhood Team would be interested in helping to organise a "tidy-up day" in the East End Railway Cutting. The Team are still discovering young people drinking alcohol in the evenings, and they have confiscated and destroyed some of this. The Police Station would be closed and demolished before the end of the year. The Team would be temporarily relocated to the Hospital, but are hoping to be back at the newly rebuilt Police Base by August 2008.

d) Town Clerk

On the day of the meeting permission had been received to erect the bus shelter. This required us to submit the details of the proposed colour of the shelter and to obtain permission in writing before the project was started. This was despite our original letter of 13 August stating that *the drawing shows the proposed colour*.

James Platten had resigned due to pressure of work. The vacancy had been advertised. Councillors asked KL to write to each of the failed candidates from the recent election, to see if they were interested in co-option.

A quotation had been received on the day of the meeting for the trimming of trees on the Buttlands. This would be discussed at the next meeting.

Two quotations had been received for the proposed work to the Church Wall. AF, GA and RH were given delegated authority to negotiate contracts to undertake the work.

The Vets in Maryland had placed a dog bin outside their premises for the use of their clients. This was being filled so frequently by non-clients that they had decided to remove it. But people were still leaving bags of dog faeces outside the premises. KL would investigate whether the Council's CCTV could be used to assist.

NNDC were looking for volunteers to join their Standards Committee.

Councillors did not wish to engage in the consultation exercise for proposed Traveller sites in Cromer and Fakenham

A flyer had been received from a group called North Norfolk Environment Forum advertising their views

A flyer had been received from the Campaign to Protect Rural England advertising their views

NCAPTC were holding a meeting at Edgefield Village Hall on 20 November on planning matters.

Christmas Tide had formally asked to use the Town's entertainment licence

High Street will be closed from 12 to 16 November for highway drainage repairs

Notices have appeared advertising the proposed zebra crossing between Station Road and Northfield Lane on The Polka. KL had heard unofficially that the proposed mini roundabout at the end of Station Road was not now going to be provided.

NNDC had posted a revised licensing policy consultation document. This was dated 9 September, postmarked 10 October, and received 12 October. They asked for replies by 5 November.

Papers challenging the stopping-up of Malthouse Yard had now been posted and acknowledged

KL had attended an SLCC meeting in Swaffham on Saturday 6 October. The subject was reorganisation of Local Government in Norfolk. Speakers included the Chief Executives of Norwich and South Norfolk DC.

KL had attended a meeting of Clerks from Quality Councils at County Hall on 2 November. It appeared that Norfolk County Council were keen to engage with Quality Councils.

Richard Garfield from NNDC will be coming to Wells on 16 November to talk about the emptying of litterbins, and how it may be improved.

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 has now received Royal Assent Preliminary results from the WAP survey from the exhibitions (not yet the postal survey) were circulated to Members.

5) e) <u>Portfolio Holders</u>

Cemetery. Things are still growing, and there will need to be another grass cut before the end of the month when the contact ends. LD does not believe that the contract has been performed as well as it might have been. **Allotments.** One of the allotment holders had recently mended a broken tap. The cost to the Council (of materials) was £27 as opposed to a quoted price from a tradesman of over £300. KL would write to thank the allotment holder for his assistance.

Children's Playgrounds. In response to a question AG said that he had heard nothing more regarding the Westfield Avenue play area.

Tourism. IT said that, despite the poor summer, tourism figures for the District were up on last year.

Traffic & Parking. CM had sent a report that was read out and is appended. The working party would meet again on Tuesday 13th November.

- 6) To consider correspondence from residents living near the War Memorial Club
 - Letters of complaint had been received from two residents living near the club following an incident that took place after the club had closed on 29 September. GA said that the Council had no jurisdiction over the matter, but that they would do what they could to bring parties together to try to find solutions. The club deplored what had happened, and if needs be, might have to consider employing door staff. The 999 call that was made on the night came from the club and someone had been arrested in connection with the incident. They had already received a lifetime ban from the club. Although this was a regrettable incident, it should be noted that this was only the second time that the police had been called in five years. Such incidents occurred all over the Town; one took place the previous weekend in Market Lane. With regard to complaints about the volume of music, The Safer Neighbourhood Team would check the noise limiter that was installed on the premises.
- Proposal to extend the work of volunteer Flood Wardens to plan for other civil emergencies

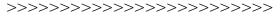
 The Town Council had originally set up the flood wardens. Some years ago the Norfolk Emergency Planning
 Team had suggested to all parishes that they might like to prepare plans to assist the emergency services in the
 event of a local emergency. The Wells Flood Plan was an excellent document that had been copied for use in
 other parts of the Country. Without too much difficulty it could probably be adapted to cover other
 - emergencies. A meeting of volunteer Flood Wardens would take place soon to see if they wanted to be involved with other possible emergencies. Councillors agreed to back the individuals involved in this decision.
- 8) To confirm the interim decision of Portfolio Holder, Chairman and Clerk with regard to the priority of parking regulation requirements
 - A highways engineer would be visiting on 16 November, and wanted to know what we considered to be the three or four areas most in need of revised parking regulations. The above three people had considered the matter, and following the agreement of PC Lee Anderton presented these to Council. It was agreed to ask highways for the following: a) Station Road to be no parking both sides all year, 24 hours, but 30 minute bays outside Leftleys Wall. It had originally been thought that the mini-roundabout would clash with the parking bays outside the library, and it was therefore the intention to ask if some of these could be re-located at the top of High Street adjacent to the Bank. If the roundabout was not to be built this idea may have to be re-thought.
 - b) The no loading/waiting restriction on the north side of The Quay should be extended eastwards to Tug Boat Yard, and also extended to 365 days. c) The south side of Freeman Street from The Glebe to the 30mph signs should be no parking at any time 24 hours and 365 days. d) The east side of The Polka from Station Road to Maryland should be no parking at any time 24 hours and 365 days.

Joyce Trett left the meeting at this point

- 9) To consider whether to arrange a local presentation of our Quality Council certificate
 - AF, RC, GA, and KL would be attending the NCAPTC meeting in Norwich on 8 November, and would be presented with the certificate there. Resolved that it was not necessary to have another (local) presentation.

Lee Anderton and Derek Baxter left at this point

To consider a request for funds from the Alzheimer's Society, North Norfolk Branch Resolved (that as our budget for the year was all used) not to provide a donation.



- II) <u>To consider this Council's policy with regard to Gray's Arcade, Maryland, and Clarence House</u>
 KL explained that the District Council had legal powers to assist with these problems, but chose not to use them. It was agreed that we "keep the pressure up" in trying to persuade them to do so.
- To decide the budget and precept requirements for the period April 2008 to March 2009

 KL had prepared a budget and MG had subsequently agreed this. Resolved that we accept the budget, as circulated, resulting in a precept of £68,000 in consequence there would be no increase in the local share of Council Tax for the second year running.
- 13) 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:

| Traport ind seem encurated at the segment | ing of the inceeding, the following that even paid to | ranng the monen |
|---|---|-----------------|
| North Norfolk District Council | Sackhouse Rates | 71.00 |
| Brightview Internet | Broadband Service | 17.99 |
| North Norfolk District Council | Cemetery Rates | 51.00 |
| Keith Leesmith | Clerk's Salary Deposit | 1000.00 |
| The following were agreed for payment: | | |
| CityCare | Cemetery waste collection | 48.46 |
| North Norfolk District Council | May Election | 1064.34 |
| Keith Leesmith | Salary (net of deposit) and expenses | 446.3 I |
| Norfolk Pension Fund | monthly contribution | 399.97 |
| MHB Services Ltd | street lighting maintenance | 285.97 |
| E-on Energy | street lighting electricity | 462.20 |
| Steve's Landscape Gardening Service | grounds maintenance | 1033.75 |
| Jimmy Tottle | bollards | 200.00 |
| Shaw & Sons | new Register of Burials | 175.59 |
| NCAPTC | Autumn Seminar | 100.00 |
| Powergen | Buttlands Electricity | 37.79 |
| Powergen | Sackhouse Electricity | 62.18 |
| Viking Direct | Print Cartridges/Stationery | 131.70 |
| Society of Local Council Clerks | Allotments Law Book | 15.20 |
| Michael Hill | Allotment refund | 7.00 |
| RBL Poppy Appeal | Wreath | 16.50 |
| Platten & Anthony | Allotment tap repair parts | 26.70 |
| Terry Corbishley | Litter Picking | 224.00 |
| Michael Chestney | Litter Picking | 231.00 |
| | | |

14) To confirm Date of Next Meeting

Confirmed as Monday 3 December 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 items of a confidential nature.

Resolved

- To consider a request by an allotment holder to keep a mechanical digger on his allotment plot

 Resolved to allow this for a temporary period of one year, whilst the working party are considering the general rules with regard to allotments.
- To consider this Council's position with regard to the (possible) reorganisation of local government in Norfolk KL said that things were moving so fast that the word *possible*, which was correct when the agendas were written, is now superfluous. It appears that this subject matter is changing almost on a daily basis, and that therefore this Council is not yet able to draw any conclusions.

The meeting closed at 2150