

WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

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

MINUTES

2009/18

Town Council Meeting held on I June 2009 at 1914 at The Methodist Rooms

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

Keith Leesmith (Clerk), Derek Baxter (NCC), Police Sergeant Andy Smith, PC Jason Pegden, 2 Members of the Press (EDP and The Quay), and 7 members of the Public.

1) Public Forum

The East End Railway Cutting is being filled with fly tipped rubbish – it looks like builders' waste.

The bus shelters recently supplied by this Council were looking dirty on occasions. Had any thought been given to cleaning them? KL will see if a window cleaner can periodically do so. Victory Housing are assisting a new residents group to form in Westfield Avenue. This group had already done some preliminary work on the Westfield Playground and intended to do more in the future.

2) Apologies

Campbell MacCallum

3) Declarations of Interest

None

4) Minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2009

Agreed and signed

5) Reports

5a – Norfolk County Council

AF said that the following would be the last report from Derek Baxter, and thanked him for his assistance to the Town over the past few years and wished him a happy retirement. DB said that he had enjoyed his 8 years working for the area. (Applause)

A report from DB had been circulated before the meeting and is appended to these minutes. In addition to those items, he mentioned the report that he had e-mailed to KL the day before. This detailed the shortage of funding that the eastern counties were receiving compared to other parts of the country. This showed not only lower funding in areas dealt with by the County Council but also in policing and health. KL would forward the report on to Councillors. MG made the point that in any statistical analysis there had to be figures below average as well as above, but he believed that the problem was a lack of funding in rural areas compared to urban.

5b – North Norfolk District Council



5c) Safer Neighbourhood Team

There had been 15 reported crimes in May: 2 Criminal Damage; 10 Thefts (5 of these being of outboard motors on the same night); I possession of drugs; 2 burglaries. 21 Parking tickets were issued during the month, and the speed gun has been used 8 times during the month with 2 tickets issued. With regard to the outboard motor thefts, adjacent motors that had been fitted with the special covers had been tampered with but not stolen – proving the worth of the scheme.

The Town had been very busy over the Bank Holiday weekend, without any visible sign of policing. RH asked why 2000 pilgrims visiting Walsingham required a heavy police presence and yet with several times that number of visitors in Wells, we had no police at all. AS said that in the past factional fighting between various religious groups required heavy policing, although that hadn't applied in 2009. Several members thought that Wells deserved more policing on busy weekends. In the past "specials" had been used for traffic control why were they not used now? The answer was that there were not as many available as there used to be. AS said that he had noted the concerns and would investigate himself when he was on duty at weekends. KL said that he had received a report that someone had been camping on The Buttlands at the weekend and asked if the police could eject such people. AS was not sure but would investigate.

5d) Town Clerk

Insurance cover has been arranged for the individual volunteers operating the car park on the Recreation Field on Sundays and Bank Holidays in the summer. The cover was for volunteer members of "Wells Combined Charities". There had been an excellent start to the season, with three times the turnover of the same time last year. Each group has already accumulated more than half of the average of £700 of last year. The Peterborough Minis have pulled out of their booked day so there would now be 16 days available rather than 15. A very nice letter in praise of the Beach Road children's playground had been received and circulated. However, there had been several complaints about the cleanliness of toilets, both verbal and written. KL had asked the contracts person from NNDC to visit, although when he had done so there was not a problem. Two invitations had been received for the larger Councils meeting in Attleborough on the 9th of June, but no one wished to attend. There was also an invitation to attend the Shoreline Management meeting at Blakeney on 22 June, but nobody wished to attend. The area partnership had issued an invitation to Councillors to a meeting on the evening of 9 June, (Community Action through Sport) but this clashed with the Parishes Partnership meeting in Binham on the same night. SCIRA had issued an invitation for Councillors to attend a presentation at the Crown on the evening of 16 June. 9 Councillors and KL would attend. The Wells for the Future project has been unable at present to find a suitable replacement for Bonnie Robinson as project coordinator.

5e) Portfolio Holders

Communications: GA is still investigating the possibility of a tourism leaflet

Children's Playground: RH announced that two new benches had been promised for the field and would be in place in the autumn.

Housing: *Homes for Wells* are now looking for more potential tenants, having satisfied the demand from those that have applied for housing up to now. The Coordinator, who has done a good job, has given in her notice and will need to be replaced.

Traffic & Parking: An enforcement officer will be visiting to look at the illegal B & B signs that have been erected in Town. AF & CM had visited the new Estate Director at Holkham with regard to the proposed new car park. A new set of plans had been drawn up and a business plan was being prepared.

6) To receive a report following the meeting of the Norfolk Quality Councils Network

RH and KL had attended. This had been an interesting meeting with representatives from most of the Quality Councils in Norfolk (approximately 40). There had been discussions on a Unitary local government, including the devolution of functions and services to Towns and Parishes. There had also been a discussion on the transfer of assets from principal authorities to towns and Parishes, although this did not seem to be operating in North Norfolk, except at full market value.

- 7) <u>To discuss the current state of the Town Sign</u>
 - The sign had clearly deteriorated in the nine years since it had been there, but it was not known whether it was repairable or whether it would have to be replaced. JT would ask Warren Trett, who had carved it, to look at it and give quotations for repair and/or replacement.
- 8) To discuss current arrangements for the Town/Parish Fair and the Annual Town Meeting and decide whether any changes are appropriate.

The Town Fair had degenerated into a collection of fund-raising stalls with fewer exhibitors and less people attending. The original concept had been for the exhibitors to use it as a "showcase" for their groups, to illustrate what they were doing and invite new members. It was resolved not to hold one next year and review the situation in about a year. The Annual Town Meeting would continue as at present.

- 9) <u>To discuss letter from NNDC regarding cleansing contracts</u>
 - This letter asked for comments with regard to revised cleaning contracts with effect from I April 2011. Councillors thought that we should ask for the existing schedules of street cleaning to be more rigidly carried out, although the letter suggested that in the future the schedules are likely to be abandoned. Parishes could pay for additional service if they wanted something beyond a bare minimum. KL had asked if there was any chance of this Council taking control of street cleaning together with the budget currently spent on it but he had been told that this was unlikely.
- 10) To consider a suggestion to make a grant to the newly formed Westfield Playground Group

MF had suggested that we should consider making a grant to this group because a grant had been made available to the Beach Road playing field last month. However, the latter had been budgeted for, and we could not make other than a small grant to the new group until next year, after the autumn budget process. However JT suggested that as the Peterborough Mini Group were not now going to have the Recreation Field on I4 June, the Westfield Residents Association could be offered it. As several members of this Association were attending the meeting they were asked if they wanted to do this, and they agreed to do so.

- II) <u>To discuss recommendations for waiting restrictions on Polka/Warham Road/Church Street junction</u> Resolved to agree to these.
- 12) <u>To discuss recommendations for waiting restrictions at The Buttlands</u>
 This scheme had originally been asked for by this Council. Resolved to accept.
- I3) To consider an e-mail from passenger transport unit with regard to bus stops.

This outlined the final results, following a meeting between representatives of the County Council, The Town Council, and local residents. Most of the recommendations of this group had been accepted, but in one case, the decision had been vetoed by the bus company. This was in respect of a request by the bus company to site a bus stop outside Church House. A recommendation had been made to site the stop in the lay-by outside The White House. The owner of the property had agreed to this and all parties seemed to think it a good idea. However, the bus company wanted to continue using a stop outside Church House and would operate this as a "hail and ride" if a stop was not provided.

- 14) To consider letter from Steve Blatch with regard to verge cutting

15)	Financial Report and Accounts for Sett	<u>lement</u>	
ŕ	A report had been circulated at the beginning of the meeting. The following had been paid during the month		
	NNDC	Sackhouse Rates	78.00
	NNDC	Cemetery Rates	51.00
	Brightview Internet	Broadband	14.61
	British Telecom	Telephone Service	73.31
	Keith Leesmith	Clerk's Salary Deposit	1000.00
	The following were agreed for payment:		
	Veolia	Cemetery waste bin	29.37
	Friends of Beach Rd Playing Field	Bounty Project donation	2000.00
	Keith Leesmith	Salary (net of deposit) and expenses	338.90
	Norfolk Pension Fund	Monthly contribution	423.76
	MHB Services Ltd	Street Lighting Maintenance	279.89
	E-on Energy	Street Lighting electricity	442.II
	Jimmy Tottle	Bollards	220.00
	Norse Commercial Services Ltd	Grounds maintenance	1221.88
	Zurich Municipal Insurance	Annual Insurance & Inspection Policy	1718.31
	Norfolk Rural Community Council	associate membership subscription	15.00
	Mick Chestney	Litter Picking	342.65
	Terry Corbishley	Litter Picking	246.40

16) <u>To confirm date of next meeting</u> Monday 6 July 2009

Meeting closed at 2105