



MINUTES

2012/07

Town Council Meeting held on 5 March 2012 at 1929 at The Methodist Rooms

Those Present: Allen Frary (Chairman), Rodney Crafer, Lindsay Dew, Joe Ellison, Mike Gates, Ray Hewitt & Maggie Ward

Keith Leesmith (Clerk), Greg Hewitt (Asst. Clerk), Marie Strong (NCC), Peter Terrington & Jonathon Savory (NNDC), Einar Strømsvåg (Scira), 2 Members of the Press (*The Quay and EDP*) & 6 Members of the Public

A minutes silence was observed in memory of Eric Smith who recently passed away and was for many years a Wells Town councillor.

- 1) Public Forum
No Questions asked
- 2) Apologies Gary Anthony, Campbell MacCallum & Joyce Trett
- 3) Declarations of Interest None
- 4) Minutes of the meeting held 9 January 1012 were approved and signed
- 5) To consider any further developments with regard to the Westfield Playing Area
LD had an update from Joyce Trett. The site had been cleared and re-seeded; only the goal posts had been left. The entrance gates are currently locked to enable the re-seeded grass to grow. A good job has been done. There followed a discussion concerning the management and insurance of the playing field. The council would continue to pay for the grass cutting now the site had been cleared and provide public liability insurance. There was a concern about the suitability of the goal posts but it was agreed they were acceptable. MG asked who would monitor the site and ensure it was safe. It was agreed that if possible there should be a small committee of residents to monitor the site.
It was resolved to place a notice in the Quay suggesting the formation of a small committee
- 6) To discuss visit of Council to Wells Community Hospital
RC reported that a number of members had visited the hospital and had been given a tour of the facilities and a presentation of the proposed plan by Chief Executive Simon Gray. The members were generally impressed with what they saw and proposed plan for the future. Of particular interest was the new dialysis unit which can now be used by both visitors and local people. It is intended that there will be hospital beds for local people in the future. Although there have been some previous misunderstandings it is now a worthwhile plan. MG said they have a definite plan and need the support of the community and council.
- 7) To consider a financial appeal from Wells Community Hospital
A small donation was discussed to show support
Resolved to donate £250

8) To consider a financial appeal from the Big Red Bus

MG proposed that this item be returned to the agenda at a later date so that enquiries could be made to see how well supported the project is by local youth.

It was resolved that the item goes onto the agenda in May.

9) To discuss a letter received from Ben Colson of Norfolk Green regarding the Coasthopper and consider any ways that this Council might assist.

RC stated how important the Coasthopper is and council should make it clear we are fully behind the service. There was a general discussion about the merits of the service and the issues of funding. A large proportion of those using the bus have bus passes and the funds received from government in return do not cover the actual costs. It was agreed that people should be encouraged to pay where possible and not use concessionary passes. MS explained she had been canvassing to ensure the future of the service and that it was used by many local people. Also, the service brought an additional 7.5 million pounds to commercial interests along the coast. Furthermore, funding from the County Council and Government fuel rebates have been reduced.

Resolved to write in support of the service to Norman Lamb MP, Marie Strong and Norfolk County Council

10) To consider whether this Council should make a response to the public consultation into the building of a new retail facility in Polka Road

It was considered inappropriate to discuss the merits of the any proposal before any planning application had been made. However, if the developer were to be considering a petrol filling station as part of the development the council would be pleased.

Resolved to write to the developer and ask for consideration to be given to a petrol filling station.

11) Reports:a) Safer Neighbourhood Team

The crime report is as follows between 6th February and 5th March 2012.

Crimes: 1 x Exposure - a suspect has been arrested and ongoing investigation

2 x Theft by Employee – suspect arrested, ongoing investigation

Calls: 33 calls to police during this time. Only ones of note are two calls to Nuisance Behaviour, one drunk female in the Golden Fleece and an abusive female at the youth Hostel, both dealt with.

b) Scira Offshore Energy

The contract for building Scira's new facility at Egmore has been awarded to a Norfolk based company. It was a troublesome December with only 2 days worked due to bad weather. However, January and February have been excellent with 31 turbines erected, 8 in full production, and 8 in test mode. The cabling will also be finished in about 10 days time. An additional jackup vessel is to arrive soon and the ferry *Regina Baltica* is now providing accommodation out at sea. Currently there are 18 transfer vessels working but it is hoped to reduce this number over the next few months. A weather station has been recently installed on a sub-station out on the wind farm and it is hoped the public can access the data via the Harbour Office. JE asked if something could be done about the fence behind the Scira office on Staithe Street.

c) NCC

Marie Strong reports that the new compactor at the recycling centre has been installed so the site should be closed less during scheduled open days. A survey concerning the future of recycling centres has been extended to the 24th March and everyone should register their thoughts to protect our local facility. The survey can be accessed at http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/Environment/Waste_and_recycling/index.htm There is to be a new bus stop on Standard Road near Northfield Lane. It can be used once the signs have been erected. You have until the end of the month to register an interest for faster broadband. MS is to meet with the Minister concerning the proposed marsh zones at Blakeney.

d) NNDC

Jonathan Savory

Council Tax has been frozen for the coming year. There are concerns that the development of the Yellow Shop on the Quay has stalled. NNDC intend to chase up the owner of the property to see if the work can proceed alongside the developer working on the old Grays Arcade. Compulsory purchase by NNDC is still an option; we do not wish to see a half developed quayside. The council is reviewing a second tier of posts to be lost after a recent corporate restructuring; it is hoped further savings can be made. The Wells tourist information centre opens again on 26th March.

Peter Terrington

PT had produced a report which is appended and available on the website. In addition PT has spoken with NNDC with regard the Yellow Shop on the Quay and compulsory purchase is still an option. He has also spoken with the Co-op regarding the need for a filling station. This may be possible but is subject to an agreement with up to four other landowners and reconfiguration of the main drain along Church Marsh.

In response to the report councillors were concerned that units 1 – 4 on Maryland were not subject to business rates, there was clear evidence that they were being used for storage. It was resolved that a letter should be written to NNDC asking them to investigate further. MW brought up the issue of the lost service bay on the Staithe Street car park. PT replied this was due to the loss of parking bays on the southern side. MW also asked about illegally placed parking cones outside the tourist information office. There was then a conversation about illegally placed cones around the town in general. PT promised he would look into it.

e) Town Clerk

KL had produced a report which is appended and available on the website. In addition Norfolk Constabulary had written to say they had increased their precept by 3% on last year. On the 15th March there is a briefing at County Hall on the Emergency Response to Local Flooding. However, no one is available to attend this meeting and a written response will be sent. MW asked if it would be possible to have a Town 'You are here' map displayed to direct visitors to traders situated away from the main shopping area. KL suggested this could be a future agenda item.

f) Portfolio Holders

Cemetery. LD stated that the recent removal of Christmas wreathes from the cemetery had caused distress to a recently bereaved resident. There is no notice to notify the public when wreathes will be removed. KL stated a notice board has now been ordered and the local undertaker has agreed to circulate the cemetery rules when sending out final invoices. It was also mentioned that the new rabbit guards are in use.

Buttlands. JE asked when the new kerb stones were to be laid. KL said this would be chased up.

Playing Field. RH stated that as a result of the mains water leak on the playing field half the site had been fenced off and equipment taken out of use. However, Anglian Water have pin pointed the leak which is between the gate valve on the playing field and the next one near to the end of the football field. At the present time the leak is losing 1lt every 3 seconds which is 29000lts every 24 hours. Anglian Water is still trying to fix the leak. RH also brought up the issue of some very untidy front gardens on the Northfield estate that belong to Victory Housing. MW also said there were similar problems elsewhere. It was resolved the Council should write to Victory Housing.

12) To receive a report from the Field Study Working Party

AF stated the next working party meeting was not until the 9th March so there would be no report until the next council meeting.

13) To receive a report following the Marine Management Organisation drop-in session on 15 February

GH stated the drop in session had been poorly organised and there were concerns about the level of public consultation by the MMO. GH has produced a letter which is attached and available on the website asking the MMO local engagement team to attend the annual Town meeting on 23rd April.

It was resolved to send the letter.

14) 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:

Brightview Internet	Broadband Service	14.99
Keith Leesmith	Clerk's Salary Deposit	700.00
Greg Hewitt	Asst Clerk's Salary Deposit	550.00

The following were agreed for payment:

Jimmy Tottle	bollards	220.00
Greg Hewitt	Salary (net of deposit) & Expenses	79.67
Keith Leesmith	Salary (net of deposit) & Expenses	96.48
Norfolk Pension Fund	monthly contribution	246.92
MHB Services Ltd	Street Lighting Maintenance	306.70
E-on Energy	Street Lighting electricity	462.04
Anglian Water	East End Allotments - 276.52	-----
Anglian Water	West End Allotments - 200.43	-----
Anglian Water	Cemetery - 27.41	504.36
Veolia	Bins - Cemetery	39.98
Society of Local Council Clerks	Greg Hewitt - Health and Safety Course	144.00
Wells Congregational Church	Cleaning of Bus Shelters	20.00
Snell Plumbing	allotment pipe repair	69.00
Edna Garrett	Cleaning Sackhouse	30.00
Killgerm	Rat Poison	117.60
Michael Briggs	repair to church wall	57.00
Mark Briggs	emptying & moving salt/grit boxes	119.00
The Office Furniture		
Warehouse	cemetery noticeboard	166.80
Terry Corbishley	Litter Picking	215.60

15) To confirm Date of Next Meeting

Confirmed as Monday 2 April 2012

16) 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 of a confidential nature.

Resolution Agreed – public and press leave.

17) To discuss any applications for the vacancies for two Councillors

Applications had been received from two candidates only.

Resolved to co-opt Pauline Catton and Rev Canon Roger Arguile. Invitations to be sent inviting both to attend the next council meeting.

The meeting closed at 2120