



MINUTES

2012/04

Town Council Meeting held on 6 February 2012 at 1911 at The Methodist Rooms

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

Keith Leesmith (Clerk), Greg Hewitt (Asst. Clerk), PCSO Phil Berkeley, Member of the Press (*The Quay*) & five Members of the Public

AF. The council has received an invitation to a farewell party for Rev Tony Douglas at St Nicolas Church at 3 pm on Sunday 26th February 2012. AF welcomed Greg Hewitt to his new role.

1) Public Forum

Sarah Philips queried if there was permission for the gate at the entrance to the yard alongside her retail premises on the Quay. The council were able to confirm planning permission had been granted. Steve Tuck and Steve Clark were there to represent the committee organising the Queens Diamond Jubilee celebration for the town. There was to be a day of activities, including a flotilla of boats in the Quay, events on the quayside and Buttlands, themed flower displays by Wells in Bloom and a presentation of commemorative mugs to the Town's children. The committee were hoping the council could help with funding (agenda item I4).

2) Apologies Gary Anthony, Jonathan Savory (NNDC)

3) Declarations of Interest None

4) Minutes of the meeting held 9 January I012 were approved and signed

15(a) Police Report

PCSO Phil Berkeley reported there had been damage to a shop window in Staithe Street; he urged people to be vigilant. The theft of outboard engines along the coast remained a persistent problem and he was hoping to start a Marine Watch at Wells and other local harbours. He was also hoping to re-energize Home Watch in Wells. There was now a new national telephone number on which to contact police for routine enquiries; the new number is '101'. The number does not replace '999' which remains the number for emergencies. JE asked what being done about cyclists riding through the pedestrian area on Staithe Street; attention was promised

5) To discuss arrangements for Graham Smith's equipment on the recreation field – 2012 season

Consideration was given to a request by Graham Smith for an additional item of apparatus.

It was resolved not to allow more than the two existing pieces of equipment (as previously agreed). There would however be no increase in rent.

- 6) To discuss the conditions under which residents, ex-residents and non-residents use the cemetery
 It was resolved that the current fee of double the normal cost would remain for those who are not permanent residents of Wells or (in the case of people who have had to move away for the purposes of care) have been so until recently. However, special consideration could be given to those with a family connection.
- 7) To discuss the visit of Council to Wells Hospital
 Following an appeal for financial help six Councillors would visit the hospital to review the facilities and report back.
- 8) To consider and discuss the current position of the Westfield Play Area
 LD asked what was the current situation with the play area and had anything been done to organise clearing the site. The council had previously agreed to maintain the site if and when it was cleared; no clearance work has been done yet. It was thought Cllr Joyce Trett might have more information.
It was resolved that the item goes onto next month's agenda pending further enquiries.
- 9) To discuss the vacancies for two Councillors with a view to filling them
 It was agreed to advertise the vacancies with a view to co-opting two applicants at the next meeting in March. Applications would need to be in by Friday 2nd March 2012. An advert would appear in 'The Quay' magazine.
Resolved to co-opt two new members.
- Item 10 was deferred until the arrival of Peter Terrington*
- 11) To consider a request from Alderman Peel High School to use The Buttlands for a "summer prom"
 KL said the request had been received by a pupil. Enquiries with the school suggested teachers were considering other venues. Concerns were voiced about how the event would be supervised.
It was resolved that a letter should be written requesting more information.
- During item 11 Peter Terrington (NNDC) and Marie Strong (NCC) arrived.*
- 10) To discuss a proposal to ask NNDC to register the north side of the East End Drying Grounds with the Land Registry and return them to use as a public amenity area.
 MW had made enquiries with the land registry and these enquiries had now established that NNDC owned the north side of the area (the part which had been reclaimed and built up in recent years). Peter Terrington confirmed that those residents who have been using the area for parking have been written to by NNDC and advised the land belonged to the district council.
It was resolved that a request be made to NNDC to register the land as a public amenity area.
- The next three items, all requests for financial support, were considered as one*
- 12) To consider a financial appeal from Wells in Bloom
 Wells in bloom require a small bowser to aid watering the baskets and tubs.
It was resolved that the council would buy the bowser and loan it to Wells in Bloom, who would contribute approximately 50% of the cost of £1000 from their existing funds.
- 13) To consider the current financial appeal for flooring renewal in St Nicholas Church
 No formal request had been received from the church but LD thought the council should consider supporting the appeal. KL advised the council would be better placed to consider a donation in the new financial year.
Resolved to reconsider in April
- 14) To consider an appeal by the Wells Queen's Jubilee Committee to financially assist them to provide school children with commemorative mugs.
It was resolved that the council would contribute a maximum of £1000 to buy the mugs

- 15) Reports:
b) Norfolk County Council
 A request has been made to highways to trim the tree on the path outside the entrance to the Town bowling green. The situation would be monitored and if necessary chased up. There was a grant of up to £500 available from the County Council to help groups celebrate the Olympics, cycle race and Queens Jubilee. Binham had recently been successful with a grant application and received £5000; so it was worth trying for these grants. There was to be a meeting with Natural England and the responsible minister to discuss the suggested zoning of the marsh along the coast. The campaign for increased broadband speeds needs the support of the council and individuals. (*Wells Town Council had already written in support of this*).
c) North Norfolk District Council
 PT had produced a report which is appended and available on the website. In addition, LD asked what was being done about all the unpaid council tax as reported in the media. CM asked why the car parks in town had not been gritted (other members advised there are NNDC notices up informing they would no longer be done).
d) Town Clerk
 KL had issued a report with agendas, which is appended and on the website. In addition: the Marine Management Organising (MMO) are holding a meeting at the Beach Café, 15th February 2012, 6 – 8 pm. Demolition work would start on the old Grays site on the Quay on 13 February.
e) Portfolio Holders
 JE (Buttlands) consideration should be given to applying to the Big Society Community Fund to help fund the moving of the benches.
 RH (Playing Field) Anglian Water has still failed to repair the water main leak causing damage to the playing field. They have acknowledged the water belongs to them and now believe there is an old cast iron main under the pavement on Beach Road near the amusement arcade; they should be attempting a repair tomorrow. If this fails they will look outside the harbour office and the entrance to the playing field on Freeman Street.
- 16) To receive a report from the Field Study Working Party
 MG reported that NNC had offered to give the council the first offer to buy and the council had six months to agree a purchase. Scira should be ready to move out by November. Ian Scott had given a presentation on a possible use for the centre and had been asked to prepare a proposal for consideration.
- 17) 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:
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| Information Commissioner | Data Protection Annual Fee | 35.00 |
| British Telecom | Telephone Service | 81.76 |
| Brightview Internet | Broadband Service | 14.99 |
| Keith Leesmith | Clerk's Salary Deposit | 1000.00 |
| The following were agreed for payment: | | |
| Jimmy Tottle | Bollards | 220.00 |
| Veolia | Cemetery Waste Collection | 39.98 |
| Keith Leesmith | Salary (net of deposit) & Expenses | 634.86 |
| Norfolk Pension Fund | monthly contribution | 493.85 |
| MHB Services Ltd | Street Lighting Maintenance £306.70 | ----- |
| MHB Services Ltd | Replacement Lampost £939.96 | 1246.66 |
| E-on Energy Street | Lighting electricity | 462.04 |
| Edna Garrett | Sackhouse Cleaning | 22.50 |
| Viking Direct | stationery & rubbish bags | 415.82 |
| Terry Corbishley | Litter Picking | 177.10 |
- 18) To confirm Date of Next Meeting
 Confirmed as Monday 6 February 2012

The meeting closed at 2107