



Wells Town Council

Wells Community Hospital, Mill Rd,
Wells-next-the-Sea, NR23 1RF

MINUTES

2023/17

Town Council Meeting held at the Fourth Space, Wells Maltings on 4th September 2023 at 1933 hrs.

Those Present: Mel Catton (Chairman), Roger Arguile, Pauline Catton, Jessica Curtis, Lindsay Dew, Susan Rainsford, Joyce Trett & David Wines.

Greg Hewitt (Clerk), Peter Fisher & 4 members of the public.

1) Public Forum

Pat Weston thanked the Town Council for their support for the Carnival. Representatives of NNDC's Community Connectors spoke to the Councillors about the services they provide.

2) Reports

a) Police – No report received.

b) Norfolk County Council, Councillor Michael Dalby

A report was received which is available on the website.

c) North Norfolk District Council, Councillor Peter Fisher

Peter spoke about possible delays to large developments due to Government Nutrient Neutrality rules, which although being relaxed still required a change to legislation.

3) Apologies – Bob Curtis, Cheryl Curtis, Jen Davies, Peter Rainsford & Michael Dalby

4) To receive Declarations of Interest and consider any requests for Dispensations.
MC & LD item 11.

5) To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd July 2023.
Approved and signed.

6) To consider plans for the future maintenance and improvement of the children's playground.

JC outlined her plans for future improvements to the playground and the need to search for funding.

Resolved – To form a small working party, JC (Chair), MC, JT, RA, SR & Pat Weston.

7) To consider supporting the owner of the RCP Car Park on Freeman Street, in his negotiations with NNDC to keep the car park operating.

Councillors heard from the current owner of the land and his difficulty in getting planning permission to keep using the land as a car park. A particular difficulty was actually getting the planners at NNDC to sit down and talk with him.

Resolved – To support the landowner's application to use the land as a car park. District Councillor Peter Fisher was also asked if he could speak with the planners to facilitate talks.



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Minutes Continued

- 8) To consider the recommendations of the working party concerning the recruitment of a Town Clerk in Waiting.

Resolved – To accept the proposals put forward by the working party and immediately advertise the position.

- 9) To consider an amended premises licence application for the Pop Inn, The Quay.
Licencing at NNDC had informed the Council that the applicants' solicitors had agreed to make the following amendments to the premises licence application:

- The trading/licensable hours will only be until 23:00 hours 7 days a week.
- There will be no allowance for off-sales of alcohol to take place and alcohol must be for consumption on the premises only.
- Music will be played internally on the first floor only and not on the Open Roof Terrace area.

Resolved – The councillors agreed there was no objection to the application if these amendments were included in the licence.

- 10) To consider a quotation for the replacement of the posts around the little Buttlands.

MC had obtained a quotation for 24 oak 4 x4 post, including installation.

Resolved – To accept the quotation and have the posts installed.

- 11) To consider grant applications from Wells Croquet Group and Wells Christmas Tide Festival.

An additional application had also been received for consideration from Little Gillies Day Care.

Resolved – to grant Wells Croquet Group £450, Wells Christmas Tide Festival £800 and Little Gillies Day Care £650.

- 12) To consider increasing the number of dog bins provided by the Town Council.

Following a discussion, it was thought that it would be better if stickers could be affixed to the normal waste bins advising they could be used for dog waste, something NNDC allow.

Resolved – MC would liaise with Peter Fisher to find out if stickers were available from NNDC.

- 13) Reports

a) Town Clerk

The Clerk reported the following: A new streetlighting contract had been arranged with Cozens (UK) Limited. Enquiries had confirmed that the sea defence along the old east end railway cutting is maintained by the EA and is fit for purpose. There was a meeting with Duncan Baker MP concerning new counter terrorism legislation which could impact on events on the Buttlands, Duncan agreed to investigate. A Neighbourhood Plan grant form Locality had been received. There would be tree works on the Buttlands and Polka Road Cemetery in the Autumn.



Minutes Continued

b) Portfolio Holders/Committees/Working Parties/Councillors

SR (Maltings and Affordable Housing) Another NR23 Exhibition is taking place at the Maltings, featuring the work of local artists. Councillors are invited to a private viewing at 6pm Thursday 7th September 2023.

JC (Childrens Playground and Fairtrade) JC asked if she could make a grant application to the Carnival fund towards refurbishments on the playground (*Permission Given*). The Wells Fairtrade group had renewed their status.

JT (Allotments) Reported concerns about the parking situation on Mill Road.

MC (Traffic Management and Buttlands) Nothing to report on traffic management.

Two holes had appeared on the Buttlands that will need some attention. Reports young person's possibly using a motorcycle illegally around the town (*Police to be informed*).

LD (Market Lane Cemetery) Nothing to report.

PC (Health and Wellbeing) Reported concerns about the possible unlawful enclosure of land on Shop Lane and asked when NNDC would be updating their Street Trading policies.

14) Financial Report & Accounts for Settlement

The financial reports were circulated. These can be viewed at Appendix A and on the website.

Resolved – Accounts agreed, accepted and signed.

15) To confirm Date of Next Meeting – The date of the next meeting is subject to the availability of the Clerk, who will be going for Surgery. (Check the website for updates)

Meeting ends 2140 hrs.

