

Minutes

Town Council Meeting held at the Kiln Room, Wells Maltings, on 5 October 2020 at 1918 hrs

Those Present: Mike Gates (Chairman), Janet Angles, Roger Arguile, Mel Catton, Pauline Catton, Jessica Curtis, Lindsay Dew, Ray Hewitt, Peter Rainsford & Joyce Trett

Greg Hewitt (Clerk), Marie Strong, Peter Fisher, Press (The Quay) & 2 Members of the Public

1) Public Forum

A member of the public suggested the Council needs to be considering residents parking for the Town. The same resident was also concerned that more needed doing to protect Westgate Tollbar. Another resident asked why was the skatepark bin covered.

2) Reports

a) Police – A report was sent and is available on the website.

b) Norfolk County Council, Councillor Dr Marie Strong

Marie spoke about the latest draft proposals from the Boundary Commission for the Wells Division. She also advised that highways were now looking at the problem being caused by buses on Market Lane and there was a list of questions that needed answers from the council to inform the decision making.

c) North Norfolk District Councillor Peter Fisher

Peter advised that he would call in the planning application for 34 Freeman Street for NNDC's development committee to determine. NNDC had now administered 55 million pounds of Government Corvid grants to businesses. NNDC has expressed concerns about the Government proposal outlined in the new planning white paper. Due to Corvid restrictions it would not be possible to use some smaller polling stations if elections went ahead next year (RA raised an objection to this). LD asked about the proposed new toilets for Stearmans Yard. Peter advised that due to the Pandemic that none of the new toilet blocks had been built.

3) Apologies – Police

4) To receive Declarations of Interest and consider any requests for Dispensations
– MG Item 12, LD item 9

5) To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2020 Approved and signed.

6) To consider any response the Town Council wishes to make to the UK Government's white paper – "Planning for the Future".

Councillors expressed a number of concerns about the proposals made by the white paper including the impact on Neighbourhood Plans, the demise of public notices, the possible lack of housing provision for local need, a lack of rental properties and the impact on affordable housing.

Resolved – The Clerk to respond on the Council's behalf to the consultation.

- 7) To consider making long term financial arrangements for maintaining and improving the Market Lane Town Cemetery.
The Clerk advised that the roadways at the cemetery were deteriorating and that a significant sum in the future would be needed for repair.
Resolved – To save annually towards completing the work and prepare a 5-year costed plan.
- 8) To re-consider the leaflet proposed in July that was to be circulated to self-catering visitors, promoting businesses in the town.
Resolved – To leave businesses to do their own thing.
- 9) To consider a request from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group for the Town Council to finance the services of an administrator to help prepare the Neighbourhood Plan (RA)
Resolved – To set aside a sum of £10,000 in next years budget that can be made available if necessary subject to the authority of the Council.
- 10) To consider any items proposed by councillors to be included in the 2021/2022 budget.
Resolved – To allocate £10,000 towards funding improved parking enforcement.
- 11) To consider the purchase of “No Waiting Cones” for use by the Town Council.
Concerns were expressed about the legality and public liability of the Town Council placing out cones. The item was withdrawn.
- 12) To consider a grant application from Wells Maltings.
Resolved – To grant £250.
- 13) Reports
a) Town Clerk
The Clerk reported that all the work required for the changes to the town’s parking restrictions had been completed and there were no longer any seasonal parking restrictions in the town. Collection of the allotment rents had been delayed, while a system for collecting the rent was devised that was compliant with the Corvid – 19 restrictions. Did the council want to respond to the latest Boundary Commission proposals (*the Clerk was asked to reiterate the previous response*). NNDC has asked for a meeting with members concerning an Extra Care Facility in Wells, no further information had been given.
- e) Portfolio Holders/Committees
MC (Traffic and Parking) MC said that the new roundabout installed earlier in the year had been successful. Recent changes to the parking restrictions had thrown up some problems with drivers not wishing to pay for parking encroaching on other areas of the Town, something which would be discussed at future meetings. It must be acknowledged that the changes seen this year were down to many years of perseverance by Campbell MacCallum
- 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 - Confirmed as Monday 2 November 2020.

Meeting ends 2140