

COUNCIL MEETING – 9 JANUARY 2013

At the meeting of the Sprowston Town Council held at Sprowston Diamond Centre, School Lane, Sprowston on Wednesday 9 January 2013, the following Members were present:-

Mr K Lashley – Chairman

Mr J W Bracey - Mr R J Knowles
Mr W F Couzens - Mrs B J Lashley
Mr R B Dyball - Mr C L Noble
Mrs S A A Dyball - Mrs M R Roberts
Ms M Ho - Ms C T Rumsby

Mrs H Tovell

In attendance

Mrs J Hunt - Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
Mrs M Cook - Assistant Clerk and Senior Financial Officer
Mrs E Elliot - Committee Officer
Mrs J Leggett - County Councillor Old Catton and Sprowston West
Mr J Ward - County Councillor Sprowston Central and South East

3 Members of the public

13/001. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS

Member	Minute No & Heading	Nature of Interest
Mr C L Noble	13/0011 - Planning Application 12/1779	Non-pecuniary interest applicant is an ex- colleague

13/002. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Written apologies for absence were received from Mrs A Harper and Mr J H Mallen and verbal apologies from Mr C E Cutting.

13/003. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 12 December 2012, having previously been circulated to all Members, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman of the Council.

13/004. POLICE LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT

Members noted the incidents recorded in the crime statistics for Sprowston, circulated at the meeting.

13/005. RESIDENT'S QUESTIONS

On the motion of Mrs M R Roberts, seconded by Mr R B Dyball it was **RESOLVED** that the meeting be adjourned to receive residents' questions on matters concerning the town. Residents were reminded that their questions should be addressed to the Chairman who would, assisted by the Town Clerk, reply.

13/005. RESIDENT'S QUESTIONS (CONTINUED)

Mr J Ward

- congratulated Mrs J Leggett on her promotion to Deputy Cabinet Member for Schools
- advised that Derek Murphy had stood down whilst complaints made against him were being investigated
- confirmed that David White had made himself redundant as he did not feel he had the commercial ability to take the Council forward. The vacant post will be advertised at a lower salary.

Mrs J Leggett

- reported that there was an extra £8 million one-off funding being made available to invest in Norfolk, priorities are likely to include:

investing more in prevention services for vulnerable older people to, and enabling further progress with, 'Building a Better Future'.

supporting vulnerable children and families and helping mitigate the risks to support work posed by a significant reduction by government in the Early Intervention Grant

extra investment in school improvement work to help raise educational attainment for Norfolk's young people and extend their choices in life

investing in communities on schemes or projects that make a day to day difference for those that live in them. For example, community construction or infrastructure projects, activities for young people and parish highways schemes

investing in critical highways improvement schemes to support communities and businesses

- advised that waste electrical and electronic equipment could be taken to local recycling centres and as an incentive a chance of winning £100 worth of vouchers was being offered

The meeting was reconvened.

13/006. CORRESPONDENCE

The following information was circulated prior to the meeting.

- (a) NALC - Localisation of Council Tax
- (b) Norfolk Link - Issue 189
- (c) Parish Pages - Issue No. 57
- (d) Parish Precept for Financial Year 2013/2014 (Letter from Broadland District Council).

13/007. Norfolk County Council - Construction Industry and Community-led Building Projects Fund

Further to Minute 12/244, the Town Clerk reported that the Council had been successful in their grant bid and had been awarded £100,000 by Norfolk County Council towards the re-development of Sprowston Diamond Centre.

13/008. INTERGRATED YOUTH SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, SCHOOL LANE

Referring to Minute 011/206, where it was agreed that payment for the purchase of Sprowston Diamond Centre be split over three years, having examined budgets in detail the Town Clerk advised that as any interest to be gained by investment was negligible it would be beneficial to the Council to pay the total purchase cost of the building. Being sole owners would be advantageous when applying for possible future grants and limit Norfolk County Council's involvement in future development such as building control and planning applications.

RESOLVED to authorise the Town Clerk to arrange to pay the total purchase cost of Sprowston Diamond Centre.

13/009. REVIEW OF FEES

(a) Cemetery & Memorial Charges

RESOLVED to increase residential fees for 2013/14 by 2.5 % rounded down to the £10 below, with a cap so that resident's fees do not rise above 50% of non-residents fees with effect from 1 April 2013.

(b) Sports Hire Fees

RESOLVED that no change be made to Sports Hire Fees

(c) Facility Hire Fees

RESOLVED that no change be made to Facility Hire Fees.

(d) Allotment Rents and Water Charges

RESOLVED to increase allotment rents for 2013/14 by £1.00 and water charges by 50 pence with effect from 1 October 2013.

13/010. DRAFT REVENUE AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAMME 2013/14

The Town Clerk explained the impact of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and how Broadland District Council intended to administer the bonus offered to those Councils prepared to set a zero precept. Members then considered the proposed 2013/14 budget for income against expenditure and savings, and authorised the Town Clerk to implement managerial savings where possible with immediate effect.

13/011. PLANNING

The Town Clerk reported that observations had been requested by the District Council's Head of Development Management & Conservation on planning applications received since the last meeting.

Having considered each application and the accompanying plans the Council

RESOLVED

(a) to raise no observations or objection to the granting of the following application:

12/1740 - rear extension at 25, Greenborough Road

12/1779 - single storey side and rear extension at 4, Cromwell Road

(b) to note planning application 12/1742 - scoping opinion - development of up to 93,400 sqm of aviation related floor space (comprised of industry, storage or

13/011. PLANNING (CONTINUED)

distribution and ancillary office space) and new access road from A140 roundabout at Norwich International Airport

- (c) to oppose the granting of planning application 12/1792 - 2. No Non-Illuminated Fascia Signs, 1 No. Illuminated Wall Sign and 1. No Illuminated Pole Sign at Norfolk Trucks Ltd, School Lane on the grounds that illuminated signage is an unneighbourly form of development in a predominantly residential area, particularly signage (D), which would shine into the bedrooms of properties opposite. It was also felt that this level of signage was unnecessary as there is no passing business trade in this area.

13/012. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mrs S A A Dyball, seconded by Mr R J Knowles it was

RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting for a short break.

The meeting was reconvened.

12/013. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 1Y

On the motion of Mr R J Knowles, seconded by Mrs S A A Dyball it was

RESOLVED to suspend Standing Order 1Y to complete the business of the evening.

13/014. PRECEPT

Members were extremely disappointed with Broadland District Council's precept policy and administration of the parish precept shortfall grant offered to Councils prepared to set a zero precept.

Following discussion Mr W F Couzens and Ms C T Rumsby volunteered to speak to the local press on this issue.

RESOLVED

- to defer setting the precept until the next meeting of the Council
- that the Chairman write to the Secretary of State, Eric Pickles copy to Chloe Smith MP and Phil Kirby Chief Executive Broadland District Council with regard to the District Council's precept policy for 2013/14 and administration of the parish precept shortfall grant offered to Councils prepared to set a zero precept .
- Mr K Lashley to attend and speak at Broadland District Council's Cabinet meeting to be held 15 January 2013, commencing 7:00pm.

13/015. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer presented the schedule of accounts to 9 January 2013 totalling £35,947.92 and answered Members' questions arising therefrom.

On the motion of Mrs S A A Dyball, seconded by Mr W F Couzens it was

13/015. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

RESOLVED that payment of the accounts to 9 January 2013 totalling £35,947.92 be approved and the schedule authorising payment signed by Ms M Ho and Mr R J Knowles.

13/016. SCHEDULE OF CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS

The schedule of credit card payments totalling £476.52 was approved and noted.

13/017. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL'S WORKING GROUPS

No written reports were received.

13/018. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Written reports were received from Mr W F Couzens, District Councillor, Mrs J Leggett and Mr J Ward, County Councillors.

13/019. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS REPRESENTING THE COUNCIL ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

No written reports were received.

13/020. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 8

No questions under Standing Order 8 were received.

There being no other necessary business the Chairman of the Council thanked Members for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.

30 January 2013

CHAIRMAN