

COUNCIL MEETING – 20 FEBRUARY 2013

At the meeting of the Sprowston Town Council held at Sprowston Diamond Centre, School Lane, Sprowston on Wednesday 20 February 2013, the following Members were present:-

Mr K Lashley – Chairman

Mr R J Knowles	-	Mrs B J Lashley
Mr R B Dyball	-	Mr J H Mallen
Mrs S A A Dyball	-	Mr C L Noble
Mrs A Harper	-	Mrs M R Roberts
Ms C T Rumsby	-	Mrs H Tovell

In attendance

Mrs J Hunt	-	Town Clerk and Responsible 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

6 Members of the public

13/046. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary and other interests were received.

13/047. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Written apologies for absence were received from Mr W F Couzens and verbal apologies for absence were received from Mr J W Bracey, Mr C E Cutting and Ms Ho.

13/048. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 30 January 2013, having previously been circulated to all Members, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman of the Council.

13/049. POLICE LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting PCSO Kane Casburn who elaborated on some of the incidences recorded in the crime statistics for Sprowston, previously circulated.

PCSO Casburn reported that PCSO's had recently been trained in the use of speed indicator equipment, which will now be in greater use around the parish.

13/050. RESIDENT'S QUESTIONS

On the motion of Mrs M R Roberts, seconded by Mr R J Knowles 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.

13/050. RESIDENT'S QUESTIONS (CONTINUED)

Mrs M Howes remarked that at the Council meeting held 13 February 2013 Members had commented on the development proposals submitted by Beyond Green but did not reject the whole application preventing Sprowston being covered in housing?

Mr K Lashley replied that the Council had a choice to accept, reject or seek to influence the application to suit the needs of Sprowston, assuming approval of the planning authority Joint Core Strategy.

Mrs J Leggett reported:

- Norfolk County Council Trading Standards were reassuring the public that investigations were being actively carried out with regard to horse meat in the food chain. Whilst there are no approved horse abattoirs in Norfolk, scheduled inspections will be carried out at meat and processing plants. All school meals can be traced.
- free 30 minute NHS health checks were being offered to people between 40 and 74 living in Norfolk.

Mr J Ward reported:

- Norfolk County Council had agreed to freeze Council Tax for the third successive year despite a £1.5bn budget being reduced by £60m, over 3 years, by central Government. As an amendment to the budget due to new homes bonus cash, further savings and some cash from reserves the following was agreed:- £1m for new housing to be developed by the Authority, £125k to attract new EU funding, £500k for Rural Transport, £250k for Norse Apprentice Scheme, £30k to support new micro businesses, £250k Nelsons Journey, £25k Armed Forces Covenant and £250k to strengthen Safeguarding Services
- the drive for Road Safety Volunteers had been a success with over 70 people offering their services. Volunteers could still register at www.norfolk.gov.uk/mindroad
- the "Parish Partnership" Scheme for local highway improvements will be repeated in 2013/14. The cash available has been raised from £100k to £1m and the County Council will now support up to 75% of the cost. Bids should be in by 30 March 2013.
- Steven Bett, Police & Crime Commissioner has recommended a 1.965% increase.
- there is a new public exhibition at the Norfolk Record Office featuring some of the most interesting and unusual items it owns one of which is a 15 century Swan Roll with outline drawings of 99 swan's heads with their owners names
- on 12 February Mr Ward attended the Double Club Presentation at Norwich City Football Club where youngsters from various schools including Sprowston High School received awards following their English and Maths, football based course.

The meeting was reconvened.

13/051. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk reported that she had received correspondence from MacMillan Cancer Care, Age Concern and Norfolk Accident Rescue thanking the Council for their donations.

13/052. REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

ALLOTMENTS, PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

1.1 No matters were reported

CEMETERY

1.2 No matters were reported

STREET LIGHTING

3.1 Norfolk County Council

Members noted the increased funding for the "Parish Partnerships" initiative to £1,000.000 and Norfolk County Council's suggestion, as a possible scheme for consideration, to install low-energy LED lighting in streetlights owned by parish/town councils.

Following debate Mr K Lashley asked Members to consider other schemes that could be pursued under the "Parish Partnerships" initiative and bring their ideas forward at the next meeting of the Council and it was

RESOLVED to note the offer by Norfolk County Council and move on to the next item of business.

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL

4.1 General Power of Competence

Having met the qualifications of elected membership and qualified Clerk it was

RESOLVED under the Localism Act 2011 to adopt the General Power of Competence, to be reconsidered in May 2015 following parish elections.

4.2 Bank Accounts

RESOLVED to authorise the signing of the authority form to open an Active Saver Account with Barclays Bank.

4.3 Old Catton/Rackheath/Sprowston/Thorpe St Andrew Growth Triangle Area Action Plan Consultation briefing session for parish and town councils

RESOLVED

that Mrs B J Lashley and Mr C L Noble attend the above briefing to be held Tuesday 5 March 2013, 6:30pm, Council Chamber, Broadland District Council Offices

Mr K Lashley, Mrs H Tovell and the Town Clerk attend the above briefing to be held Friday 8 March 2013, 10:00am, Council Chamber, Broadland District Council Offices and that their proper expenses be met in accordance with the Council's scheme of allowances.

13/052. REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK (CONTINUED)

4.4 Norfolk Association of Local Councils

Members noted the seminar on current initiatives around the "Climate Change" theme to be held March 7 2013, 9.15 - 1.00 to be held in the Conference Room at Richmond Park Golf Club, Watton.

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

5.1 Norfolk County Council

Members noted the re-introduction by FirstNorwich of the bus service from Spixworth Road to Norwich centre am and pm.

13/053. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mr R B Dyball, seconded by Mrs M R Roberts it was

RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting for a short break.

The meeting was reconvened.

13/054. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

to raise no observations or objection to the granting of the following applications:

13/0168 - two storey side extension at 86, Wroxham Road

13/0188 - single storey front and rear extension and two storey side extension including annexe (re-submission) at 78, Cromwell Road

13/0194 - single storey rear extension at 58, Cromwell Road

13/055. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer presented the schedule of accounts to 20 February 2013 totalling £41,909.46 and answered Members' questions arising therefrom.

Mr C L Noble queried whether the snow clearing service provided by Whitings was real value for money and asked how it compared with other suppliers of this service, if there were any. He requested a breakdown of the invoice, particularly man hours and plant used.

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

RESOLVED that payment of the accounts to 20 February 2013 totalling £41.909.46 be approved and the schedule authorising payment signed by Mrs B J Lashley and Mr J H Mallen.

13/056. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL'S WORKING GROUPS

No written reports were received.

13/057. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Mr J Ward gave a verbal report under Minute 2013/050.

13/058. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS REPRESENTING THE COUNCIL ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

No written reports were received.

13/059. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 8

Mr C L Noble asked "When will this Council join with neighbouring councils and other parties the CPRE lead campaign calling on the GNDP to reconsider the JCS proposals for NS&OC in general and Beyond Greens outline planning application in particular"

RESOLVED that this item be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting of the Council.

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

13 March 2013

CHAIRMAN