

COUNCIL MEETING – 12 MARCH 2014

At the meeting of the Sprowston Town Council held at Sprowston Diamond Centre, School Lane, Sprowston on Wednesday 12 March 2014, 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 J H Mallen
Mrs S A A Dyball	-	Mrs M R Roberts
Mr R A Fowkes	-	Ms C T Rumsby
Ms M Ho	-	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

2 Members of the public

14/053. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary and other interests were received.

14/054. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Written apologies for absence were received from Mrs A Harper and Mr C L Noble.

14/055. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council's meeting held on 19 February 2014, having previously been circulated to all Members, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman of the Council.

14/056. POLICE LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting, PC Keith Lambert who elaborated on some of the incidences recorded in the crime statistics for Sprowston since the last meeting.

14/057. CORRESPONDENCE

Parish Pages Issue No. 62 was circulated at the meeting.

14/058. RESIDENT'S QUESTIONS

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

Reverend Cannon Simon Stokes commented that although he realised that an item concerning Church Lane parking issues had been discussed he would ask the Council to revisit the proposal in view of further information.

14/058. RESIDENT'S QUESTIONS (CONTINUED)

Reverend Stokes stated that he believed there was a health and safety issue along the area of Church Lane adjacent to St Mary and St Margarets Church. He was aware of anxiety with regards to the Lane, particularly in view of two significant road rage incidents this winter involving drivers who had been walking their dogs forcing funeral corteges to reverse. The cars causing problems by narrowing the Lane had not been related to the services taking place and it had been distressing for the families involved.

On occasions when there are no services there are still cars parked in Church Lane as the car park is underutilised. He felt the solution suggested by Norfolk County Council would alleviate a great deal of frustration and concern for funeral directors and their employees. He also pointed out that during weddings bridal cars often stopped more centrally to allow sufficient room for occupants with large dresses to alight.

The Chairman replied that he had been observing the situation when services were not taking place and intended to have a look on the occasion of a large service to study the situation.

Mrs Howes enquired as to why Sprowston had the third highest Council Tax in the area.

The Chairman responded that Sprowston was a very large parish with many parks, open spaces and buildings to maintain. The Council had also recently purchased the cemetery extension which needed to be funded. He assured Mrs Howes that the Council was always frugal with their expenditure and she was welcome to inspect the accounts.

Mrs Leggett reported:

- the A134 was being controlled by toad watch patrollers and were in first place in the Frog Life charity league;
- Social Workers were being placed in Schools to encourage closer working;
- the resurfacing of Chartwell Road to take place in April 2014;
- young people were being encouraged to vote for the Youth Parliament by text for first time.

The meeting was reconvened.

14/059. REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

COMMUNITY BUILDINGS, ALLOTMENTS, PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

1.1 No Matters were reported

CEMETERY

2.1 Cemetery Building Progress

Members accepted the report of the Town Council noting use of the contingency budget for the removal of asbestos and repairs to drainage.

STREET LIGHTING

3.1 No matters were reported

14/059. REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK (CONTINUED)

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL

4.1 Visit by Nick Boles MP

Members were invited to attend a re-arranged visit by Nick Boles to be held Thursday 10 April 2014 to include a visit to Sprowston Diamond Centre.

4.2 Emergencies Outside Working Hours

Having considered the report of the Town Clerk it was

RESOLVED to

- (a) offer a retainer of £50 for each week a member of staff was on call.
- (b) pay double time for the number of hours a member of staff was called out with a minimum payment of two hours.
- (c) implement a rota system of volunteer senior members of staff.

4.3 New Local Government Pension Scheme

Members accepted the Local Government Pension Scheme rate for the next three years to be implemented on 1 April 2014.

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

5.1 North Sprowston and Old Catton Programme Board

Minutes of the North Sprowston and Old Catton Programme Board meeting attended were circulated at the meeting.

5.2 Carriageway resurfacing Chartwell Road between the Fire Station and Sprowston Road Roundabout

Members noted the advance notice of maintenance works to the public highway at Chartwell Road between the Fire Station and Sprowston Road Roundabout commencing Monday 7 April 2014. Work will take place from 7:00pm each evening and take no more than 5 days.

5.3 Push the Pedalways

Members noted the cycle infrastructure improvements being explored by Norwich City Council including the following proposals:

- restricting traffic speeds in Heartsease and the Greenborough Road area to 20mph;
- creating new tree-lined paths across the open space near the Heartsease Tower;
- better connection for cyclists and pedestrians across Woodside Road.

5.4 Norwich Northern Distributor Road - Notice of Acceptance of Application for a Development Consent Order by the Secretary of State

Members noted that the Secretary of State had accepted an application by Norfolk County Council for a Development Acceptance Order and that full details of the application documents were available on disc at Norwich Millennium Library, Broadland District Council and Sprowston library.

14/059. REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK (CONTINUED)

ENCLOSURES

- 6.1 (i) NALC Appraisal Training
(ii) Norfolk Association of local Councils Link Issue 194**

14/060. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

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

RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting for a short break.

The meeting was reconvened.

14/061. 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 following applications:

- 14/0285 - single storey rear extension at 16, Inman Road
- 14/0352 - change of use from office (B1) to Health and Beauty Salon (A2) at 1A, Caston Industrial Estate
- 14/0382 - single storey front extension and demolish and replace outbuilding to rear at 77, Blackwell Avenue

- (b) to oppose the granting of planning application 14/0354 on the grounds that it is overdevelopment of the site, not subservient to the original dwelling, unneighbourly and out of keeping with the surrounding area. Furthermore, access to the property is via a busy junction with A1151 Wroxham Road and any additional traffic should not be encouraged.

14/062. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer presented the schedule of accounts to 12 March 2014 totalling £55,699.21 and answered Members' questions arising therefrom.

On the motion of Mr R J Knowles, seconded by Mrs B J Lashley it was

RESOLVED that payment of the accounts to 12 March 2014 totalling £55,699.21 be approved and the schedule authorising payment signed by Ms M Ho and Mr J H Mallen.

14/063. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL'S WORKING GROUPS

No written reports were received.

14/064. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

A written report was received from Mr W F Couzens, District Councillor, Mrs J Leggett and Mr J Ward, County Councillors.

14/065. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS REPRESENTING THE COUNCIL ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

No written reports were received.

14/066. 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.

2 April 2014

CHAIRMAN