

## COUNCIL MEETING – 18 SEPTEMBER 2019

At the meeting of the Sprowston Town Council held at the Council Chamber, Recreation Ground Road, Sprowston on Wednesday 18 September 2019, the following Members were present: -

Mr J M Ward – Town Mayor

Mr A J Barton	-	Mrs B J Lashley
Mr M G Callam	-	Mrs J Leggett
Ms D Coleman	-	Mr J H Mallen
Mrs B Cook	-	Ms C T Rumsby
Mr W F Couzens	-	Mr S C Walker

In attendance

Mr G Ranaweera	-	Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
Mrs E Elliot	-	Committee Officer

2 members of the public were present

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### **19/228. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Minute No. and Heading</b>	<b>Nature of Interest</b>
Mrs J Leggett	19/233 (3) - Sprowston Youth Engagement Project - Three Peak Challenge	Trustee
Mr J M Ward	19/238 1.1 - Broadland District Council Enhancement Awards	Panel member judging the Broadland District Council Enhancement Awards

### **19/229. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Written apologies for absence were received and accepted by the Council from Mr J F Fisher, Mr R J Knowles, Mr I J Mackie and Mr N Shaw.

### **19/230. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Council's meeting held on 28 August 2019, having previously been circulated to all Members, were subject to the following amendment

Minute 19/216 (3), delete documents and insert document

Minute 19/218 5.1, delete to begin preliminary consultation with confirmed and signed by the Town Mayor of the Council.

## **19/231. POLICE LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT**

Norfolk Constabulary's Newsletter was unavailable.

## **19/232. TRAFFIC STATISTICS - WHITE WOMAN LANE**

Members noted that speed of vehicles travelling from North Walsham Road were higher than in the opposite direction. The Town Clerk was requested to provide some clarification on how the week day 85<sup>th</sup> percentile was calculated.

## **19/233. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **(1) Planning Application 2019/1193 Change of Use from A1 Office to D1 Education at 1F, Sapphire Business park, Sapphire House, Rountree Way**

Further to Minute 19/220 (b), Planning Application 2019/1193 Change of Use from A1 Office to D1 Education at 1F, Sapphire Business Park, Sapphire House, Rountree Way the Town Clerk reported that this application was to be considered by Broadland District Council's Planning Committee at its meeting to be held on Wednesday 2 October 2019.

It was agreed that Members view the application online, when available, and send their comments to the Town Clerk to collate and forward to the Planning Authority.

### **(2) Litter Bin - North Walsham Road**

Further to Minute 19/201, the Town Clerk reported that as Broadland District Council had not had any reports of a litter problem in the vicinity of the bus-stop they had declined to install a bin at this time.

A query was raised as to whether the bus stop in question was the correct location.

### **(3) Sprowston Youth Engagement Project (SYEP) - Three Peak Challenge**

Referring to Minute 19/218 1.2, the Town Clerk reported that SYEP thanked the Town Council for their sponsorship. Unfortunately, the vehicle transporting the SYEP team on the way to the challenge broke down and they were unable to undertake the challenge on the original date. They have booked to try again in October and would be grateful if the Town Council would continue with sponsorship on that occasion.

It was agreed that Council continue with their sponsorship of SYEP for their October challenge.

### **(4) 20MPH Road Surface Signage - Russell Avenue**

Further to Minute 19/197, the Town Clerk reported that PC Tupper was in agreement with the proposal to paint 20mph signage on the road surface of Russell Avenue. However, he suggested signage is not positioned too close to the junction as it is unlikely people will see it as they will be concentrating on looking in to the corner.

## **19/233. CORRESPONDENCE (CONTINUED)**

### **(5) Invitation to Town Mayor's Reception**

Members noted the Invitation from Mr J F Fisher, Town Mayor, Thorpe St. Andrew to a reception at the Town Hall, Fitzmaurice Park Pound Lane to be held Tuesday 22 October 2019, which was circulated at the meeting.

## **19/234. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

A written report was received from Mr J M Ward.

Mr J M Ward also verbally reported:

### **Broadland District Council**

- (1) at Broadland District Council's full Council meeting held on 17 September 2019, it was agreed to charge new properties for their wheelie bins. There will be a charge of £55.00 to cover the cost of grey and green bins to be paid by the householder or developer.
- (2) Broadland District Council has reversed a previous decision and decided to retain the freehold of the Bure Valley Railway and path, a 9 mile stretch from Aylsham to Wroxham. An advantageous agreement has been made with the operators following access to a £1.2m grant with the assistance of Norfolk County Council.

### **Norfolk County Council**

- (3) on 13 September 2019 I attended the Battle of Britain Commemoration at County Hall which included 3 flypasts by a Spitfire.
- (4) Norwich is set to benefit from a new cycle bridge across the Wensum funded by the Department of Transport through Sustrans. The bridge will cross the river between St. Georges Street and Duke Street and be part of a new cycle link to Marriots Way.

In response to a question regarding an item in his written report, Mr Ward confirmed that the Office for Low Emission Vehicles was a Government Department.

Referring to Mr Ward's verbal report Mrs B J Lashley asked who was responsible for the maintenance of bridges on the Bure Valley Railway, to which Mr Ward responded Broadland District Council

Mrs J Leggett verbally reported that:

- (1) Dr Hayley Pinto would be talking to Broadland District Council Members about climate change, health and associated problems.
- (2) she had the pleasure of presenting certificates to children at Sprowston Library who had completed the Summer Reading Challenge.
- (3) she had not received any requests for financial assistance as part of Broadland District Council's grant scheme for local projects and activities.

### **19/235. RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS**

On the motion of Mr J M Ward, seconded by Mr I J Walker 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 Town Mayor who would, assisted by the Town Clerk, reply.

Mr Moore advised that the litter bin referred to earlier in the meeting was required at the bus stop on North Walsham Road junction with Edwards Road.

Mr Moore also suggested a number of people who he felt should be nominated for the BBC Radio Norfolk: Norfolk's Volunteers of the year. The Town Mayor advised Mr Moore to make his nominations through the appropriate website.

The meeting was reconvened

### **19/236. NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION**

Members considered Norfolk County Council's consultation on a proposal to increase the number of places from 10 to 18 at the complex needs Specialist Resource Base at Sprowston Infant School.

Whilst the Council was supportive a number of concerns were expressed including appropriate funding being available for the additional places, only capital costs were referred to in the consultation and lack of publicity.

Mr J M Ward advised he would be attending the drop-in event on Wednesday 25 September 2019 at Sprowston Infant School and suggested that Councillors might like to attend this event as there would be an opportunity to ask questions.

Given the population increase in Sprowston and demand for this service it was

#### **RESOLVED**

That the Town Council's response to the consultation is to strongly agree but express concern regarding the provision of adequate funding of the additional places.

### **19/237. NOMINATIONS FOR VOLUNTEER AWARDS**

(1) Community at Heart Awards run by Broadland District Council

Mr W F Couzens advised that he had requested the Town Clerk place this item on the agenda following approaches from members of the community.

Mrs B J Lashley commented that it was a good opportunity to bring attention to how much volunteering took place in Sprowston.

Whilst recognising the many volunteers in Sprowston Mrs Lashley suggested Mr Bill Sayer who had been leader of the 45<sup>th</sup> Norwich (St. Cuthbert's) Scouts for 30 years a long serving, committed individual.

**RESOLVED** that

## **19/237. NOMINATIONS FOR VOLUNTEER AWARDS (CONTINUED)**

- (1.1) Council recommend Mr Sayer for the Broadland District Council Community at Heart Awards
  - (1.2) Mrs B J Lashley liaise with the Town Clerk to prepare the recommendation
  - (1.3) other nominations should be made by Councillors on an individual basis.
- (2) BBC Radio Norfolk's Volunteers of the Year
- (2.1) Council recommend Mr Sayer for the Broadland District Council Community at Heart Awards
  - (2.2) Mrs B J Lashley liaise with the Town Clerk to prepare the recommendation
  - (2.3) other nominations should be made by Councillors on an individual basis.

## **19/238. REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK**

### **COMMUNITY BUILDINGS, ALLOTMENTS, PARKS AND OPEN SPACES**

#### **1.1 Broadland District Council Enhancement Awards**

Having considered the report of the Town Clerk it was noted that 9 October 2019 was a Wednesday not Friday as indicated.

**RESOLVED** that Council participate in the Broadland District Council Enhancement Awards and Mr W F Couzens, Mrs B J Lashley and Mrs J Leggett meet the Panel on Wednesday 9 October 2019.

### **CEMETERY**

#### **2.1 No matters were reported**

### **STREET LIGHTING**

#### **3.1 No matters were reported**

### **CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL**

#### **4.1 Grounds Staff**

Members noted the return of a member of ground staff following long term sickness and the cessation of hiring temporary cover.

#### **4.2 Invitation from Thorpe Town Council to Sprowston Councillors to attend Harvest Festival Civic Service**

Members noted the invitation from Thorpe Town Council to the Harvest Festival and Civic Service to be held on Sunday 6 October 2019 at Parish Church, River Green, Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St. Andrew.

## **19/238. REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK (CONTINUED)**

### **PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION**

#### **5.1 No matters were reported**

### **GRANT AND SPONSORSHIP REQUESTS**

#### **6.1 Sprowston Library**

Members considered the request from Sprowston library to sponsor a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) event at the library to promote and celebrate diversity in the community following the theft of the donation box.

Mr M G Callam proposed, seconded by Mr W F Couzens to give a donation of £70.00 to hold a LGBT event at Sprowston library in accordance with its powers under section 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, and on being put to the vote the motion was CARRIED.

#### **6.2 Grant Aid - Norfolk Citizens Advice**

Members considered the request from Norfolk Citizens Advice

Mrs J Leggett proposed a donation of £250.00, this proposal was not seconded.

Mr M G Callam proposed, seconded by W F Couzens a donation of £500.00.

Mrs B J Lashley proposed an immediate donation of £250.00 with a view to a further donation within the current financial year, subject to the Council's financial situation, this proposal was not seconded.

**RESOLVED** that a donation of £500.00 be made to Norfolk Citizens Advice to help with extended opening times in accordance with its powers under section 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972.

## **19/239. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Mr J M Ward, seconded by Mr W F Couzens it was **RESOLVED** to adjourn the meeting for a short break.

The meeting was reconvened.

## **19/240. PLANNING**

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

Having considered each application and the accompanying plans the Council

### **RESOLVED**

- (a) to raise no objection to the granting of planning application 2019/1395 - two storey side extension at 77, Cromwell Road

## 19/240. PLANNING (CONTINUED)

- (b) to oppose the granting of planning application 2019/0758 - reserved matters application following grant of outline planning permission 20160498 for the phase 1 residential development comprising 251 houses & associated infrastructure & details reserved by conditions 18 (LEMP), 25 (Landscaping), 26 (Tree Protection), 27 (Ground Investigation) & 28 (archaeology) (EIA Application) at Land to the South of Salhouse Road on the following grounds:
1. road system is inadequate: Ingress and egress to/from the development through only a single point via Salhouse Road was considered inadequate and likely to cause traffic strain on Salhouse Road.
  2. inconvenience for pedestrians: Sections of Salhouse Road footway are not paved. This means pedestrians wishing to access the development from that direction would be required to walk on unmade muddy footways or on the road itself. Unless the inadequate footway on Salhouse Road is addressed, the likely increase in pedestrian numbers on Salhouse Road caused by this development would be unsafe.
  3. failure to meet housing needs: the proposed 15% affordable housing is inadequate and falls below the guidance for affordable dwellings on new developments.
  4. insufficient amenity land: The provided open space is mostly dominated by open ponds and is therefore of limited use. Furthermore, the specified post-and-rail fences around the ponds are easy to climb and are inadequate for the purposes of excluding children from the areas of water danger.
  5. inappropriate location for the LEAP. The LEAP should be in a more central location and overlooked to better serve residents.
- (c) to oppose the granting of planning application 2019/1368 - sub-division of existing garden to no. 286 to form 2 new semi-detached dwellings (outline) at 286, Blue Boar Lane on the grounds that it is an over development of the site, detrimental to neighbours and an inappropriate development for this location. Concern was expressed regarding possible loss of mature indigenous trees and insufficient onsite parking causing obstruction to the highway.
- (d) to strongly oppose the granting of planning application 2019/1370 - residential development of up to 516 dwellings, a local centre comprising up to 0.25ha of A1-A5 & D1 uses, with associated infrastructure & landscaping at Land at White House Farm, Salhouse Road on the grounds that:
1. amenity spaces are disjointed and too small to promote activities such as informal ball games.
  2. play area locations are not central or overlooked by housing for the safety of children. One location boarder a main road.
  3. the definition of public open space is not met. Footpaths and verges should not count towards public open space, be it formal or informal

#### **19/240. PLANNING (CONTINUED)**

4. the area allocated for the local centre is too small for all its possible uses and should be located in a more central, convenient position near White House Farm. This could then serve other housing sites.
5. there is no provision for community buildings with adequate parking
6. the development is not well planned and spread too widely
7. inconvenience and dangerous for pedestrians: Sections of Salhouse Road footway are not paved. This means pedestrians wishing to access the development from that direction would be required to walk on unmade muddy footways or on the road itself. Unless the inadequate footway on Salhouse Road is addressed, the likely increase in pedestrian numbers on Salhouse Road caused by this development would be unsafe.

#### **19/241. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS**

No written reports were received.

#### **19/242. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS REPRESENTING THE COUNCIL ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

Minutes of the Safer Neighbourhood Meeting held 10 September 2019 were circulated at the meeting.

Councillors were pleased to note the compliment from a resident regarding the excellent upkeep of Sprowston Recreation Ground.

Members congratulated PC Tupper on his temporary promotion to Sergeant.

Mrs B J Lashley reported that NorfolkALC was working with Professor Tim O'Riordan to launch future events on wellbeing and other related subjects.

#### **19/243. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

The Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer presented the schedule of accounts to 18 September 2019 totalling £10,203.19.

On the motion of Mr J M Ward, seconded by Mr S C Walker it was **RESOLVED** that payment of the accounts to 18 September 2019 totalling £10,203.19 be approved and the schedule authorising payment signed by Mrs B J Lashley and Mr J M Ward.

#### **19/244. SCHEDULE OF CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS**

The schedule of credit card payments totalling £50.86 was approved and noted.

#### **19/245. SCHEDULE OF DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENTS**

The schedule of direct debit payments totalling £8,490.05 was approved and noted.



**19/246. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Mr J M Ward proposed, seconded by Mr W F Couzens to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting for the remaining business because otherwise, information which is exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 would be disclosed to them and on being put to the vote the motion was **CARRIED**.

**20/247. PLANNING ENFORCEMENT UPDATE - AUGUST 2019**

Members noted Broadland District Council's Planning Enforcement Update August 2019 and written response from officers following enquiries from the Town Clerk regarding two ongoing open cases in Sprowston.

Referring to a site with broken fencing and dumped white goods Mrs B J Lashley suggested that Broadland Planning Enforcement be requested to check that this site was safe and a follow up call be made to the land owner.

Mr W F Couzens reported that a hedge on the junction of Couzens Hardy Road and Dixon Road was overgrowing the pavement by at least a metre.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk contact Norfolk County Council to resolve this matter.

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

**9 October 2019**

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**Town Mayor**