

COUNCIL MEETING – 11 MARCH 2020

At the meeting of the Sprowston Town Council held at the Council Chamber, Recreation Ground Road, Sprowston on Wednesday 11 March 2020, the following Members were present: -

Mr J M Ward – Town Mayor

Mr A J Barton	-	Mr R J Knowles
Mr M G Callam	-	Mrs B J Lashley
Ms D Coleman	-	Mr I J Mackie
Mr W F Couzens	-	Mr J H Mallen

In attendance

Mr G Ranaweera	-	Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
Mrs E Elliot	-	Committee Officer
Mr R Craggs	-	Sprowston Resident

2 members of the public were present

20/057. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary and other interests.

20/058. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Written apologies for absence were received and accepted by the Council from Mrs B Cook, Mrs J Leggett, Ms C T Rumsby and Mr I J Walker and verbal apologies from Mr J F Fisher and Mr N Shaw.

20/059. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council's meeting held on 19 February 2020, having previously been circulated to all Members were confirmed and signed by the Town Mayor of the Council.

20/060. ACTIONS FROM MINUTES

(1) Option to agree revised Section 38 street lighting scheme for Land to the South of Salhouse Road, Barrett David Wilson Homes Development draft 3.

Further to Minute 20/041 (3), having considered the revised street lighting scheme Mrs B J Lashley suggested that potential buyers should be advised in advance of roadways without footway lighting.

Mr J M Ward proposed, seconded by Mr I J Mackie to accept the revised Section 38 street lighting scheme for Land to the South of Salhouse Road, Barrett David Wilson Homes development and on being put to the vote the motion was CARRIED.

20/060. ACTIONS FROM MINUTES (CONTINUED)

(2) Barkers Lane - Proposal for New Dog Waste Bin

Further to Minute 19/046 1.1, Ms D Coleman reported that the dog bin located at the entrance to Barkers Lane open space opposite Church Green was larger than the bin on the corner of Church Lane and Bakers Lane, and less used. She suggested the two bins be swapped.

RESOLVED that the 25 litre and 40 litre dog bins at Barkers Lane be swapped.

20/061. DEVELOPERS SPORTS AND ALLOTMENTS OFF-SITE CONTRIBUTIONS

Apologies were received from Sally Hoare, Broadland District Council Community Infrastructure Coordinator who had been scheduled to speak about developer off-site contributions for formal sports and allotment provision.

The Town Clerk instead gave a brief overview of the situation faced by Sprowston and Town Council:

- Multiple developments of several hundred homes each had been approved in the Sprowston area
- Developments are required to provide formal recreational or allotment facilities, but Broadland District's current planning guidance has meant these do not have to be provided within their development sites
- Developers will instead be allowed to make financial contributions to fund Town Council to provide the required facilities elsewhere in Sprowston
- In the not too distant future Town Council will receive several million pounds in developer contributions for off-site formal recreation and allotment facilities
- Given the scale of expected contributions it is highly likely Council will need to purchase land to provide these facilities in the most appropriate locations
- Available land in Sprowston is already scarce. It is becoming scarcer and more expensive
- Council needs to act now to identify appropriate ways to spend this money otherwise it will have to be paid back to developers
- One option is to engage with partner organisations, such as Norfolk FA who can help explore creating new football facilities in Sprowston

Ian Grange, Norfolk Football Association gave a detailed presentation on Football Facility Investment.

Explaining:

- The role of Norfolk County Football Association
- Local Football Facility Plans
- Norfolk's Local Football Facility Plans
- What the Local Football Facility Plan would mean for Sprowston
- The operation of a 3G pitch

In answer to Councillors questions Mr Grange responded:

- 3G pitches were third generation artificial grass with LED lighting and fencing
- All weather pitches could extend the playing season

20/061. DEVELOPERS SPORTS AND ALLOTMENTS OFF-SITE CONTRIBUTIONS
(CONTINUED)

- 3G pitches would be subject to planning permission which would take into account issues relating to light pollution, noise pollution, car parking etc.
- A Sink fund is required for maintenance and replacement costs This would be taken into account when assessing if the business plan was viable
- Revenue would be generated from hire of the pitch
- A 3G pitch could be used for other activities providing the correct footwear was worn

Mr J M Ward advised Council that a working group was to be formed to assess all recreational facilities across Sprowston.

RESOLVED that the following Councillors serve on the working group:

Mr M G Callam, Ms D Coleman, Mrs J Leggett and Mr J H Mallen.

The Town Mayor thanked Mr Grange for his attendance.

20/062. POLICE LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT

Norfolk Constabulary's March Newsletter was not available.

20/063. CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Sprowston Day Centre

Council considered a request from Sprowston Day Care for financial assistance with entertainment costs.

Mrs B J Lashley proposed, seconded by Mr A J Barton to award £330.00 the remaining amount in the 2019/2020 budget.

RESOLVED that a donation of £330.00 be made to Sprowston Day Centre to help fund entertainment costs in accordance with its powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

(2) Priscilla Bacon Hospice

Having considered the request for financial assistance from Priscilla Bacon Hospice it was **RESOLVED** not to contribute on this occasion but consider any future request in the next financial year.

20/064. RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS

On the motion of Mr J M Ward, seconded by Mr M G Callam 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 R Craggs, invited to the meeting by the Town Clerk, offered to answer Councillors questions on flood risk in Sprowston in relation to the draft Greater Norwich Local Plan.

20/064. RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS (CONTINUED)

He expressed concern with regard to the development adjacent Blue Boar Lane as a main drain ran through this area, which he hoped would not be blocked.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk make enquiries regarding the culvert and respond to Mr Craggs.

Mr M Moore reported that the street light on the semi-circle green at Tills Close was out.

He also asked if Council knew about the existence of a marsh garden as a number of people had mentioned this to him.

It was suggested the Town Clerk make enquiries with a former Heritage Group Member to see if there was any information in the archives regarding a marsh garden.

The meeting was reconvened.

20/065. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

A written report was received from Mr J M Ward.

Mr J M Ward also verbally reported:

1. All 6,000 miles of Norfolk's County Roads, excluding the A11 and A47, will be managed by a single service from 1 April 2020 when Norwich City highways team transfers to Norfolk County Council. The City Council will continue to manage parking and city owned street lights.
2. On 1 April 2020 the five Clinical Commissioning Groups merge to become one which will be called The Norfolk and Waveney CCG. The Chairman will be Dr Anoop Dhesi, a GP in Stalham and previously Chairman of North Norfolk CCG since 2013.
3. Norfolk County Council is transforming its Music service which is currently losing £700,000 per annum. Tutors will be reduced from 44 to 21 and tuition costs will rise from £34.00 to £40.00 per hour. There will in future be more group tuition instead of one to one. All pupils will still be able to hire an instrument free of charge.
4. Anglian Water are investing £1.9m in new water and sewerage pipes on Salhouse Road to serve the new developments. A rolling road closure will be in place and work should be completed by December 2020. There is a drop-in session at Thorpe End village hall Friday 13 March 2020, 5.00pm - 7.30pm which explains the scheme.

Referring to Mr Ward's written report Mrs B J Lashley commented that Repton Property Developments Ltd should be encouraged to build affordable homes.

Ms D Coleman expressed concern regarding the rolling closure of Salhouse Road.

20/066. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT (INTERIM UPDATE)

Council congratulated the Team and **RESOLVED** to accept the Internal Audit Report (Interim Update).

20/067. REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

COMMUNITY BUILDINGS, ALLOTMENTS, PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

1.1 No matters were reported

CEMETERY

2.1 Cemetery Footpath

Council noted the £500.00 contribution from the Parochial Church Council towards the £1,700 cost of resurfacing the footpath at St Mary and St Margaret's closed churchyard.

STREET LIGHTING

3.1 No matters were reported

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL

4.1 Norfolk Association of Local Councils (NALC) - Spring Conference

Mr J M Ward proposed, seconded by Mr W F Couzens that Mrs B J Lashley attend the Norfolk Association of Local Council Spring Conference to be held Saturday 4 April 2020 on behalf of the Council and that her proper expenses be met in accordance with the Members Scheme of Allowances

4.2 Corona Virus COVID-19

Council noted the briefing paper from ELCONS Employment Law Consultants Ltd on the Corona Virus current information and advice from both the Health and Safety Executive and Public Health England.

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

5.1 No matters were reported

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Norfolk Association of Local Councils AGM programme (NorfolkALC)**
- B. Corona Virus Help and Advice - Briefing paper (ELCONS Ltd)**

20/068. 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 following applications:

20/068. PLANNING (CONTINUED)

2020/0349 - 1. change of use of dwelling (C3) to children's nursery (D1), including demolition of outbuildings, proposed extensions and alterations and realignment of existing driveway to provide additional 'drop off' parking spaces. 2. change of use of existing children's nursery (D1) back to retail use (A1) at The White House, White House Farm, Salhouse Road

2020/0352 - extension to front of existing garage to form study/en-suite at 10, Yew Court

2020/0353 - two storey side extension, extension to front porch and single storey rear extension at 60, Blenheim Road

2020/0355 - single storey side and part rear extension at 41, Meadow Gardens

2020/0371 - two storey side extension at 8, Cannerby Lane

- (b) were opposed to the granting of planning application 2020/0331 - single storey flat roof extension to replace the existing conservatory to rear at 52, Blackwell Avenue on the grounds that the proposed extension is not well related to the property and there appears to be no internal access to the existing building.
- (c) were opposed to the granting of application 2020/0365 - two storey side extension and single storey rear extension at 50, Blenheim Road on the grounds that it is out of keeping with the surrounding area, loss of parking to the original property,
- (d) were opposed to the granting of application 2020/0393 - sub-division of garden and erection of 2no semi-detached dwellings with associated parking and amenity space at 9, Lowry Cole Road on the grounds that it is out of keeping with the surrounding area, loss of parking to the original property, cramped form of development and creates a dangerous vehicular access on the corner of Lowry Cole and Addey Close.
- (e) were opposed to the granting of planning application 2020/0394 - two storey side extension, front porch and conversion of existing garage at 9, Wilks Farm Drive on the grounds that it is not subservient to the original dwelling, out of keeping with neighbouring properties and would increase traffic movements at a busy junction.
- (f) were opposed to the granting of planning application 2020/0396 - prior approval notification for change of use from offices (Class B1(a)) to residential 2 bedroom flat (Class C3) at Norwich Motor Company, 1, Wroxham Road on the grounds that it is an inappropriate site for a residential property and given the extremely busy and commercial position of this premises there would be parking issues and additional traffic movements in a difficult location.
- (g) were opposed to 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 following grounds:

20/068. PLANNING (CONTINUED)

- Amenity spaces are disjointed and too small to promote activities such as informal ball games
- Play area locations are not central or overlooked by housing for the safety of children. One location boarder a main road
- The definition of public open space is not met. Footpaths and verges should not count towards public open space, be it formal or informal
- The area allocated for the local centre is too small for all its possible uses and should be located in more central, convenient position near White House Farm. This could then serve other housing sites
- There is no provision for community buildings with adequate parking
- The development is not well planned and is spread out
- 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

20/069. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was reconvened.

20/070. GREATER NORWICH LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION (GNLP)

RESOLVED

1. to approve the Town Clerk's draft response to the GNLP sites specific documents.
2. that individual Councillors send their comments on strategy Sections 3 and 4 and strategy policies 1 to 7.5 to the Town Clerk for collation and response to the GNLP.

20/071. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

No written reports were received.

20/072. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS REPRESENTING THE COUNCIL ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

Mrs B J Lashley referred Council to a fund-raising day to be held at Sprowston Library on Saturday 21 March 2020 with proceeds to the Sensory Garden project.

20/073. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer presented the schedule accounts to 11 March 2020 totalling £15,792.80.

20/073. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

On the motion of Mr J M Ward, seconded by Mr I J Mackie it was **RESOLVED** that payment of the accounts to 11 March 2020 totalling £15,792.80 be approved and the schedule authorising payment signed by Mrs B J Lashley and Mr J M Ward.

20/074. SCHEDULE OF CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS & BARCLAYS VISA DEBIT

The schedule of credit card payments totalling £79.86 was approved and noted.

20/075. SCHEDULE OF DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENTS

The schedule of direct debit payments totalling £11,447.05 was approved and noted.

20/076. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Mr J M Ward proposed, seconded by Mr M G Callam 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**

20/077. CONFIDENTIAL REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

Council considered the confidential report of the Town Clerk and Mr J M Ward proposed, seconded by Mr I J Mackie to align the Finance and Administrative Officer's salary scale to the comparable posts.

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

1 April 2020

Town Mayor