

MEETING OF SPROWSTON TOWN COUNCILLORS – 16 SEPTEMBER 2020

At the remote meeting of the Sprowston Town Council held by video conference on Wednesday 16 September 2020, the following Councillors were present: -

Mr J M Ward – Town Mayor

Mr A J Barton - Mr J F Fisher
Mr M G Callam - Mr R J Knowles
Ms D Coleman - Mrs J Leggett
Mr W F Couzens - Mr I J Mackie

Mr N Shaw

In attendance

Mr G Ranaweera - Town Clerk and Responsible
Financial Officer
Mrs N Harpley - Broadland District Councillor - Sprowston
Central

1 member of the public was present

20/214. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS

Councillor	Minute No. and Heading	Nature of Interest
Mrs J Leggett	20/226 - Reports from Councillors Representing the Council on Outside Organisations	Chairman of Sprowston Supporting our Community together

20/215. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Written apologies for absence were received and accepted by the Council from Mrs B Cook, Mrs B J Lashley and Ms C T Rumsby.

20/216. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council's meeting held on 26 August 2020, having previously been circulated to all Councillors were confirmed subject to the following amendment

Minute 20/204 - ~~delete~~ learning difficulties and **insert** disabilities

and will be signed by the Town Mayor of the Council at the next appropriate opportunity.

20/217. ACTIONS FROM MINUTES

(1) Premises Application 3 Hanson Close - Minute 2020/200 (4)

Ms E Fennell of 3, Hanson Close, Sprowston gave representation to reassure Council and give more context to her licence application.

20/217. ACTIONS FROM MINUTES (CONTINUED)

Mr M G Callam proposed, seconded by Mr R J Knowles to withdraw the Council's opposition to the licence application at 3, Hanson Close and on being put to the vote the motion was CARRIED.

(2) Potential Road Names - Minute 20/207

Following discussion as to what road names should be put forward for the White House Farm development off Blue Boar Lane Mr M G Callam proposed, seconded by Mr J M Ward that all suggested road names be forwarded to Broadland District Council for consideration. On being put to the vote the motion was CARRIED.

(3) White House Farm Play Equipment

The Town Clerk read out a précis of Developer's and Broadland District Council's response to questions raised by Council on public amenity land at White House Farm as follows:

The roundabout is inclusive and can accommodate a wheelchair. The basket swings and climbers have high usability and can be accessed by residents with mobility difficulties.

The play equipment located adjacent the skatepark is also for older children.

Locating the skatepark adjacent Harrison Woodland would pose safeguarding issues to young users.

Relocating the skatepark away from the play area would separate young users from their supervising adults and/or older siblings.

The skatepark will be fully accessible to scooter riders who are often very young e.g. 4 years and older.

The skatepark position suggested by Council behind the car park would pose a safeguarding risk as it would not be casually overlooked. Additionally, the original request was to amalgamate play areas to provide inclusive all ages provision and relocating the skate park next to the woodland would not be in keeping with this aim as it would separate the older age equipment from the younger age equipment.

There is already a degree of separation via the pathway shown on the latest drawing, retaining the skatepark at the front of the site enables the facility to be visible from many sides and natural surveillance would be maximised thus deterring some of the more offensive behaviour. It is also recommended by the Police Architectural Liaison officer

The recommended 30 metre distance from the nearest dwelling would be satisfied by having the skatepark at the front of the site.

Taking all these reasons into consideration Broadland District Council would not recommend or approve a change in the location of the skatepark to sit alongside Harrisons Woodland.

20/217. ACTIONS FROM MINUTES (CONTINUED)

A consultation with SYEP on suitable types of equipment for older young people is underway.

With regard to the distance of play equipment from the nearest dwelling the British standard minimum is 20 metres, however, Broadland has a higher recommendation of 30 metres and the equipment will now be positioned accordingly.

The MUGA is of a standard size but developers will look at a slightly larger one.

The Local Areas for Play (LAPS) open space will be retained even when the equipment is removed.

Developers have confirmed that the overall green space equates to 15% and does not include the adjacent woodland.

Council noted all comments.

20/218. POLICE LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT

The Town Clerk reported that the Sprowston Safer Neighbourhood Team Community Update was not received in time for the Agenda but would now be circulated to Councillors via Email.

20/219. CONSULTATION ON COASTAL ADAPTATION SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

RESOLVED Councillors to respond to the Consultation on Coastal Adaptation Supplementary Planning Document on an individual basis.

20/220. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

A written report was received from Mr J M Ward.

Mr J M Ward also verbally reported:

Norfolk County Council

- (1) Has a budget gap of £39m for 2021/22 but this has now risen to £45m and that assumes another 1.99% increase in Council Tax. If no further Government funding is available then departmental savings will be discussed at the October cabinet meeting.
- (2) 95% of Norfolk's properties now have access to superfast broadband and this will increase to 97% in 2022

Broadland District Council

- (1) We had another planning meeting this morning and I will report on some of the applications. The empty warehouse on Salhouse Road was given permission to become a "Future Football Elite Academy".

20/220. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS CONTINUED)

- (2) On Broadland Business Gate Park approval was given for a Gridserve Station which is like a petrol filling station but for electric cars. It will have a café on the first floor.
- (3) Another successful application was at the Hellesdon Hospital site where permission was given for 5 new 16 bed, en-suite wards.
- (4) The new 11B service on the Linacre loop which was arranged by myself, Cllr. Leggett and Chloe Smith MP with the assistance of Cllr. Harpley who organised a petition, started running on Monday 7 September 2020. I joined the first bus on the loop at 9.38am and was disappointed to find that from the 5 stops on the route, I was the only passenger.
- (5) We had an interesting Broadland Planning meeting on Wednesday last week. We approved a new Police Station hub at Broadland Gate, Postwick. This will accommodate some 230 persons with the stations in Sprowston and Acle closing.

We also approved a Lidl supermarket also to be built on Broadland Gate opposite 700 houses.

And then we approved a development in Rackheath of 157 dwellings, all of which are affordable. With 55% affordable rent and 45% shared ownership. The housing association is Flagship which already owns 31,000 homes.

Mrs J Leggett referred Councillors to an email from Sergeant Youd offering to meet with Council.

It was agreed for Mrs J Leggett to organise a meeting however, it was noted the Police did not use Zoom but could use SKYPE.

Mr R J Knowles commented that he had received some very good reports from people using the new 11B bus route.

Mr W F Couzens queried the level of involvement of Councillors in getting the 11B bus running.

Mr J M Ward replied that he had been in discussions with the Head of Passenger Transport at Norfolk County Council who with her team had arranged for Konectbus to take on the route. Chloe Smith MP had personal conversations with the Managing Director of Konectbus and Mrs J Leggett had lots of personal interaction with Konectbus and the Deputy at Passenger Services.

20/221. RESIDENT'S QUESTIONS

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

As there were no residents questions the Chairman moved to the next item of business and reconvened the meeting.

20/222. REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

COMMUNITY BUILDINGS, ALLOTMENTS, PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

1.1 Sprowston Diamond Centre

Referring to the Town Clerk's report Mr W F Cozens asked if the smaller rooms were closed off.

The Town Clerk advised that Sprowston Diamond Centre COVID- Secure Protocol required all rooms not in use to be locked. The building had been zoned and each room had an independent access so people could only circulate in their own area. This minimised cleaning and interaction.

Mr A J Barton was pleased to note that Sprowston Diamond Centre had generated approximately two thirds of its pre-COVID levels of income and asked what impact the rule of six would have on future revenue.

The Town Clerk replied that having reviewed the rule of six guidance he felt it primarily applied to social gatherings and as a COVID secure building Sprowston Diamond Centre should be unaffected as long as COVID secure protocols were followed.

CEMETERY

2.1 No matters were reported

STREET LIGHTING

3.1 No matters were reported

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL

4.1 Council Office

Council noted that all staff were now working from the Council office and that it had continued to be manned by a member of staff throughout lockdown to deal with any time-critical issues.

4.2 Remote Meetings

In view of the National Association of Local Councils recommendation to continue with remote meetings and the lengths required to make any gathering as safe as reasonably practical the Town Clerk proposed continuing with remote meetings for the foreseeable future, to which Council agreed.

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

5.1 No matters were reported

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

6.1 Discretionary Business Support Grants Scheme

20/222. REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK (CONTINUED)

The Town Clerk commented that Broadland District and South Norfolk Council officers had been very helpful with his submission of an application for a discretionary grant to offset Council's COVID-related expenses. This had resulted in the Council being awarded a £20,000 grant.

6.2 Sprowston Supporting our Community Together (SSoCT), formerly Sprowston Coronavirus Help Group (SGHG)

Ms D Coleman observed that Councils involvement with SSoCT during the pandemic had helped to bring residents attention to the work of the Town Council.

ATTACHMENTS

- (a) Breakdown of SCHG/SSoCT activity and expenses supported by Council, 1 April 2020 - 9 September 2020

20/223. 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:

2020/1572 - single storey rear extension at 32, Allens Lane

2020/1579 - change of use of part of building from D1 (Chiropractors) to C3 (Residential) at 101, Wroxham Road

2020/1619 - sub-division of curtilage to erect detached dwelling (Reserved Matters) at 9, Lowry Cole Road

20/224. CONSULTATION WHITE PAPER PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Having noted the Planning for the Future White Paper consultation document was 63 pages and posed 26 questions and in view of this it was

RESOLVED

- (1) Councillors to review the consultation on an individual basis and submit their answers to questions posed to the Town Clerk by 28 September 2020 for him to collate and present at the next meeting of the Town Council.
- (2) Town Clerk to advise Councillors not in attendance at this meeting of (1) above.

20/225. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

Mrs J Leggett verbally reported that the Recreational Facilities Working Group had identified all spare bits of land in Sprowston and would await results of a survey to be sent to all households.

She also advised that Ben Burgess, Planning Projects and Landscape Manager Broadland District Council, would be attending a meeting of the Council to discuss how to identify land that might come forward to retained as community land, if Council so required.

20/226. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS REPRESENTING THE COUNCIL ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

Mr W F Couzens reported that Sprowston Supporting our Community Together group had held their first Annual General Meeting and were formally constituted. Mrs J Leggett was appointed Chairperson, Mr W F Couzens Secretary, Amanda Burton Treasurer and there were nine other committee members.

The next task was for the group to become self-sufficient.

He thanked the Town Council, Town Clerk and Council staff in particular for all their assistance over the last few months commenting that without it the group could not have done anything.

Mr Couzens also reported that during August the group had supported 60 households with a variety of tasks including befriending and shopping.

Mrs J Leggett advised that Ms D Coleman was one of the nine committee members.

20/227. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS 16 SEPTEMBER 2020

The Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer presented the schedule accounts to 16 September 2020 totalling £14,558.45.

The Town Clerk responded as follows to a Councillors' query on the Schedule of Accounts:

Community Outreach Worker $\frac{3}{4}$ - is the third payment of 4 totalling £10,000 to majority fund a Youth Community Outreach Worker as agreed by Council when setting the 2020/21 budget.

On the motion of Mr J M Ward, seconded by Mr W F Couzens it was **RESOLVED** that payment of the accounts to 16 September 2020 totalling £14,558.45 be approved and the schedule authorising payment signed by the appropriate signatories at the first opportunity

20/228. SCHEDULE OF DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENTS

The schedule of direct debit payments totalling £38.86 was approved and noted.

There being no other necessary business the Town Mayor of the Council thanked Councillors for their participation and declared the meeting closed at 8.21pm.

07 October 2020

Town Mayor