

MEETING OF SPROWSTON TOWN COUNCILLORS - 4 AUGUST 2021

At the meeting of the Sprowston Town Council held at the School Room, Sprowston Diamond Centre, School Lane, Sprowston on Wednesday 4 August 2021, the following Councillors 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	-	Mrs J Leggett
Mrs B Cook	-	Mr J H Mallen
Mr J F Fisher	-	Mr S Walker

In attendance

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

1 member of the public was present

21/192. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS

Councillor	Minute No. and Heading	Nature of Interest
Mrs J Leggett	21/201 - SYEP Update on Extended Outreach Programme	Trustee
Mr M G Callam	21/203 (a) - Planning Application 2021/1226	Trustee

21/193. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Written apologies for absence were received and accepted by the Council from Mr I J Mackie, Mr W F Couzens, Ms C T Rumsby and verbal apologies were received from Mr N Shaw.

21/194. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council's meeting held on 14 July 2021, having previously been circulated to all Councillors were subject to the following amendment

21/177 (1) delete Stanford and insert Sanford

confirmed and signed by the Chairman / Town Mayor of the Council.

21/195. ACTION FROM MINUTES

(1) Broadland District Council (BDC) Overview and Scrutiny

21/195. ACTION FROM MINUTES (CONTINUED)

Further to Minute 21/176, Town Clerk to circulate to Councillors Mrs B J Lashley's suggestions for presentation at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 24 August 2021.

(2) Sprowston Flash Flooding - 9 July 2021

Further to Minute 21/176 (5), the Town Clerk advised that he had not received a response from Norfolk County Council regarding flash flooding on Cannerby Lane and Wroxham Road as yet.

(3) Proposal for Verges and green spaces

Ms D Coleman reported she had been contacted by a number of residents about re-wilding verges in Sprowston.

Nature and green spaces had been featured prominently in the Recreational Facilities Survey and residents were keen to take responsibility for small areas close to where they live.

She proposed that Council encourage residents to cultivate small green spaces, maintain a register of interested parties and manage this project. Signage would be required to prevent scheduled cutting.

For the Platinum Jubilee, given Sprowston had three garden centres, Ms D Coleman also suggested Sprowston in Bloom and a competition for best verge and best front garden.

Councillors were reminded that verges were owned by Norfolk County Council (NCC) and the grass mown by the Town Council as a delegated function.

Whilst it was felt re-wilding could reduce parking on verges participants should be aware of the life cycle of wild flowers and cut vegetation at an appropriate time and also ensure it did not reduce accessibility for pedestrians, wheelchair and mobility scooter users.

It was noted there were several larger open areas on the highway where wild flowers could be sown in the centre and edges mown. The Greens on Foxburrow Road and Tills Road were identified as possible locations.

Mrs B J Lashley commented on an excellent presentation "Right Tree Right Place" given at a remote NALC meeting she had recently attended and wanted to share with Councillors.

She said there were areas in Sprowston where Council could plant new trees for the Queens Green Canopy and enhance and revitalise existing woodland such as Harrisons Plantation.

With reference to green spaces in the new developments to the rear of Tesco stores the Town Clerk advised that smaller areas of green space would remain the responsibility of the management company however larger open spaces would

21/195. ACTION FROM MINUTES (CONTINUED)

eventually be adopted by Broadland District Council then transferred to the Town Council.

Mrs J Leggett commented that Broadland District Council were running an initiative to plant a tree for each resident, and Harrison's Woodland had a management plan in place.

RESOLVED:

- (1) to approach Norfolk County Council for permission to run a scheme to re-wild verges;
- (2) the Recreational Facilities Working Group to investigate and propose on re-wilding of verges scheme in their remit;
- (3) Terms of Reference for the Recreation Working Group Working Group to be circulated;
- (4) Mr J M Ward to seek advice from Broadland District Council and Norfolk County Council.

21/196. POLICE LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT

- (1) The Old Catton and Sprowston West Ward - July 2021 Community Update was noted.
- (2) The Sprowston Central and East Ward - July 2021 Community Update was noted.

Mrs J Leggett reported that instances of public fear, alarm or distress were as follows:

1. neighbour sworn at;
2. delivery driver threatened;
3. dog walker received verbal abuse when challenging damage to play equipment;
4. objections to parking of car;
5. road rage;
6. threat toward hotel manager after ejection of a customer.

21/197. CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) Small Mammal Crossings

Referring to a request to erect "Small Mammal" road warning signs Rachel Cox explained that hedgehogs were in decline and on the red list for conservation.

There was a small population in her local area however they were often run over on the exit slip road from North Walsham Road to Pioneer Road and on Pioneer Road itself.

21/197. CORRESPONDENCE (CONTINUED)

She hoped signage would make drivers aware that hedgehogs could be on the highway in this location and to drive accordingly.

There was a national map where hedgehog sightings could be logged. "The Big Hedgehog Map".

Mr J M Ward proposed, seconded by Mr M G Callam to approach Norfolk County Council to ask in principal if signage could be erected and if so on an unlimited or individual basis. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

(2) South Norfolk and Broadland Community Forum

RESOLVED that Mr J M Ward and the Town Clerk attend the South Norfolk and Broadland Community Forum with District Commissioner Chris Harvey to be held 26 August 2021 commencing 6.30pm.

(3) NALC Police and Crime Plan Priorities

RESOLVED Councillors to contact the Town Clerk with their requirements to remotely attend the PCC Police & Crime Plan Priorities Consultation.

(4) Community at Heart Awards

RESOLVED that Councillors respond on an individual basis to the Nominations for the 2021 Community at Heart Awards.

(5) National Association of Local Councils (NALC) opinion survey - planning and power

RESOLVED to respond as follows to the NALC opinion survey:

Q1. What are your thoughts on neighbourhood planning - does it have a future?

A Yes

Q2. Has all democratic power vanished from the planning system?

A No

Q3. Is the block to more houses being built because of land-banking by developers?

A No (Additional comments - In some case yes not in Sprowston).

21/198. ANGLIAN WATER 2021-07-21 DEED OF GRANT DISCHARGE TO WATERCOURSE FINAL

The Town Clerk explained that water pipes and drainage cells were located under the Blue Boar Lane Park discharging water into the culvert and the Deed of Grant Easement (Discharge) was a formal document giving Anglian Water permission to access them for maintenance purposes.

21/198. ANGLIAN WATER 2021-07-21 DEED OF GRANT DISCHARGE TO WATERCOURSE FINAL (CONTINUED)

RESOLVED Mr J M Ward and Mrs J Leggett sign the Deed of Grant Easement (Discharge) on behalf of the Council.

21/199. 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 is encouraging residents to not use their cars on Sunday 19 September 2021 in support of “Car-free day” in a global initiative to reduce carbon emissions.

Free temporary street closures can be applied for on this day to allow children’s games etc. in the streets www.norfolk.gov.uk/carfreenorfolk

District Direct, the service that supports patients to get back home earlier, has been expanded to include not only NNUH but also Community hospitals. Referrals are now in excess of 100 per month.

The Marriotts Way 10K race is returning this year on 3 October 2021. Entries are now open and selling out fast. Details on BDC website.

Mrs J Leggett verbally reported that Broadland District Council had adopted a slightly different way of naming roads and she would forward details to the Town Clerk for inclusion in the next Council meeting.

Mrs B J Lashley was pleased to note in Mr J M Ward’s report £29m had been set aside for “Independent living” and asked if Norfolk County Council (NCC) was developing the housing.

Mr Ward replied that NCC was hoping land would be given free by the District Council’s. NCC would develop the housing and appoint a housing association to run them.

21/200. RESIDENTS 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 Chairman who would, assisted by the Town Clerk, reply.

As no questions were raised the meeting was reconvened.

21/201. REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

COMMUNITY BUILDINGS, ALLOTMENTS, PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

1.1 Sprowston Youth Engagement Project (SYEP) - Update on Extended Outreach Programme

21/201. REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK (CONTINUED)

Further to his written report the Town Clerk advised that SYEP had taken their outreach programme to other parks in Sprowston whilst Tots2teens had been operating on Sprowston Recreation Ground.

In response to a question from Mr A J Barton the Town Clerk responded he was still investigating possible funding streams for SYEP.

CEMETERY

2.1 No matters were reported

STREET LIGHTING

3.1 No matters were reported

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL

4.1 The Town Clerk verbally reported that following a successful interview a local lady had been offered the post of Administration and Compliance Officer commencing 6 September 2021.

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

5.1 Lushers Loke

Referring to residents' complaints of further noise, dust and vibration pollution at Lushers Loke the Town Clerk said he had been advised by Broadland District Council officers that Environmental Health Inspectors had on several occasions been on site. If residents wanted Broadland District Council (BDC) to proceed with enforcement action, BDC could provide recording equipment to gather evidence.

ATTACHMENTS

6.1 Photograph of SYEP Caravan

21/202. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Due to the early hour, it was **RESOLVED** not to adjourn the meeting and move to the next item of business.

21/203. 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:

21/203. PLANNING (CONTINUED)

2021/1141 - variation of condition 2 of 20181404 to allow change to boundary treatment from a timber fence to a low-level masonry brick wall with high level masonry piers and timber panelling above at 58, Russell Avenue, Sprowston.

2021/1169 - two storey side extension to existing semi-detached house at 31, Cromwell Road, Sprowston.

2021/1178 - single storey rear extension and roof conversion at 36, Martin Close, Sprowston.

2021/1199 - proposed porch, two storey side extension above garage and single and two storey rear extensions at 14, Wroxham Road, Sprowston.

2021/1200 - ground and first floor extension at 50, Wroxham Road, Sprowston.

2021/1201 - erection of an outside pergola at Sprowston Methodist Church, Wroxham Road, Sprowston.

2021/1226 - two storey side extension at 216, Wroxham Road, Sprowston.

2021/1230 - single storey rear extension at 28, Blackwell Avenue, Sprowston.

2021/1263 - single storey rear extension at 54, Blackwell Avenue, Sprowston.

- (b) to oppose the granting of planning application 2021/1152 - single storey side extension and upgrade of existing single garage to form additional space at 26, Coot Drive on the grounds of loss of on-site parking in a cramped housing development with limited on road parking in the area.

21/204. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

Mrs J Leggett verbally reported the Recreational Facilities Working Group, had at their last meeting discussed VAT in relation to the Viking Centre and were awaiting architectural designs from the Council's consultant which would enable them to prepare a schedule of planned works.

With regard to the Recreational Facilities Survey recommendations Mrs Leggett gave a brief overview of the group's deliberations on all categories and their proposal to implement five by 31 July 2022.

RESOLVED

- (1) to accept the recommendations of the group;
- (2) the Recreational Facilities Working Group to bring timescales and costings for each category proposed to be implemented by 31 July 2022.

21/205. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS REPRESENTING THE COUNCIL ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

Mrs J Leggett verbally reported that since the move out of lockdown Sprowston Supporting our Community Together had less people to help run the charity. They were proposing to reduce their hours of service however, there would always be an emergency number available.

At their AGM Sprowston Youth Engagement Project had discussed becoming a community interest company. This would require a change in constitution and appointment of a board of trustees.

Mr A J Barton verbally reported that he and Mr W F Couzens had attended a welfare meeting of the Sprowston Senior Citizens Club. The committee had sent letters to members and hirers to advise they would be opening on Monday 9 August 2021.

Mrs B J Lashley verbally reported that Sprowston Dementia Café would recommence on Thursday 19 August 2021 at Sprowston Diamond Centre.

Mr R J Knowles enquired as to when the Council would reopen their monthly cinema.

The Town Clerk advised he would assess the impact of schools returning for the autumn term before reinstating the cinema.

21/206. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS 4 AUGUST 2021

The Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer presented the schedule of accounts to 4 August 2021 totalling £7,827.30.

In response to Councillors questions the Town Clerk advised that:

Invoice No. 6061339 Notice Board - was erected on the Bowls Pavilion for use by one of the resident teams.

Invoice Nos. SIN041697 and SIN041696 - Repairs to children's play equipment was replacement parts and rewelding of the arial runways.

On the motion of Mr R J Knowles, seconded by Mr J M Ward it was **RESOLVED** that payment of the accounts to 4 August 2021 totalling £7,827.30 be approved and the schedule authorising payment signed by the appropriate signatories at the first opportunity.

21/207. SCHEDULE OF DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENTS

In response to a question from Mrs B J Lashley the Town Clerk advised that:

Invoice Nos. 242002348/21 and 242989170/21 Sprowston Diamond Centre June were for gas and electricity supply.

Invoice Nos. 242001226/21 and 242968313/21 Street lights April and June - the Town Clerk to clarify the April invoice.

21/207. SCHEDULE OF DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENTS (CONTINUED)

The schedule of direct debit payments to 4 August 2021 totalling £4,642.92 was approved and noted.

21/208. SCHEDULE OF CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS & BARCLAY VISA DEBIT TO 4 AUGUST 2021

The schedule of credit card and Barclay Visa Debit payments to 4 August 2021 totalling £293.26 was approved and noted.

21/209. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Mr J M Ward proposed, seconded by Mrs J Leggett 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**.

21/210. ENERGY CONTRACTS

Having given careful consideration to the report, current energy contracts and options presented by the Town Clerk it was

RESOLVED to authorise the Town Clerk to, as existing electricity contracts expire, enter into new contracts for best value sustainable electricity with aligned end dates.

RESOLVED to authorise the Town Clerk to enter into new best value Gas contracts for the Sprowston Diamond Centre.

There being no other necessary business the Chairman / Town Mayor of the Council thanked Councillors for their participation and declared the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

25 August 2021

Town Mayor