

## **MEETING OF SPROWSTON TOWN COUNCILLORS – 23 FEBRUARY 2022**

At the meeting of the Sprowston Town Council held at the School Room, Sprowston Diamond Centre, School Lane, Sprowston on Wednesday 23 February 2022, the following Councillors were present: -

Mr J M Ward – Town Mayor

Mr W F Couzens - Mr J F Fisher  
Ms D Coleman - Mrs B J Lashley  
Mrs J Leggett

In attendance

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

5 members of the public were present

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### **22/047. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS**

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary and other interests were received.

### **22/048. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Written apologies for absence were received and accepted by the Council from Mr A J Barton, Mr M G Callam, Mrs B Cook, Mr R J Knowles, Mr J H Mallen, Ms C T Rumsby, Mr G S Tingle and Mrs K Vincent.

### **22/049. RESIDENTS QUESTIONS**

On the motion of Mr J M Ward seconded by Mrs B J Lashley 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.

A resident of School Lane expressed concern with regard to Planning Application 20220107 installation of external racking for storage at Norfolk Trucks Ltd on the boundary with School Lane. He felt it would create a health and safety issue, was unsightly and out of keeping with the surrounding area. However, if the Planning Authority granted permission, he would like it to be conditional on the trees being maintained to partially screen the structures.

Referring to Sprowston Green Mr R Hughes commented on the prevalence of speeding vehicles throughout St. Marys and St. Margaret's estate particularly at the junction with Church Lane, and the increase in vehicles parked on pavements impeding visibility. Given the level of foot traffic in this area he considered pedestrians to be at high risk and requested Council's support in urging Norfolk County Highways to implement a 20mph limit similar to the Wilks Farm Drive Estate.

The meeting was reconvened.

## **22/050. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Council's meeting held on 3 February 2022, having previously been circulated to all Councillors were subject to the following amendments

22/030, paragraph five after "arrange." Insert "On being put to the vote the motion was CARRIED."

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

## **22/051 ACTION FROM MINUTES**

- (1) Appeal - Listing Sprowston Sports and Social Club (SSSC) as an Asset of Community Value (Minute 22/026 (1))

Council noted the land owners of SSSC had made a request for Broadland District Council (BDC) to review the decision to list SSSC as an Asset of community Value.

In response to a question from Mrs B J Lashley, Mrs J Leggett explained that submission of further evidence was restricted to the land owner and BDC were obligated to give them an opportunity for an oral hearing. The Town Council could also ask for an oral hearing.

It was agreed the Town Clerk to notify the Senior Governance Officer at BDC of the Council's reasons for supporting SSSC being listed as an Asset of Community value as well as the level of local support and petition for its listing.

- (2) Police Liaison Officers Report

Further to Minute 22/026, Mrs J Leggett reported she had been advised that incidences of crime recorded on Norfolk Constabulary's website differed from those listed in the crime statistics presented to Council as they also included some domestic crimes and sexual crimes. Furthermore, reported crimes are added to the website following production of the crime statistics presented to Council. Norfolk Constabulary had agreed to investigate.

Referring to Minute 22/028, Mr J M Ward advised that expected savings of £55k referred to in his written report should have read £55m.

## **22/052. TO RECEIVE THE POLICE LIAISON OFFICERS REPORT**

- (1) Old Catton & Sprowston West Ward (Sprowston SNT) January

Mrs B J Lashley commented on the recruiting of unpaid Special Constables noting that Norfolk Constabulary had disbanded paid Community Support Officers.

Mr J M Ward replied that Special Constables had always existed, Norfolk Constabulary were simply recruiting more of them.

- (2) Sprowston Central & East Ward (Sprowston SNT) January

Council noted Sprowston Central & East Ward crime updates 1 December 2021 - 31 December 2021.

## **22/052. TO RECEIVE THE POLICE LIAISON OFFICERS REPORT (CONTINUED)**

(3) Police and Crime Commissioners News Roundup - January 2022

Council noted the Police and Crime Commissioners News Roundup - January 2022.

## **22/053. TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE**

(1) Norwich Western Link Update

Ms D Coleman observed that:

- comments made in the update with regard to carbon emissions differed from those on the Government website.
- unions disagree that roads of this nature kick start economies.
- habitats such as mature trees cannot be replaced.
- Costessey is not linked to the project and rat running will continue.
- there is a petition with 45,000 people objecting to the building of the Western Link.

Mrs B J Lashley remarked, completion of the road would reduce traffic on unsuitable country and lanes and keep traffic out of the suburbs as proven by the Northern Broadway.

Council noted Norfolk County Council's Norwich Western Link project update.

## **22/054. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

A written report was received from Mr J M Ward.

Mr J M Ward also verbally reported:

- (1) The owner of the site at Sprowston Sports and Social Club has appealed the Council's decision to list it as an Asset of Community Value. The appeal will be considered by Emma Goddard Deputy Monitoring Officer, with a decision by 8 April 2022.
- (2) The Secretary of State has granted development consent for the Norfolk Vanguard Offshore Wind Farm with up to 200 wind turbines. This is in addition to the Norfolk Boreas site granted 10.12.21 and the Hornsea Three Site 31.12.20.
- (3) On 14 February 2022 as Town Mayor, I attended the Miyawaki Mini Forest on Sprowston Recreation Ground and planted one of the first trees.
- (4) On 21 February 2022 after nearly 5 hours of debate, Norfolk County Council, Full Council passed the budget for 2022/23 with no amendments. The Council tax was set at 2.99% increase.

## **22/054. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS (CONTINUED)**

- (5) Bookings are now open for “The Big Norfolk Holiday Fun”, a programme of free activities for 5 -16-year-olds during the Easter holidays. Details at [BigNorfolkHolidayFun-activenorfolk](http://BigNorfolkHolidayFun-activenorfolk)

Mrs J Leggett verbally reported:

- (1) She had also attended the planting of the Miyawaki Mini Forest on Sprowston Recreation Ground and looked forward to seeing how it developed.
- (2) Broadland District Council had awarded a new waste services contract with vehicles fuelled by Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO).
- (3) Her District Council ward funding grant was given to St. Cuthbert’s Scout Group as was Mr J M Ward’s.

Mr J F Fisher verbally reported that he was meeting with the newly appointed Norfolk County Council Highways Engineer on Thursday 24 February 2022.

In response to Councillor’s questions relating to Falcon Road School Mr J F Fisher advised:

- the delay in reopening was due to the removal of asbestos.
- portable classrooms were leased and would be removed.
- whilst the new school had been specifically designed and was more energy efficient ventilation plans were completed pre-COVID.

With regard to prohibiting traffic around schools during pick-up and drop-off times a pilot scheme initially involving six schools will be launched later in the year.

Mrs B J Lashley mentioned Ipswich Borough Council offered a Podback service enabling residents to recycle their coffee pods every week as part of their kerbside waste and recycling collections. She asked if Broadland District Council would consider introducing a similar scheme.

Mrs J Leggett replied that Broadland District Council had just introduced a weekly kerbside scheme to collect textiles, small electrical and electronic equipment and suggested its success should be monitored before introducing further initiatives.

## **22/055. RE-NOMINATION OF BLUE BOAR PUBLIC HOUSE TO THE REGISTER OF COMMUNITY ASSETS**

Council noted the five-year listing of the Blue Boar PH on the Asset of Community Value Register was due to expire on 20 April 2022.

Mrs B J Lashley proposed, seconded by Mr W F Couzens to submit a new application to re-nominate the Blue Boar PH to the Asset of Community Value Register. On being put to the vote the motion was CARRIED.

## **22/056. ENDURING PHYSICAL COMMEMORATION OF HRH THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE YEAR**

Council considered the report of the Town Clerk and a number of suggestions were made including:

- Re-naming the Viking Centre to Jubilee Centre or Jubilee Hall
- Planting of broadleaf trees at Wilks Farm Drive - in keeping with the Green Canopy
- Benches with wrought iron sides and wooden slats.

Following discussion, it was

### **RESOLVED to**

- Name the Viking Centre's main hall The Elizabeth II Jubilee Hall
- Install two benches and plant flower beds at Cannerby Lane Green and request the Recreational Facilities Working Group to consider a suitable scheme for Council's consideration:
- Councillors to email the Town Clerk with any further ideas

## **22/057. COVID PRECAUTIONS AND VENUE FOR FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Having considered the Town Clerks report it was

**RESOLVED** to continue holding Council meetings in the School Room, with full social distancing, hand sanitising and partial ventilation for three months and monitor the impact of reductions in Covid restrictions.

## **22/058. REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK**

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

#### **1.1 Tiny Forests - Sprowston Recreation Ground**

Council was pleased to note the popularity of the community event to plant a tiny forest on Sprowston Recreation Ground.

### **CEMETERY**

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

### **STREET LIGHTING**

#### **3.1 Streetlighting on Atlantic Way**

Council noted the Town Clerk's response to Norwich Evening News regarding the lack of working streetlighting on Atlantic Way

### **CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL**

#### **4.1 No matters were reported**

## **22/058. REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK (CONTINUED)**

### **PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION**

#### **5.1 Speeding on Moore Avenue; Road Safety at Junction of Moore Avenue and Burma Road**

Council considered the report of the Town Clerk and it was

**RESOLVED** to request Norfolk County Council to implement clearer road markings and alternative signage.

#### **5.2 Request for a New 20mph Speed Restriction on the St Mary and Margaret's Estate and the section of Church Lane between the Mini-roundabout and the Vehicle Gate**

Mr J M Ward reported Chris Alston Norfolk County Council's Highways Manager had already undertaken to inspect the road and consider residents' concerns.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED**

To request Norfolk County Council to:

- implement a 20mph speed limit on St. Marys Grove, St. Margarets Drive and the stretch of road from the Barkers Lane/Church Lane mini-roundabout extending up the branch of Church Lane that leads to the vehicle gate.
- paint 20mph roundels on the stretch of road from the Barkers Lane/Church Lane mini-roundabout extending up the branch of Church Lane past Aitkin Close and the entrance to the St. Mary and St Margarets estate.

#### **5.3 Request for Safety Measures in the Vicinity of Chopyngs Dole Close Play Area and the Blue Boar Lane Roundabout**

Having considered the Town Clerk's report, it was **RESOLVED** to request Norfolk County Council Highways install an appropriate traffic light controlled pedestrian crossing at a suitable point between the Wroxham Road roundabout and the Blue Boar Lane roundabout.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

#### **6.1 Statement Concerning Streetlighting on Atlantic Avenue**

#### **6.2 Map showing location of Moore Avenue**

#### **6.3 Close-up of junction of Moore Avenue and Burma Road, showing junction priorities**

#### **6.4 Email from a resident on the St Mary and Margaret's estate**

#### **6.5 Map Showing approximate outline of St Mary and Margaret's estate.**

#### **6.6 Map showing location of parks and open spaces in the vicinity of the Blue Boar Lane roundabout**

## **22/059. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was reconvened.

## **22/060. LETTER TO BROADLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING**

**RESOLVED** the proposed letter regarding provision of public amenity space in future largescale housing developments be sent to the Broadland District Council's Director of Place, Phil Courtier.

## **22/061. VIKING CENTRE CONSULTATION RESULTS**

Having considered the Viking Community Hub Consultation Suggestions together with architectural plans of the building Council agreed to sign off the latest drawings. However, based on the consultation feedback it was agreed the following observations be taken into consideration:

1. Avoid toilets opening directly into meeting rooms
2. Could an external area be identified for outside café seating?
3. One of the commentators recalls there used to be a mural of a Viking displayed somewhere on an internal wall. If this mural is still intact, hidden under plasterboard or the like, Council would like it preserved

**RESOLVED** taking into account the above observations to proceed to submit a planning application.

## **22/062. GRASS RUNNING TRACK - BARKERS LANE OPEN SPACE**

**RESOLVED** to agree to the mowing of a running track on Barkers Lane open space.

## **22/063. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS**

Minutes of the Recreational Facilities Working Group (RFWG) meeting held 11 February 2022 were previously circulated.

## **22/064. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS REPRESENTING THE COUNCIL ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

No written or verbal reports were received.

## **22/065. 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**

## **22/065. PLANNING (CONTINUED)**

(a) to raise no objection to the following applications:

202120707 - retention of pigeon loft in rear garden at 227, Wroxham Road, Sprowston.

20212321 - rear garden room / conservatory extension and replacement shed at 115, Moore Avenue, Sprowston.

20212334 - squaring off of existing flat roof extension, including the replacement of the roof to incorporate a sky lantern. Single storey rear extension. Single storey front extension including porch at 10, Moore Avenue, Sprowston.

20220080 - first floor rear extension at 3, Heigham Close, Sprowston.

20220157 - screening opinion request for a new pipeline land south of the NDR, North of Norwich at land south of the NDR, North of Norwich.

(b) to oppose the granting of planning application 20220107 - installation of external racking for storage of goods at Norfolk Trucks Ltd, School Lane, Sprowston on the following grounds:

Industrial racking erected at a height of 5.1m on the boundary with School Lane, a predominantly residential area, would be an unneighbourly form of development, have an adverse visual impact on the street scene and is contrary to the Sprowston Neighbourhood Plan.

However, if the Planning Authority is minded to approve this application the Town Council would request the existing line of trees on the School Lane boundary be maintained and further enhanced with additional planting at a height exceeding 5.1 metres to screen the structure from residential properties. Also, the reinstatement of vegetation removed when racking was constructed without planning permission on the boundary with Lushers Loke.

## **22/066. PLANNING DECISIONS**

Council noted planning decisions for week ending 28 January 2022 and 4 February 2022.

## **22/067. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS 23 FEBRUARY 2022**

The Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer presented the schedule of accounts to 23 February 2022 totalling £12,150.31.

In response to Mrs J Leggett's question the Town Clerk explained:

Invoice No. 36535724 Council Tax adjustment for the Viking was an amended invoice.

Mrs B J Lashley suggested reinstating contributions to Creative Arts East and commence the monthly cinema.

**22/067. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS 23 FEBRUARY 2022 (CONTINUED)**

On the motion of Mr J M Ward, seconded by Mrs J Leggett it was **RESOLVED** that payment of the accounts to 2 February 2022 totalling £12,150.31 be approved and the schedule authorising payment signed by Mr J M Ward and Mrs J Leggett.

**22/068. SCHEDULE OF DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENTS**

The schedule of direct debit payments to 23 February 2022 totalling £17,414.46 was approved and noted.

**22/069. SCHEDULE OF CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS & BARCLAY VISA DEBIT TO 23 FEBRUARY 2022**

The schedule of credit card and Barclay Visa Debit payments to 23 February 2022 totalling £64.88 was approved and noted.

There being no other necessary business the Chairman / Town Mayor of the Council thanked Councillors for their participation and declared the meeting closed at 9.37pm.

16 March 2022

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Town Mayor