

## **MEETING OF SPROWSTON TOWN COUNCILLORS – 6 APRIL 2022**

At the meeting of the Sprowston Town Council held at the School Room, Sprowston Diamond Centre, School Lane, Sprowston on Wednesday 6 April 2022, 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
Mrs B Cook	-	Mrs B J Lashley
Ms D Coleman	-	Mrs J Leggett
Mr W F Couzens	-	Mr J H Mallen

In attendance

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

1 member of the public was present

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### **22/092 DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS**

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary and other interests were received.

### **22/093. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Written apologies for absence were received and accepted by the Council from Ms C T Rumsby, Mr N Shaw, Mr G S Tingle and Mrs K Vincent.

### **22/094. RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS**

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

Mr K Lashley reported that Mrs Thelma Macfarlane, a long-standing resident of the community and responsible for design of the Sprowston tapestries had passed away.

The Town Mayor requested the Council's condolences be passed to the family.

The meeting was reconvened.

### **22/095. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Council's meeting held on 16 March 2022, having previously been circulated to all Councillors were confirmed and signed by the Chairman / Town Mayor of the Council.

## **22/096 ACTION FROM MINUTES**

- (1) Letter to Broadland District Council re: provision of public amenity Space in Future Large Scale Housing Development

It was agreed that Mrs J Leggett and the Town Clerk attend a meeting with planning officers at Broadland District Council on 28 April 2022 commencing 3.00pm to discuss the provision of public amenity space in future large scale housing developments. Should other Councillors be available and like to attend they were requested to contact the Town Clerk to register their interest.

Further to Minute 22/051, the Town Clerk reported he had received an email from the Senior Governance Officer at Broadland District Council advising that an oral hearing had taken place on 5 April 2022 from the representative of land owners of the Sprowston Sports and Social Club. He would inform Council of the decision when determined.

- (2) Referring to Minute 22/077, Mrs B J Lashley asked if there had been a response to her question regarding the clearing of weeds from gutters in Sprowston.

Mrs J Leggett advised she would contact Norfolk County Council (NCC) however, there was a report on the NCC website.

Mr J F Fisher confirmed NCC had a rolling programme of gutter cleaning in place.

## **22/097. RE-NOMINATION OF ASLAKE CLOSE COMMUNITY HUB AND SPROWSTON CRICKET CLUB TO THE REGISTER OF COMMUNITY ASSETS**

Council noted the five-year listing of Alake Close Community Hub and Sprowston Cricket Club on the Asset of Community Value Register expired on 12 March 2022.

Mrs B J Lashley proposed, seconded by Mr R J Knowles to submit a new application to re-nominate Aslake Close Community Hub and Sprowston Cricket Club to the Asset of Community Value Register. On being put to the vote the motion was CARRIED.

## **22/098. TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE**

- (1) Anglian Water - Work in Your Area

Council noted the pipeline route to connect 3000 new homes to existing water and sewerage networks and subsequent temporary closure of Salhouse Road and one lane of the Broadland Northway to facilitate this work.

- (2) Request for Donation - Tree Warden Network

Mrs B J Lashley enquired as to whether there had been any contact from the Broadland Tree Network and questioned if Council was receiving value for money.

Mrs J Leggett responded that Sprowston Tree Warden, Ben Jervis had given advice to the Recreational Facilities Working Group meeting when potential re-wilding of verges was discussed.

## **22/098. TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE (CONTINUED)**

**RESOLVED** the Town Clerk to contact Broadland Tree Warden Network and invite a representative to a future meeting of the Council before deciding whether to make a donation.

## **22/099. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

A written report was received from Mr J M Ward.

Mr J M Ward also verbally reported:

- (1) On 19 March 2022, I attended the Diamond Field and planted the first beech sapling in the new hedge. I would like to thank Cllr. Coleman and her husband for organising the day, also our Town Clerk and his family and those Councillors that came along to help.
- (2) Norfolk County Council have received a grant from Government of £3.3m to provide electric buses. Working with First Bus this will enable 15 new single decker electric buses to run on existing routes. It is estimated that 600 tonnes of carbon emissions will be saved each year.
- (3) Broadland District Council and South Norfolk District Council are launching a “Love Local, Spend Local” campaign to ask residents to make a conscious decision to spend a little extra each month with local businesses. The Council will help with promotional material, free branded bags and a £50.00 voucher competition.
- (4) Following the 2020 decision to close Holt Hall which was used by less than 3% of Norfolk’s children each year, was running at a 3year deficit of £270k and needed £600k repairs, it has been sold with £1m from the sale going to support education in Norfolk.
- (5) On 30 March 2022 Cllrs. Leggett, Vincent and myself attended the Police Priority Setting Meeting. After an hour of discussions and having regard to the results of a survey the police put out, the priorities for Old Catton and Sprowston were established as 1. Speeding 2. Anti-social behaviour.
- (6) Norfolk County Council Care Workers travelling between clients’ homes will see their hourly rate increase to £21.00. This is in light of the rising fuel process.
- (7) Yesterday I attended the Broadland and South Norfolk District Council Town and Parish Forum which was entirely given over to Ukrainians coming to this country.

The Government has so far issued 65,000 visas and has another 20,000 in the pipeline. In Norfolk 117 host families have been matched with Ukrainians and all those visas are being processed. 15 of those are in Broadland and 50 in South Norfolk. Jamie Sutterby is the lead on this at Broadland District Council.

- (8) Norfolk County Council have set up “The Norfolk Assistance Scheme” to help those who are financially unable to cope. The number is 01603 223392.

## **22/099. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS (CONTINUED)**

Mrs J Leggett verbally reported:

- (1) She had been advised at the Sprowston Safer Neighbourhood Team priority setting meeting that:
  - (i) recorded incidences of violence against persons were usually people that knew each other.
  - (ii) Norfolk Constabulary were keen for additional posts to be erected at Falcon Road West.
- (2) She had received a complaint concerning speeding from a resident of Linacre Avenue and requested the SAM2's be located on Linacre Avenue.
- (3) The contract awarded by Broadland District Council to Veolia offering an enhanced service of weekly collections of small electrical and electronic equipment and textiles began Monday 4 April 2022. Vehicles would soon have relevant signage displayed.
- (4) Broadland District Council had launched their Big Litter Pick which encourages Schools and Community groups to get involved. Each group will receive a £20.00 voucher and entered in to a prize draw to win £200.00.

Referring to Mr J M Ward's written report on a third river crossing in Great Yarmouth, Mrs B J Lashley suggested that unless access improvements were made to dual carriageway the Acle Straight to make Great Yarmouth viable it was a pointless exercise.

With regard to the provision of electric busses mentioned in Mr Ward's verbal report Mrs B J Lashley requested that Norfolk County Council ensure some form of noise was associated with the busses so that visually impaired people were aware of their presence.

Mr W F Couzens questioned all £3.3m being spent with First Bus and no other operator.

In response Mr Ward advised electric busses would be a requirement if Norwich City Centre became a zero-emission zone. The £3.3m was in addition to £50m announced by Norfolk County Council.

With regard to Care Workers Mr W F Couzens said they should receive a mileage allowance for travelling between clients.

Mr W F Couzens asked for an update on "School Streets".

Mr W F Fisher advised that 6 schools were taking part in a trial across the county and Norfolk County Council were working with other schools on travel plans.

Regarding incidences of violence referred to in Mrs J Leggett's verbal report Mr W F Couzens remarked it was irrelevant that incidences of violence were between people that knew each other it was no less violent and still mattered.

## **22/100. REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK**

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

#### **1.1 Reopening of Sprowston Diamond Centre Cinema**

Further to his written report the Town Clerk advised the reopening of the cinema at Sprowston Diamond would be advertised in Sprowston Matters, Council's noticeboards, website and Facebook.

It was agreed the schedule of films to be screened from May to August 2022 be sent to Councillors for further advertising.

Other advertising options discussed included Just Sprowston and the EDP.

The Town Clerk brought Councillors attention to the faulty projector in the School Room advising it would need repair or replacement.

#### **1.2 Community Planting Event - Sprowston Diamond Field**

Council was pleased to note the success of the community planting event held on Saturday 19 March 2022 at Sprowston Diamond Field.

### **CEMETERY**

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

### **STREET LIGHTING**

#### **3.1 Referring to the previous review of Council's street lighting stock which required further clarification, Mrs B J Lashley suggested it would be advantageous to complete a new report before winter.**

### **CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL**

#### **4.1 Recruitment of Grounds Team Member on a Fixed Term Contract**

Responding to a question from Mr A J Barton the Town Clerk explained Council's grounds team consisted of 5 full time equivalent posts of which 4 were filled.

Whilst work was slower during winter months summertime was always very busy and a full complement of staff necessary to maintain the parks, open spaces and cemetery to an acceptable standard.

During the summer of 2021 he had engaged agency staff which had proved unreliable. In 2022 he intended to offer a fixed term contract with an option, if the need could be shown, to extend to a full-time position.

### **PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION**

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

## **22/101. 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.

## **22/102. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS**

Mrs B J Lashley expressed her disappointment with regard to the limited number of people that could attend the Beacon Lighting event to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee given the population of Sprowston and felt it should be open to everybody.

The Town Clerk explained that numbers were limited due to lack of space and safety concerns.

## **22/103. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS REPRESENTING THE COUNCIL ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

Ms D Coleman commented on the popularity of the community planting event at Sprowston Diamond Field and was pleased to see residents of all ages participating.

She also thanked Council's grounds staff team for their hard work in preparing the area which assisted in making the event so successful.

As to items collected on behalf of Support Ukraine UK that were unsuitable to send, these were sold at a jumble sale which raised £2,500.00.

Mr R J Knowles advised Council that Broadland Older Peoples Partnership (BOPP) was resuming face to face meetings and holding an open meeting at Taverham on 1 May 2022.

Mrs B J Lashley encouraged Councillors to attend the Norfolk ALC Summer Conference and AGM to be held Wednesday 6 July 2022.

## **22/104. 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:

20212334 - build an extension over the existing garage and extend out over the alley and garden. Giving increasing living space downstairs and adding two bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs at 74, Greenborough Road, Sprowston.

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

## 22/104. PLANNING (CONTINUED)

20220365 - rear extension and loft conversion with front and rear dormers at 11, Bracey Avenue, Sprowston.

20220451 - replace conservatory with new single storey garden room at 34, Martin Close, Sprowston.

- (b) not to oppose the granting of planning application 20220123 - erection of a two-storey rear extension and the conversion of an existing garage and outbuildings into a home office at 14, Pioneer Road, Sprowston subject to adequate provision being made for off road parking.
- (c) to remain strongly opposed to the granting of planning application 20220107 - repositioning of external racking for storage of goods at Norfolk Trucks Ltd, School Lane, Sprowston on the grounds that 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 was minded to approve this application the Town Council would request the existing line of trees on the boundary with School Lane 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.

- (d) to oppose the granting of planning application 20220525 - proposed new access. Single storey rear extension. New dormer to rear and extension to garage at 78, Barkers Lane, Sprowston on the grounds that the proposed new access is too close to the junction with Church View Close.
- (e) to comment as follows on planning application FUL/2021/0037 - proposed single storey side extension to main library area, with new bin store and minor internal alterations following the demolition of the existing side extension at Sprowston Library, Recreation Ground Road, Sprowston:
  - (i) The wall mural should be protected during building work
  - (ii) The planters, benches etc currently on site are not Norfolk County Council (NCC)/library property. They belong to the Sprowston Youth Engagement Project and will be removed by them. Any such features required by the Landscape Enhancement Plan will need to be provided by NCC.
- (f) to oppose the granting of planning application 302318 - telecommunications installation. It is proposed to install a 20.0m high P) Hutchinson Engineering Apollo ARV2 Streetpole (painted RAL7035 Light Ge) on new T9 4-Port root foundation, 1No. GPS, 6No. Antennas, Lancaster Cabinet, side pod cabinet and commscope SFMC 160 metre cabinet (Cabinets painted (RAL6009 Fir Green) and associated ancillary works at North Walsham Road, Sprowston NGR: E: 624358, N: 312518 on the grounds that it would be an unneighbourly form of development and have a negative impact on the visual amenities of residents in the immediate vicinity and wider area. Council would also encourage providers to share streetpoles and notes there are two existing poles within a short distance.

## **22/105. PLANNING DECISIONS**

Council noted planning decisions for week ending 18 March 2022.

## **22/106. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS 6 APRIL 2022**

The Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer presented the schedule of accounts to 6 April 2022 totalling £8,910.16.

In response to Councillors questions the Town Clerk explained:

Invoice J83046 Ernest Doe Solid Tines for verti-drain - was a piece of consumable equipment attached to the tractor used to aerate the Recreation Ground.

Invoice 927249 Heritage additional labour Saturday 9 February 2022 - resulted from a late-night hire at Sprowston Diamond Centre requiring caretakers to lock the building after midnight and prepare the room for an early morning hire the following day.

Invoice 927275 Heritage investigate leak, repair door, walls, replace window fitting – most of this was caused by a leaky radiator and boxed in pipe.

On the motion of Mr J M Ward, seconded by Mrs B J Lashley it was **RESOLVED** that payment of the accounts to 6 April 2022 totalling £8,910.16 be approved and the schedule authorising payment signed by Mr J M Ward and Mrs J Leggett.

## **22/107. SCHEDULE OF DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENTS**

The schedule of direct debit payments to 6 April 2022 totalling £14,834.25 was approved and noted.

In response to Councillors questions the Town Clerk explained:

Invoice 93862 Npower Credit - resulted from a previous overcharge.

Invoice 36535724 Council Tax for Viking Centre (additional £1,602.93 for long term empty) - this was for a period of 1 Year.

There being no other necessary business the Chairman / Town Mayor of the Council thanked Councillors for their participation and declared the meeting closed at 8.43pm.

27 April 2022

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Town Mayor