

MEETING OF SPROWSTON TOWN COUNCILLORS – 14 DECEMBER 2022

At the meeting of the Sprowston Town Council held at the Council Chamber, Recreation Ground Road, Sprowston on Wednesday 14 December 2022, the following Councillors were present: -

Mr W F Couzens – Chairman

Mr M A Booth	-	Mrs B J Lashley
Mr M G Callam	-	Mrs J Leggett
Ms D Coleman	-	Mr J M Ward

In attendance

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

1 member of the public was present

22/332. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary and other interests were received.

22/333. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

22/334. RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS

On the motion of Mr W F Couzens, 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 Chairman who would, assisted by the Town Clerk, reply.

As there were no residents' questions the Chair reconvened the meeting.

22/335. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council's meetings held on 9 November and 30 November 2022, having previously been circulated to all Councillors were confirmed and signed by the Chair of the Council.

22/336. ACTION FROM MINUTES

(1) Grant Application from Norwich Community First Responders (CRF'S)

Further to Minute 22/299 (1), Mr W F Couzens reported Broadland District Councillors Ian Moncur and Natasha Harpley had contributed their members' allowance towards the purchase of a community first responder kit bag and Councillor Breanne Cook had contributed the remaining £300.00.

22/336. ACTION FROM MINUTES (CONTINUED)

(2) Barkers Lane Open Space Shelter

Further to Minute 22/299 (2), Mr W F Couzens reported PC Graham Gill had spoken to seven individuals in the locality of the shelter on Barkers Lane open space. No further reports of anti-social behaviour had been received by the Police.

(3) Parking - Colindeep Lane

Further to Minute 22/300, Mr W F Couzens advised PC Graham Gill had spoken to a number of drivers regarding inconsiderate and potentially dangerous parking on Colindeep Lane and the situation had improved.

(4) WWI Centenary

Mrs B J Lashley referred to Minute 18/0179, Council resolution that a line of native trees at Wilks Farm Drive, to include existing mature trees, be created. The planting of these trees to represent the 84 Spowston residents who died in WWI.

Mrs J Leggett responded that Council had rescinded this decision at a later meeting and commented on the difficulty in identifying an area large enough to plant 84 trees.

RESOLVED that an item be placed on the agenda for a future meeting of the Council.

(5) Viking Centre

Further to Minute 22/304, the Town Clerk reported revised plans for the Viking Centre agreed by Council had been submitted to the planning authority. Jason Menezes, Bidwells LLP had confirmed the timeline and costings were on target to commence redevelopment in April 2023.

22/337. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

A written report was received from Mr J M Ward.

Mr Ward also verbally reported

- (1) On 8 December 2022 Norfolk County Council and the Government signed a County Deal which is agreed in principle to transfer powers to boost jobs, regeneration, housing and transport to Norfolk. As part of the deal Norfolk County Council would have a Council Leader (Mayor) who is directly elected by the public with the first election in May 2024.
- (2) Norfolk County Council has submitted a proposal that could see up to 70 electric buses arrive in Norwich in 2024 (15 have already been confirmed). If this goes ahead it will mean that the Rowntree Way First Bus Depot is 100% electric.
- (3) The Department for Education have awarded Norfolk County Council £4.7m as part of the Multiply Project to improve numeracy skills in adults. The funding will be used

22/337. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS (CONTINUED)

to give grants to training providers. For more information go to www.norfolk.gov.uk/multiply.

- (4) New apprenticeships start:- Norfolk are up 17.7% on last year compared to a national average of 8.6%. Apprenticeships are not just for young people, with half of those this year being over the age of 25.

In response to questions on items mentioned in Mr Ward's written report Council was advised that:

- (1) Funding for the County Deal is £20m annually for a period of 20 years with no increase for inflation.
- (2) Norfolk County Council regularly replenish roadside grit bins. Residents can also request top-ups.
- (3) Previous difficulties had been encountered regarding the gritting of Atlantic Avenue as it is not an adopted road and remains the responsibility of developers. Mr Ward agreed to pursue with Norfolk County Council via email and follow up with Chief Executive Tom McCabe.

Mrs J Leggett to also raise this matter with Broadland District Council.

Mrs J Leggett verbally reported:

- (1) Broadland District Council Council's Help Hub offered support to families covering a range of issues including money worries and debt, domestic abuse, wellbeing and health, housing etc.
- (2) On her attendance at remote meetings of Town and Parish Councils, Norfolk's Police and Crime Commissioner and Sprowston and Old Catton Priority Setting.
- (3) On a new Bin Collection app to keep up to date with bin collection days and find out about recycling.

Referring to Minute 22/305, Mrs B J Lashley enquired if her suggestion for Broadland District Council officers to write an article for inclusion in parish magazines had been pursued.

Mrs J Leggett agreed to raise this idea with relevant managers at the district council.

22/338. REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

COMMUNITY BUILDINGS, ALLOTMENTS, PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

1.1 Sprowston Diamond Centre Community Cinema - Winter/Spring Programme

Council noted the next programme of films for the Sprowston Community Cinema.

1.2 Police request for a Sprowston Venue in which to hold Face to Face Priority Setting Meetings and Surgeries

22/338. REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK (CONTINUED)

During discussion a number of comments were made including:

- (1) The Police levied a precept on residents as did the Council.
- (2) Should rooms be offered free of charge to other precepting authorities.
- (3) The police authority must hold a budget for public consultation which could be applied for.
- (4) It would be a service to the public.
- (5) Priority setting meetings grew out of the Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel meetings and are a benefit to residents.
- (6) The importance of offering residents an opportunity to talk directly to the police.
- (7) Rooms not in use could be made available whilst funding was sought.

Mr M G Callam proposed, seconded by Mrs J Leggett that rooms be offered free of charge to the police to hold face to face priority setting meetings and surgeries subject to availability.

1.3 Community Planting Event Saturday 26 November 2022, Sprowston Diamond Field

Council noted the Town Clerk's report on the successful Community planting event held Saturday 26 November 2022 at the Diamond Field run by Cllr. D Coleman and assisted by the Chair and other Councillors who were available to attend.

CEMETERY

2.1 No matters were reported

STREET LIGHTING

3.1 No matters were reported

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL

4.1 No matters were reported

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

5.1 No matters were reported

22/339. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mr W F Couzens, seconded by Mr M G Callam it was **RESOLVED** to adjourn the meeting for a short break.

The meeting was reconvened.

22/340. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

Council noted the minutes of the Recreational Facilities Working Group meeting held 21 November 2022. Mrs J Leggett advised stakeholder meetings referred to in the minutes would initially be held with district council officers.

22/341. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS REPRESENTING THE COUNCIL ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

Council noted the written report from Mr W F Couzens.

22/342. 2023 SUMMER FETE SPONSORSHIP LETTER

RESOLVED to agree in principle the draft 2023 summer fete sponsorship letter subject to the following amendments:

Paragraph 2, delete surround and insert surrounding areas

Paragraph 5, insert suitable before advertising

Paragraph 8, delete It and insert If

Include wording to give sponsors an opportunity to contribute smaller amounts towards larger items.

Councillors to email their suggestions for businesses to be included on the mailing list.

22/343. NOMINATION OF COUNCILLOR M A BOOTH TO JOIN THE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WORKING GROUP

Mr W F Couzens proposed, seconded by Mr M G Callam to elect Mr M A Booth to serve on the Recreational Facilities Working Group. On being put to the vote the motion was CARRIED.

22/344. 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:

20221876 - single storey rear extension with flat roof at 14, Impala Close, Sprowston

20221897 - two storey side and rear extension at 55, Tills Road, Sprowston

20221930 - single storey rear extension at 21, Blithewood Gardens, Sprowston

22/345. PLANNING DECISIONS

Council noted planning decisions for week ending 18 November 2022.

22/346. APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

RESOLVED to appoint Price Bailey Chartered Accountants as Council's Internal Auditors.

22/347. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS 14 DECEMBER 2022

The Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer presented the schedule and supplementary schedule of accounts to 14 December 2022 totalling £11,438.06 and £15,575.00.

On the motion of Mrs J Leggett, seconded by Mr J M Ward it was **RESOLVED** that payment of the accounts and supplementary accounts to 14 December 2022 totalling £11,438.06 and £15,575.00 be approved and the schedule authorising payment signed by Mr W F Couzens and Mrs J Leggett.

The Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer presented the schedule of invoice payments made to 14 December 2022 totalling £676.38.

On the motion of Mrs J Leggett, seconded by Mr J M Ward it was **RESOLVED** that the schedule of invoice payments to 09 November 2022 totalling £2,358.72 be approved and the schedule authorising payment signed by Mr W F Couzens and Mrs J Leggett.

22/348. SCHEDULE OF CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS & BARCLAY VISA DEBIT

In response to a Councillor's question the Town Clerk explained:

The poppy wreath ordered for 11 November 2022 was not delivered and subsequently refunded. However, on visiting the Royal Mail sorting office to collect another item the poppy wreath was found. He therefore made a donation on behalf of the Council.

The schedule of credit card and Barclay Visa Debit payments to 14 December 2022 totalling £748.89 was approved and noted.

22/349. SCHEDULE OF DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENTS

In response to a Councillor's question the Town Clerk explained:

Invoice 11249364 - Wave monthly water bill was considerably higher as it had been the driest summer for 40 years. Also, sewerage charges are calculated on water usage even though a majority is for watering the bowls green and tennis courts and seep into the ground. He would investigate having a sub-metre fitted to identify horticultural usage of water and reduce the sewerage fees.

The schedule of direct debit payments to 14 December 2022 totalling £3,107.62 was approved and noted.

22/350. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Mr W F Couzens proposed, seconded by Mr M G Callam to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting for the remaining business because otherwise information prejudicial to the public interests which is exempt by virtue of the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings Act) 1960 Section 1 (2) would be disclosed to them.

22/351. PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

Council noted the closed and outstanding enforcement cases.

22/352. STAFFING

The Town Clerk confirmed he would be convening Council's Staffing Committee.

There being no other necessary business the Chair of the Council thanked Councillors for their participation and declared the meeting closed at 8.38pm.

11 January 2023

Chair