

## **MEETING OF SPROWSTON TOWN COUNCILLORS – 5 APRIL 2023**

At the meeting of the Sprowston Town Council held at the Council Chamber, Recreation Ground Road, Sprowston on Wednesday 5 April 2023, the following Councillors were present: -

Mr W F Couzens – Chairman

Mr A J Barton	-	Mrs B J Lashley
Mr M A Booth	-	Mrs J Leggett
Mr M G Callam	-	Mr J H Mallen
Ms D Coleman	-	Mr G S Tingle
Mr R J Knowles	-	Mr J M Ward

In attendance

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

One member of the public was present

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### **23/092. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS**

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary and other interests were received.

### **23/093. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Written apologies for absence were received and accepted by the Council from Mr J F Fisher, Ms C T Rumsby and Mrs K Vincent.

### **23/094. RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS**

On the motion of Mr W F Couzens, seconded by Mr M A Booth it was **RESOLVED**, that the meeting be adjourned to receive residents' and councillors' questions on matters concerning the town. Residents and councillors were reminded that their questions should be addressed to the Chairman who would, assisted by the Town Clerk, reply.

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

### **23/095. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Council's meeting held on 15 March 2023, having previously been circulated to all Councillors were subject to the following amendments

Page 1, **delete** 22 February and **insert** 15 March

Minute 23/074, paragraph 7, **delete** highways Authority and **insert** Highways Authority

Minute 23/084 (d), **delete** grating and **insert** granting

confirmed and signed by the Chair of the Council.

## **23/096. ACTION FROM MINUTES**

Further to Minute 23/059, Mrs J Leggett reported delivery of Hedgehog signage was imminent and would be installed when received.

Referring to Minute 23/091, Mr J M Ward asked if the Town Clerk had contacted the Planning Authority with regard to length of time to resolve enforcements cases. The Town Clerk advised this was still to be actioned.

Further to Minute 23/074, Mrs J Leggett agreed to obtain a statement of criteria from the Planning Authority for determining if an application should be decided under delegated powers or committee.

With regard to Minute 23/078, Mr W F Couzens had spoken to an officer at Broadland District Council who thought there would be a pedestrian crossing on Atlantic Avenue however, there was currently no active planning applications which incorporated a crossing.

Mrs J Leggett responded planning application 20191370, which did include a pedestrian crossing, had been withdrawn.

## **23/097. CORRESPONDENCE**

### (1) Anglian Water Update - New Norwich Pipeline

Having asked Anglian Water why traffic had been diverted along Blue Boar Lane instead of Atlantic Avenue Mr W F Couzens had been told it was because Atlantic Avenue was not adopted. This was more reason for this road to be adopted as soon as possible.

Ms D Coleman expressed concern with regard to trees being replaced when the pipeline scheme was completed.

Mrs J Leggett advised replanting was included in the planning application.

### (2) Norfolk Lieutenancy Coronation Newsletter March 2023

Mr M G Callam confirmed the Kings Coronation would be screened at St. Cuthberts Church with refreshments provided however, there would not be a fete following transmission.

## **23/098. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

A written report was received from Mr J M Ward.

Mr J M Ward also verbally reported on the Integrated Care Council (ICC) led by the NHS which included charities, GP's and other organisations to provide integrated care.

Referring to Mr Ward's written report, Mrs B J Lashley enquired if the national test of the UK Emergency Alerts Service included sound and what efforts had been made to contact individuals with dementia and autism who might be scared by the test.

## **23/098. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS (CONTINUED)**

She had seen little publicity about the test and wondered if it worked on older phones not connected to 4G or 5G.

Mr Ward advised it was a Central Government scheme and he had no further information.

In response a question from Mrs B J Lashley regarding Orbit Housing managing the recently completed 48 homes in Attleborough, Mr Ward explained that rent would be paid by tenants to the housing association and land purchased by Norfolk County Council was likely to be on a termed lease.

Mrs J Leggett verbally reported:

- (1) Green Loans were still available from the District Council.
- (2) Broadland and South Norfolk Councils had received £2.03 million funding from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to support sustainability objectives and net-zero carbon emissions by 2030.

## **23/099. WHITE HOUSE FARM 20221648 - ADOPTABLE OPEN SPACE**

Council was pleased to note the landscaping specification for the public open space areas at land off Blue Boar Lane.

The Town Clerk advised the developer had confirmed play equipment had been ordered for three areas in the White House farm development. All three areas were supposed to be seeded, equipment installed and ready for use by the summer holidays.

Mr W F Couzens noted there was insufficient provision of dog and litter bins. He also asked if developers could be requested not to use Glyphosate.

## **23/100. 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.

## **23/101. REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK**

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

#### **1.1 Sprowston Diamond Centre Community Cinema - Spring/Summer Programme**

Council noted the list of films booked for the Spring/ Summer programme.

The Town Clerk reported that since the 2020 pandemic numbers of attendees had steadily increased.

#### **1.2 Drinking Fountain on Sprowston Recreation Ground**

## **23/101. REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK (CONTINUED)**

Council noted the new drinking fountain installed on Sprowston Recreation Ground adjacent the Pavilion changing rooms.

### **1.3 Tiny Forest Inspection**

Council noted the tour of the Tiny Forest on Sprowston Recreation Ground by Norfolk County Council's Project Officer and representatives of interested organisations.

### **1.4 New Hybrid Ride-on Mower**

Council was pleased to note the new diesel hybrid electric ride-on mower had been received.

### **1.5 Norwich Bystanders Cricket Club (NBCC)**

Council noted the tour of Sprowston Pavilion and changing rooms by the NBCC committee and team captains. The Town Clerk had informed the cricket club that the Pavilion was restricted to 35 people at any one time.

## **CEMETERY**

### **2.1 New Storage Container**

Council noted the dilapidated storage container at the cemetery had been replaced with a new one.

### **2.2 Tree Fall in St. Mary and St. Margarets Closed Church Yard**

Council noted a dead fallen Sycamore tree in the old church yard had been removed. As a precaution AT Coombes tree surgeons had been instructed to re-survey all trees in the old church yard in the event they had been weakened by recent high winds.

In response to a question from Mrs B J Lashley the Town Clerk explained a bricklayer had been sourced and the cemetery gates would be replaced when brick work completed.

## **STREET LIGHTING**

### **3.1 Barkers Lane**

Council noted the action taken with regard to reports of streetlights developing faults on Barkers Lane.

## **CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL**

### **4.1 New Grounds Staff**

The Town Clerk advised all new employees complete a six-month probation period.

## **23/101. REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK (CONTINUED)**

### **PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION**

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

### **ATTACHMENTS**

#### **6.1 None**

## **23/102. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS**

No written or verbal reports were received.

## **23/103. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS REPRESENTING THE COUNCIL ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

A written report was received from Mr W F Couzens.

Mr W F Couzens also verbally reported on his attendance at the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team Priority Setting meeting held 29 March 2023 as follows:

- (1) In attendance were approximately 25 - 30 local residents, local councillors and Beat Manager PC Graham Gill.
- (2) From December 2022 to February 2023 violence with and without injury had the highest number of incidents reported. Only one arson in Sprowston and five burglaries in the three-month period.
- (3) Residents raised concerns with regard to dangerous and inconsiderate parking on Wroxham Road in the vicinity of Friends Dentist. An on-site meeting between the Norfolk County Council Highways, Police and local Councillors is to be arranged,
- (4) Residents from Meadow Gardens also raised concerns with dangerous and inconsiderate parking by customers visiting the nearby vets and commuters catching the bus into Norwich. PC Gill to discuss with the vets and also investigate other avenues.
- (5) Incidents of parents parking in the layby opposite the entrance to Sprowston Academy preventing coaches turning into the school grounds had been reported. PC Gill is looking into provision of H Lines or zig zag lines to prevent parking.
- (6) The only parking Enforcement Officer for the area is soon to retire and a replacement has yet been sought.
- (7) There has been a campaign to reduce speeding on Wroxham Road, North Walsham Road and Spixworth Road. Also, Barkers Lane where four tickets had been issued. A request was made for Council to again site their vehicle activated sign (SAM2) on Barkers Lane to judge the issue of speeding on this road.
- (8) There have been two incidents of anti-social behaviour on the Manor Park estate on Scott Close. Only one incident on Barkers Lane during the three-month period.

## **23/103. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS REPRESENTING THE COUNCIL ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS (CONTINUED)**

- (9) Police are changing the way the priorities are set by introducing an on-line poll (<https://www.norfolk.police.uk/broadland-policing-your-rea-survey>). The priorities for the next quarter will be speeding and parking issues and anti-social behaviour on the parks.
- (10) The provisional date for the next meeting is 7.00pm, Wednesday 21 June 2023, Jones Room, Sprowston Diamond centre, School Lane, Sprowston.

In response to a question from Mr J M Ward the Town Clerk replied that following an article in Sprowston Matters a resident had visited the Council office. The old Viking Sign had fallen off the building and he had kept it in his garage. Whilst it was not in the greatest condition the Council were welcome to it.

Mr R J Knowles reported a public meeting of Broadlands Older People's Partnership to be held on 23 July 2023, at Gage Road, Sprowston, Norwich.

## **23/104. 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 application:

20230591 - two storey and single storey rear extension at 66, Blue Boar Lane, Sprowston.

20230664 - replacement garage at Park House, Wroxham Road, Sprowston.

- (b) not to oppose the granting of planning application 20230698 - replacement single storey and side extension including porch, render house, widen driveway and associated drop kerb at 17, Merlin Avenue, Sprowston subject to adequate measures in place to prevent any further water draining off onto the highway.
- (c) to oppose the granting of planning application 20230547 - erection of a two-storey dwelling at 56, North Walsham Road, Sprowston on the grounds that it is an overdevelopment of the site and cramped form of development. The proposed dwelling would obstruct the view to the right of vehicles exiting Dovedales restricting sight of oncoming traffic from North Walsham Road. Furthermore, to access the proposed parking space in the rear garden vehicles would have to use the forecourt of garages belonging to neighbouring properties.
- (d) to oppose the granting of planning application 20230677 - proposed loft conversion including rear dormer and Velux rooflight to front at 4, Bobolink Row, Sprowston on the grounds that it is an over development of the site, overlooks the neighbouring property and the new flat roof is not subservient to the existing roofline.

### **23/104. PLANNING (CONTINUED)**

- (e) To oppose the granting of planning application 20230684 - variation of condition 2 of 2022024 - enlargement of proposed ground floor side windows at 185, Wroxham

Road, Sprowston on the grounds that Council objected to the original application and cannot see any significant changes. High level windows adjacent a residential property is appropriate and to enlarge these windows on the side of a property would set a precedent.

### **20/105. PLANNING DECISIONS**

Council noted Broadland District Council's planning decisions for week ending 10 March 2023 and 17 March 2023.

### **23/106. SCHEDULE OF DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENTS**

In response to Councillors questions the Town Clerk advised:

Invoice No. 014844360223 Barclaycard PDQ monthly charge - with a wider choice on the market he was looking to replace the PDQ machine with a less expensive option.

Invoice No. 27980083 Opus Energy - was an estimated bill and a credit had since been received.

The schedule of direct debit payments to 5 April 2023 totalling £21,226.68 was approved and noted.

### **23/107. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS - INVOICES TO PAY 5 APRIL 2023**

The Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer presented the schedule of invoices to 5 April 2023 totalling £12,135.48.

On the motion of Mr M A Booth, seconded by Mrs J Leggett it was **RESOLVED** that payment of the schedule of invoices to 5 April 2023 totalling £12,135.48 be approved and the schedule authorising payment signed by Mr W F Couzens and Mrs J Leggett.

### **23/108. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS - INVOICES PAID 5 APRIL 2023**

The Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer presented the schedule of invoices paid to 5 April 2023 totalling £218.80.

On the motion of Mr J M Ward, seconded by Mrs J Leggett it was **RESOLVED** that payment of the schedule of invoices paid to 5 April 2023 totalling £218.80 be approved and the schedule authorising payment signed by Mr W F Couzens and Mrs J Leggett.

There being no other necessary business the Chair of the Council thanked Councillors for their participation and declared the meeting closed at 8.41pm.

26 April 2023

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Chair