

COUNCIL MEETING – 30 OCTOBER 2019

At the meeting of the Sprowston Town Council held at the Council Chamber, Recreation Ground Road, Sprowston on Wednesday 30 October 2019, the following Members were present: -

Mr J M Ward – Town Mayor

Mr A J Barton	-	Mr R J Knowles
Mr M G Callam	-	Mrs B J Lashley
Mrs B Cook	-	Mrs J Leggett
Mr W F Couzens	-	Mr N Shaw
Mr J F Fisher	-	Mr S C Walker

In attendance

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

2 members of the public were present

19/271. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary and other interests were received.

19/272. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Written apologies for absence were received and accepted by the Council from Ms D Coleman, Mr I J Mackie, Mr J H Mallen and Ms C T Rumsby.

19/273. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council's meeting held on 9 October 2019, having previously been circulated to all Members were, subject to the following amendment

Minute 19/256 (3) delete VG and insert VJ

confirmed and signed by the Town Mayor of the Council.

19/274. POLICE LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT

Norfolk Constabulary's Newsletter was unavailable.

19/275. REVIEW SECTION 38 STREET LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS

(1) Halsbury Homes Development - Salhouse Road

The Town Clerk explained that Halsbury Homes Development straddled the parish boundary of Sprowston and Great and Little Plumstead. Having contacted Great and Little Plumstead Parish Clerk he had been advised that their Council do not ask to install and adopt street lighting.

19/275. REVIEW SECTION 38 STREET LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS (CONTINUED)

Mr M G Callam suggested that the Council continues to support the adoption of street lighting on the part of the Halsbury Homes development in Sprowston.

- (2) David Wilson Homes - Salhouse Road (recorded on the Agenda as Keir Living Ltd)

It was noted that the David Wilson Homes development straddled the parish boundary of Sprowston and Rackheath. The Town Clerk would establish Rackheath Parish Council's policy on installation and adoption of street lighting.

19/276. BUSINESS PLAN

Further to Minute 19/264, Mr J M Ward reported that the Business Plan Group had met and a draft Business Plan would be presented to Council for consideration at the next meeting.

19/277. CORRESPONDENCE

Members noted the email from Steve Shaw, Director Power for People requesting the Council to help their campaign by passing a motion in support of the Local Electricity Bill, and signing up to the campaign.

Concerns were expressed regarding the number of agencies needing to be involved, knowledge of energy safety and legal issues, whether OFGEM compliant, small energy suppliers already out of business as uncompetitive, what would happen if no energy was generated by sun or wind, it was a form of circumventing the planning system.

Mr M G Callam commented that it was just a calling for support for a bill where Councils and other local people could avail themselves of these potential facilities. Mr J F Fisher said the Council would not be committing to anything, the bill was just supporting smaller councils in gaining access to community power.

Mr M G Callam proposed, seconded by Mr Fisher for the Council to support the Local Energy Bill.

On being put to the vote the motion was LOST.

19/278. 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

- (1) Norfolk's five-year olds are ahead of the national average 72.5% have achieved a "Good" level compared to 71.8% nationally. This is a big improvement on where we were in 2014.
- (2) last week I had a tour of our 3 County Farms, Care Farms. A well established and growing one at Lingwood, a new one at Mountby (the tenants have only been in for

19/278. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS (CONTINUED)

2 weeks) and the large original Care Farm, Clinks Farm, at Haddiscoe - this latter one works with up to 40 clients 5 days a week.

Norfolk Museum Development Foundation

- (3) if anybody would like a free visit to the Castle, as Chairman of the Norfolk Museum Development Foundation I can take in 5 guests free of charge. I am next going to the Castle on Monday 4 November 2019 at 2.00pm so if anybody would like to join me, they are very welcome. I would just get you in, you can then do whatever you wish.

Sprowston Town Council

- (4) On Sunday 10 November 2019 I will be representing this Council and doing a reading at the Remembrance Service at St. Mary and St. Margarets Church at 10.45am, all Councillors are welcome to join me.

Mrs J Leggett verbally reported that:

- (1) having considered the applications for a Beat Manager a formal recruitment was felt not to be required and PC Graham Gill had been appointed.
- (2) she had attended the opening of the new White House Farm School.
- (3) Andrew Frederick Adult Support, for whom Hayley Howes runs the Dementia Café, won the Business Community Support of the Year Award at Broadland Community at Heart Awards.

Mr J F Fisher verbally reported that:

- (1) following concerns previously expressed regarding the Childhood and Family Support Services more people not previously reached were now contacting them using the on-line service.

There were still some play/community groups in the centres run by volunteers

An Ofsted focus inspection had taken place on the front-end service, where first assessments were handled, and it was noted that the service had transformed and was now working well. The previous OFSTED report had stated it was in serious need of improvement.

Mr N Shaw verbally reported he:

- (1) had attended a Norfolk Rivers Internal Drainage Board meeting.
- (2) had attended a Community Safety Scrutiny meeting where county lines were the main topic. He would send a written report and presentation to the Town Clerk to be disseminated to Councillors.

Referring to Mr Ward's written report, Mr W F Couzens asked how many pupils the new school could accommodate and was there a shortfall of spaces in Norfolk?

19/278. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS (CONTINUED)

Mr J F Fisher responded that £1.2m was to buy the site which could accommodate 100 pupils. There were no pupils in Norfolk without a space.

There would be four new schools dealing with different educational needs depending on the requirements of the area and 11 resource bases located within existing schools.

Travelling would be reduced and children not sent out of the county.

The overall spend would be £120m.

Mrs B J Lashley asked if the new schools would be Academy Trusts.

Mr Fisher replied that the land and buildings would be owned by Norfolk County Council and leased to Academy Trusts.

Mrs Lashley asked if the academies would be obliged to take all applicants or could they choose?

In response Mr Fisher stated that available vacancies were advertised and parents could apply. The academy would decide which applicants were offered a placement however, parents could appeal the decision and judiciary would consider if the decision was appropriate.

Mrs B J Lashley reported that since the clocks had changed, the street lights on the A1151, Wroxham Road were lighting up later than those on side roads and requested Norfolk County Councillors to investigate why.

19/279. 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 Town Mayor who would, assisted by the Town Clerk, reply.

Mr M Moore asked:

- (1) if there was any further information with regard to the perpetrators of the incident at the petrol station on North Walsham Road;
- (2) why there were only warning signs of ramps in one direction on Foxburrow Road;
- (3) for details of the scrap man that visited Sprowston fortnightly.

In response Mr Moore was advised that the Council did not have any details pertaining to the incident at the petrol station on North Walsham Road or of the scrap man collection service. As to signage for ramps this was temporary and waiting for collection following roadway re-surfacing.

19/280. REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

COMMUNITY BUILDINGS, ALLOTMENTS, PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

1.1 Broadland Enhancement Award

Members noted the report of the Town Clerk. Mrs J Leggett reported that the Octagon Barn at Little Plumstead had won the award.

CEMETERY

2.1 No matters were reported

STREET LIGHTING

3.1 No matters were reported

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL

4.1 Recycling

Having considered the report of the Town Clerk Councillors were supportive of introducing a recycling facility for office and grounds staff to be located in the compound at Sprowston Recreation Ground.

RESOLVED to enter into a one-year contract with Broadland District Council for a commercial recycling bin at £133.00 per annum.

4.2 Redmond review of local authority financial reporting and external audit: call for views

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk and Councillors respond on an individual basis to the Redmond Review Audit Call For Evidence, provided no financial details were disclosed.

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

5.1 Residential Developments of North Blue Boar Lane and East of Salhouse Road

The Town Clerk reported that he had requested Broadland District Council Planning Officers to attend a Council meeting to discuss the new residential developments North of Blue Boar Lane and East of Salhouse Road. He was awaiting a response.

ATTACHMENTS

6.1 Email from NALC Committees NALCCommittees@nalc.gov.uk. Subject "Policy Consultation E-Briefing 12 - 19 Independent Review into Local Government Audit Call for Evidence".

19/281. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mr M G Callam, seconded by Mr R J Knowles it was **RESOLVED** to adjourn the meeting for a short break.

The meeting was reconvened.

19/282. 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

to raise no objection to the following applications:

2019/1408 - proposed garage and side extension at 8, Rangoon Close

2019/1452 - matters reserved by conditions 2 (layout, scale, appearance and landscaping), 6 (landscaping), 10 and 13 (layout) of outline approval 2016/0759 - erection of 4 x detached dwellings with garages at Foxley Wood, Buxton Road, Spixworth

2019/1573 - variation of condition 2 following grant of permission 2018/0295 - revised design and layout of building location at 14, Adams Road

2019/1595 - prior notification of installation of solar photovoltaics (PV) panels on roof at Tesco Stores Ltd, Blue Boar Lane

2019/1635 - single storey rear extension at 32, Cere Road

2019/1603 - display of: 1) 1 no. internally illuminated height barrier; 2) 2 no. internally illuminated key seller signs; 3) 1 no. internally illuminated double menu sign; 4) 1 no. internally illuminated pole sign; 5) 1 no. internally illuminated frame sign; 6) 1 no. internally illuminated roof lettering; 7) 3 no. non illuminated fascia signs location : coffee shop with drive-thru at Sprowston Retail Park

19/283. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

No written reports were received.

19/284. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS REPRESENTING THE COUNCIL ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

No written reports were received.

19/285. SUMMARY OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE AND BALANCE SHEET TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2019

The Town Clerk responded as follows to queries on the Income & Expenditure and Balance Sheet:

- (1) Administration, nominal code 7017 (IT) - 70.5% of budget spent due to up-front costs
- (2) Allotments, nominal code 5101 (Vermin Control) - 100% budget spent resulting from of an annual contract
- (3) Street Scene, nominal code 5605 (Dog and Litter Bins) - overspend due to Broadland District Council identifying a bin they had not previously been charging for.

Mrs J Leggett asked if there was any aspiration to generate an income from Sprowston Diamond Centre.

The Town Clerk responded that usage was growing and an income of £29k had already been achieved. However, he did feel a target of £70k within the first year following redevelopment was quite ambitious.

SDC Phase 4 was clarified as being Sprowston Diamond Centre Phase Four redevelopment.

Mrs B J Lashley asked if there was any indication of how Chestnut Nursery was performing.

The Town Clerk advised that capacity was at just under 10% at the moment but they were hopeful of 70% by end of first school year.

RESOLVED to approve and adopt the Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet and Detailed Income and Expenditure to 30 September 2019.

19/286. FIXED LOAN REPAYMENTS

The schedule of fixed loan repayments was received and noted.

19/287. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer presented the schedule of accounts and supplementary schedule of accounts to 30 October 2019 totalling £9,315.85 and £219.25.

In response to queries on

- (1) invoice No. 4595 - Cozens (UK) Ltd: LED at 70 Pioneer Road, 29/30 Mountbatten Drive the Town Clerk confirmed that it was for two Lamps.
- (2) invoice No. 460034 - MD Thompson: 4 pin light bulbs the Town Clerk advised these were replacement bulbs for lights at Sparhawk Park toilets.

19/287. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

Referring to Invoice No. 30174096 - The Royal British Legion: poppy wreath it was

RESOLVED that a donation of £300.00 (to include £19.25 for purchase poppy wreath) be made to The Royal British Legion in support of their appeal in accordance with its powers under the LGA 1972, s137 (as amended LAGHA 1989 s.28).

On the motion of Mr J M Ward, seconded by Mr N Shaw it was **RESOLVED** that payment of the accounts and supplementary accounts to 30 October 2019 totalling £9,315.85 and £219.25 be approved and the schedule authorising payment signed by Mr R J Knowles and Mr J M Ward.

19/288. SCHEDULE OF CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS & BARCLAYS VISA DEBIT

The schedule of credit card payments totalling £120.02 and visa debit totalling £35.76 was approved and noted.

19/289. SCHEDULE OF DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENTS

The schedule of direct debit payments totalling £85,139.46 was approved and noted.

There being no other necessary business the Town Mayor of the Council thanked Members for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.

20 November 2019

Town Mayor