

COUNCIL MEETING – 20 NOVEMBER 2019

At the meeting of the Sprowston Town Council held at the Council Chamber, Recreation Ground Road, Sprowston on Wednesday 20 November 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
Ms D Coleman	-	Mrs J Leggett
Mr W F Couzens	-	Mr J H Mallen
Mr S C Walker		

In attendance

Mr G Ranaweera	-	Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
Mrs E Elliot	-	Committee Officer
Mr B Burgess	-	Broadland District Council Planning Projects and Landscape Manager
Mrs S Hoare	-	Community Infrastructure Co-ordinator
Mr C Judson	-	Senior Planning Officer

1 member of the public was present

19/290. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary and other interests were received.

19/291. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Written apologies for absence were received and accepted by the Council from Mrs B Cook, Mr J F Fisher, Mr I J Mackie, Ms C T Rumsby and Mr N Shaw.

19/292. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council's meeting held on 30 October 2019, having previously been circulated to all Members were, subject to the following amendment

Minute 19/278 (2), delete Mountby and insert Mautby

confirmed and signed by the Town Mayor of the Council.

19/293. APPOINTMENT OF SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM BEAT MANAGER

Referring to Minute 19/278, Mrs J Leggett clarified that the appointment of PC Graham Gill to Beat Manager was temporary.

19/294. POLICE LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT

Norfolk Constabulary's Newsletter was unavailable.

19/295. CORRESPONDENCE

(1) CPRE Norfolk - Norfolk Voice

The CPRE Norfolk - Norfolk Voice Newsletter was noted.

(2) Norfolk County Council - Your views on Draft Integrated Risk Management Plan

Mrs B J Lashley reported that having recently attended a NorfolkALC meeting Margaret Dewsbury had commented that she was keen for everyone to have their say and comment on the draft Integrated Risk Management Plan, as the Fire service needed evidence of public support for their proposals.

The Fire Service plan to keep their specialist water rescue service. This was originally funded by central government but as this is no longer the case were proposing it be funded through council tax via Norfolk County Council.

RESOLVED that Councillors respond to the draft Integrated Risk Management Plan consultation on an individual basis.

19/296. 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 raised a number of issues including:

- (1) a streetlight on Neville Road previously reported as flickering was now out.
- (2) Norfolk County Council streetlights on Wroxham Road / Chartwell Road roundabout appear to come on late, particularly near St. Cuthbert's Church.
- (3) White Woman Lane streetlights near the roundabout appear to fade and flicker.
- (4) why do the same lights have continual problems?

Mr J M Ward advised that office staff would report the streetlight on Neville Road to Council's lighting contractors. Having looked at the lights on Wroxham Road following comments at a previous meeting he could see no problem with them.

The meeting was reconvened.

19/297. PRESENTATION - BROADLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING AND CIL (COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY) OFFICERS

Mr Ben Burgess

Gave an overview of development in the Greater Norwich Growth Triangle advising that:

- the area would be of mixed use and include up to 13,500 houses, green infrastructure and educational facilities.

**19/297. PRESENTATION - BROADLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING AND CIL
(COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY) OFFICERS (CONTINUED)**

- issues with drainage had now been addressed.
- Phase 2 of the White House Farm development will come forward with 515 houses, recreation and open spaces. Mixed use allocations will be residential, commercial or community.
- A1 uses could be beauty parlours, fish and chip shops, travel agencies etc. and D1 non-residential, commercial buildings, medical centres, crèches etc.
- development south of Salhouse Road is split between Sprowston and the Plumsteads and building will start soon.
- the Halsbury Homes site building will commence in the New Year.
- Beeston Park development has been re-phased and construction will now start in Old Catton.
- Broadland District Council is working with developers to implement the link road within the Beeston Park development.
- there will be up to 2000 square metres within this development for community uses located in the centre or adjacent Wroxham Road and the Park and Ride.
- it is hoped that Central Government funding will be announced in the Autumn statement which could bring forward phases 2 and 3. This could pay for the link road, realignment of North Walsham Road and drainage thus giving access to land which can then be parcelled up for development.
- a new local plan is to be published in January 2020 which will show additional areas proposed for development.

In response to the presentation by Mr Burgess a number of issues were raised including:

- GT7, as numbered in the Growth Triangle Area Action Plan Map 5, Keir Living, initially the children's play area was situated near a pond, it was then moved but is now well away from habitation. The area should be central, overlooked by housing and not adjacent to a ditch or pond.
- Mr Judson responded that the play area was not tucked away and was overlooked by proposed and existing housing. Although still next to a pond it would not be permanently wet, have shallow slopes, gated and secured.
- it was felt that public open space should be usable and not include ponds and ditches within.
- Mr Judson said the site needed lots of drainage and with the retention of trees did not leave much space.

**19/297. PRESENTATION - BROADLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING AND CIL
(COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY) OFFICERS (CONTINUED)**

- as a majority of open space would be taken up with S.U.D.S (Sustainable Drainage Systems) Members questioned if this was peculiar to this site or if all future developments would be the same.
- Mr Judson advised different developers used different systems depending on ground conditions. Not all sites would have open water features. Planners do not have any influence on the system used by developers unless it created a fundamental planning problem.
- having been told that the water table was half a metre below the surface it was felt that the play area was likely to be very wet.
- Mr Judson replied that the area would be dry during normal rain conditions.
- it was suggested there was no such thing as normal rain conditions anymore.
- Mr Judson said all new developments must accommodate climate change and cope with an extra 45% of water.
- referring to generation of appropriate jobs Members queried how many jobs had been generated within the current development so far as they were not aware of any employment facilities.
- Mr Burgess confirmed that no employment facility had been built within the current development. Employment areas in the Greater Norwich Growth Triangle would be Sprowston industrial estate, Norwich Airport, Rackheath industrial estate and Broadland Business Park.
- Members asked what percentage of affordable housing had been built so far, and would be across the Growth Triangle.
- Mr Burgess advised 15% affordable housing Phase 1 Salhouse Road, 35% White House Farm, 28% Phase 2 White House Farm, 33% Beeston Park at the moment with 17.5% Phase 1 and the rest open for discussion, but no lower than 17%. Overall approximately 25% - 35% affordable rent and shared ownership.
- with regard to community facilities Members enquired if these would be offered to the Town Council or managed by a management company.
- Mr Burgess said options were open if the Town Council was interested in taking on responsibility.
- in response to a question regarding Beeston Park Mr Burgess confirmed that it would be open to the public in phase 2A, which would be dependent on the availability of funding to put infrastructure in place.
- referring to employment areas within the Beeston Park Mr Burgess advised they would be located opposite Sprowston Manor and within the Town Centre.

19/297. PRESENTATION - BROADLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING AND CIL (COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY) OFFICERS (CONTINUED)

- with regard to GT7 land for a Bus Rapid Transport scheme Mr Burgess reported that Norfolk County Council wanted to retain the land. £10m was available, some to support bus improvements but there will not be a bus lane on Salhouse Road. It would depend on funding.

As to replanting trees, cut down at the no longer required bus gate at Blue Boar Lane, this land is currently owned by developers. A path would be constructed from Blue Boar Lane to the new development and land transferred to Broadland District Council and in turn to Sprowston Town Council, who could replant trees if desired.

- Members asked how planners could ensure buyers, in GT20 opposite Wyvale Garden Centre, were aware there will be a skatepark.
- Mr Burgess stated that Broadland District Council had got agreement with developers but no one was responding to their contact. He would continue to pursue.
- in response to what will happen when the Rugby club moves to the UEA Mr Burgess explained that the club needed a buyer but there were issues with access. Norfolk County Council are pushing for a roundabout as the North Walsham Road is due to be realigned. However, the solution is traffic lights with calming measures and there is now an interested developer.
- Mr Burgess shared the Council's frustration with the delayed transfer of Harrisons Woodland and assured members he would continue to try and resolve this issue.
- the Town Clerk noted that across all current housing developments in Sprowston there was a large number of family homes attracting a more youthful demography. He asked what potential there was for youth facilities like a community centre, and what contribution would developers make.
- Mr Burgess responded that if the Council wanted this type of facility they should work with Mrs Hoare, look at all S106 and CIL monies and identify the Council's priorities. Broadland planners would try to identify a location where such a facility could be placed.
- it was suggested that there should be sizeable areas of public open space such as a recreation ground or park.
- having been told that land behind the School was to be used for playing pitches and play areas the Council expressed an interest in adopting this land.

19/298. TRAFFIC STATISTICS (SAM2) WROXHAM ROAD

Members queried why week day average and week day 85th percentile average speed figures were the same.

The Town Clerk to report back to Council at a future meeting.

19/299. 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) the first Big stroll in Norwich is hosted by "The Goode Life UK" and takes place on Friday 22 November 2019 at 10.00am at Plumstead Road Library. It is a free walk around Mousehold lasting about one hour with free refreshments at the end.

Sprowston Town Council

- (2) on Sunday 10 November 2018 I represented the Council, along with Councillors Leggett and Couzens at the annual Remembrance Service at St. Mary and St. Margarets Church. I did a reading and laid the Town Council Wreath.
- (3) I have been invited to Sprowston Library on Saturday 23 November 2019 where Mama G will be performing a story time with a difference.
- (4) the recent photograph of Town Councillors has been framed and is now on the wall in the Council Chamber.
- (5) on Monday this week I attended the Share museums East conference in Hitchin, Hertfordshire. We heard from many inspiring speakers and discussed the future in the East. We also had the opportunity to tour the newly opened Hitchin museum.

19/300. REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

COMMUNITY BUILDINGS, ALLOTMENTS, PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

1.1 Assist Trust

The Town Clerk reported that Assist Trust had recently begun hiring the Beryl Reed Sports Hall for five-a-side football sessions. The trust, which is a local charity supporting adults with learning difficulties to become independent is based at Lazar House on Sprowston Road in Norwich

1.2 Rough Sleeper Count 13th November 2019

The Town Clerk reported that Broadland District Council conducted a rough sleeper count on 13 November 2019. Towns and parishes were asked to assist by reporting numbers of rough sleepers within their boundaries. Sprowston Town Council put out a request via Facebook asking residents to report any rough sleepers within Sprowston. One report of a rough sleeper within the Norwich City

19/300. REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK (CONTINUED)

boundary (Sprowston Road) was received and forwarded on to the city authorities to offer assistance, but no reports were received from within Sprowston.

CEMETERY

2.1 No matters were reported

STREET LIGHTING

3.1 No matters were reported

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL

4.1 Grant request - Papillon Project

Members considered a grant request received from the Papillon Project (a new private ltd company aiming to become a registered charity) to support a new school allotment at Sprowston Community Academy through purchase of a plastic cover for an old polytunnel frame.

Mr J M Ward reported that each Broadland District Councillor has an annual budget of £500.00 to spend on projects and activities within their wards and he would support this request or a grant from the Town Council.

Mrs B J Lashley did not feel that Council should give grants to projects on private land and that it was inappropriate to support schools in this way. There had previously been allotments on this site which had been left to decay.

Mr J M Ward proposed seconded by Mr M G Callam to give a donation of £306.00 to the Papillon Project to purchase a new polytunnel cover.

On being put to the vote the motion was LOST.

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

5.1 Norfolk ALC bus meeting

Having considered the report of the Town Clerk and request for any "broad brush" problems relating to buses the following issues were raised:

- (1) the stop on Wroxham Road close to Beeston Lane is not wide enough for a bus to stop and the layby should be widened.
- (2) busses only travel along arterial roads and not across Sprowston. A community vehicle scheme was suggested.
- (3) unreliability of services.
- (4) insufficient shelters with real time information.

ATTACHMENTS

19/300. REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK (CONTINUED)

6.1 The Papillon Project - Application for Financial Assistance.

19/301. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was reconvened.

19/302. 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:

2019/1657 - single storey side extension at 1, Saint George Loke

2019/1737 - erection of front porch and single storey side and rear extension at 14, Blenheim Road

2019/1760 - first floor side extension at 37, Cromwell Road

Mr R J Knowles and Mr S C Walker left the meeting.

19/303. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

Business Plan 2020 - 2024 Action Plan

The Town Clerk explained that the document being considered by Council was the actions of the Business Plan and consisted of two items:

- Small Cost items and actions that could be funded through the annual Revenue Budget
- Larger Aspiration which will require accrual, Section 106, CIL or PWLB loan.

The Town Clerk responded to Councillors queries and requests as follows:

Ref No. 5.1 - this item was left in from the previous Business Plan and relates to the housing allocation.

Ref No. 5.2 - will request Fatsos restaurant and Sprowston Sports and Social Club to be added to the Community Asset Register.

Ref No. 5.9 - CCTV was located at the Pavilion overlooking the car park and grounds men's work area.

19/303. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS
(CONTINUED)

Referring to Ref No. 5.3b, Mrs B J Lashley commented that she would like to see the Council's streetlighting updated funded by a Public Works Loan Board loan.

Furthermore, she would need proof that LED lamps were safe and asked where she could view warm LED lighting.

The Town Clerk advised that the next step was for Council to prioritise items on the Action Plan.

On the motion of Mr J M Ward, seconded Mrs J Leggett it was

RESOLVED to accept the Business Plan 2020 - 2024 Action Plan.

19/304. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS REPRESENTING THE COUNCIL ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

No written reports were received.

19/305. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer presented the schedule of accounts to 20 November 2019 totalling £16,732.47.

On the motion of Mr J M Ward, seconded by Mr M G Callam it was **RESOLVED** that payment of the accounts to 20 November 2019 totalling £16,732.47 be approved and the schedule authorising payment signed by Mrs B J Lashley and Mr J M Ward.

19/306. SCHEDULE OF CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS & BARCLAYS VISA DEBIT

Responding to a query regarding Lowestoft Police Station Fence, the Town Clerk explained that it was postage for CCTV footage sent to the Police at Lowestoft Station after a collision between a vehicle and the Bowls Green Fence at Sprowston Recreation Ground.

The schedule of credit card payments totalling £105.08 was approved and noted.

19/307. SCHEDULE OF DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENTS

The schedule of direct debit payments totalling £5,582.53 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.

18 December 2019

Town Mayor