

## **MEETING OF SPROWSTON TOWN COUNCILLORS – 18 NOVEMBER 2020**

At the remote meeting of the Sprowston Town Council held by video conference on Wednesday 18 November 2020, the following Councillors 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 N Shaw  
Mr S C Walker

In attendance

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

No members of the public were present

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### **20/272. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS**

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Minute No. and Heading</b>	<b>Nature of Interest</b>
Ms D Coleman	20/283 - Planning Application 2020/2064	Personal acquaintance
Mr J F Fisher	20/283 - Planning Application FUL/2020/0082	Norfolk County Council Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Mrs J Leggett	20/277 - Sprowston Youth Engagement Project	Trustee - Sprowston Youth Engagement Project

### **20/273. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Written apologies for absence were received and accepted by the Council from Mr I J Mackie.

### **20/274. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Council's meeting held on 28 October 2020, having previously been circulated to all Councillors were confirmed subject to the following amendments

Minute - 20/257, delete Shared space with pedestrians and cyclists created conflict particularly at junctions and crossings.

and insert

The greatest area of conflict between cyclists and motorised vehicles was at junctions and crossings.

Minute - 20/258 1.1, after Mr A J Barton insert Mr M G Callam

## **20/274. MINUTES (CONTINUED)**

and will be signed by the Town Mayor of the Council at the next appropriate opportunity.

## **20/275. ACTIONS FROM MINUTES**

### **(1) Minute 20/254 - Police Liaison Officer's Report**

Councillors noted the update from PC Graham Gill on statistics reported in the October Community newsletter for Sprowston Central and East Ward regarding Anti-Social behaviour and Public fear, alarm or distress.

## **20/276. POLICE LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT**

The Town Clerk reported that the Sprowston Safer Neighbourhood Team Community Update was not received in time for the Agenda but would be circulated to Councillors via Email.

## **20/277. SPROWSTON YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROJECT (SYEP)**

Clare Lincoln gave a verbal report on the SYEP Outreach Project explaining it had been impacted by the pandemic.

In July they began to deliver the program on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays in Sprowston and Thursdays in Old Catton.

They were using Sprowston Pavilion as their base and had established a good relationship with the Caretaker who was able to identify hotspots of anti-social behaviour and groups of young people to engage.

As well as Sprowston Recreation Ground they also covered Barkers Lane open space, Sparhawk Park, Catton Recreation Ground and Catton Park engaging with young people from Fiddlewood, Norwich, Old Catton, Spixworth, Sprowston and Thorpe St. Andrew.

Their delivery included:

- A successful outreach project engaging with over 100 young people;
- Taking 20 young people over two trips on a mountain climbing and gorge walking trip;
- A 6-week Youth Leadership course, attended by 17 young people;
- 3 Days spent at Bitten Meadow;
- Establishing a Wednesday Drop in;
- Supporting 13 young people at our weekly support group;
- Referring 5 young people into their 1:1 support. Issues include mental health, family issues and struggles in day to day life;
- Highlighting a number of concerns including self-harm and CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation), to which they were working with parents;
- Using Discord and Minecraft as an engagement tool.

Issues highlighted by young people:

## **20/277. SPROWSTON YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROJECT (SYEP) (CONTINUED)**

- Nothing for older young people to do;
- No equipment for older young people;
- Local support around issues;

What young people would like to see:

- More activities;
- Older play equipment (most asked for a skate park - which SYEP had been engaging with the Town Council).

They had also rented an acre of land at Church Lane adjacent the allotments which they were aiming to develop as an urban nature reserve where activities could mirror those delivered at Bitten Meadow, including bush craft, vegetable patches and forest school.

Other activities and projects delivered included:

- Sprowston Arts working with over 1000 children and young people to highlight the impact of plastic on our oceans;
- An outdoor screening of Grease for community volunteers as a way to say thank you for all their hard work over the first lockdown.

Currently organising the following:

- An event that celebrates diversity which can be delivered as a family fun day or online;
- A youth led internet radio station;
- Bike building project;
- Training of 2 young people to become youth workers.

Paul Wheeler gave an overview of the expedition to Wales and expanded on the skills gained by participants and benefits of the experience.

He acknowledged that whilst the Outreach Program had adapted to lockdown restrictions it had prevented them from delivering to their full capability.

The Chairman thanked Clare and Paul for all their hard work.

Mrs B J Lashley asked if there was anything SYEP needed.

Reverend Canon Simon Stokes replied fencing was required on land at Church Lane to make it safe for young people to use.

Ms D Coleman and Mr M G Callam commented on the success of the group and Mr N Shaw offered support with the youth led internet radio station having experience in this field.

## **20/278. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **(1) Norfolk County Council Budget Consultation 2021/22**

**RESOLVED** Councillors to respond to the Norfolk County Council Budget Consultation 2021/22 on an individual basis.

## **20/279. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

A written report was received from Mr J M Ward.

Mr J M Ward also verbally reported:

Sprowston Town Council

On Remembrance Sunday, 8 November 2020, I attended a small socially distanced outdoor service at St. Mary and St. Margarets church at which I did a reading and laid a wreath on behalf of the Town Council.

Norfolk County Council

First Bus has committed to £17.9m of investment in 55 new buses, refurbishment of a further 67 buses, improved frequencies on many routes and the provision of "next stop" audio and visual announcements; Wi-Fi and USB charging facilities on all buses.

£168,898 grant has been received from the Norfolk Strategic Fund to strengthen and expand the Norfolk Trusted Trader Scheme. To find a Trusted Trader or to join the scheme visit [www.norfolk.gov.uk/trustedtrader](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/trustedtrader)

Yesterday I attended a briefing on County Farms where we heard that we now have a third care farm. These are all in the east of the county but there are plans to open in the west next year.

678 linear metres of hedging have been planted this year and 30 hectares of trees totalling some 36,000 trees. A further 163 acres of land have been purchased at Outwell.

Referring to Mr J M Ward's written report Mrs B J Lashley asked if the £1.044m received by Broadland and South Norfolk District Council's had been a joint bid, how it would be allocated and who would decide.

Mr J M Ward replied it was a joint bid, allocation would be based on need and decided by the joint management teams and both Councils.

Mrs B J Lashley commented that Mr J M Ward had previously reported there were no rough sleepers in Broadland and enquired about the Housing First policy.

Mr J M Ward responded that he had reported there was little homelessness in Broadland but there were people threatened with homelessness.

Mr J F Fisher reported the housing policy was currently going through cabinet.

## **20/279. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS (CONTINUED)**

Mrs J Leggett confirmed the paper on housing policy was being considered the following evening and Mrs Lashley was welcome to view the papers.

## **20/280. RESIDENT'S QUESTIONS**

As no residents were present the Chairman moved to the next item of business.

## **20/281. NORFOLK ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS**

**RESOLVED** to nominate Mrs B J Lashley to attend Norfolk ALC meetings, input to its priorities, get updates on actions being taken and be able to stand for/vote on behalf of Sprowston Town Council in elections to Norfolk ALC's Board.

Mr J M Ward thanked Mrs B J Lashley for taking on this role on behalf of the Council.

## **20/282. REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK**

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

#### **1.1 Sprowston Diamond Centre**

Councillors noted Sprowston Diamond Centre had closed following Coronavirus national restrictions except to those able to claim a valid exemption and that the monthly caretaking invoice would be reduced accordingly.

#### **1.2 Parks and Play Areas**

Councillors noted the Town Clerks actions following concerns expressed by residents about the number of parents and children using the recreation ground play area at school-pick-up times without seeming to follow social distancing rules.

The Town Clerk responded to Councillors questions as follows:

- A risk assessment had been carried out;
- The Town Council had not taken up the offer from Broadland District Council for hand sanitisers as the scheme was aimed at shopping areas in towns with a commercial centre and were not available for other facilities;
- He was not aware of any Councils cleaning play equipment three times a day; it was best practice, not a legal requirement and down to site managers;
- Signage and guidance to parents had been erected in prominent places around the Council's parks. Parents had to take some level of responsibility.

Following a lengthy debate Mr J M Ward proposed, seconded by Mr M G Callam that play areas remain open. On being to the vote the motion was CARRIED.

## **20/282. REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK (CONTINUED)**

### **CEMETERY**

**2.1 No matters were reported**

### **STREET LIGHTING**

**3.1 No matters were reported**

### **CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL**

#### **4.1 Council Office**

Councillors noted the Council office remained closed to the public except for telephone and email enquiries.

### **PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION**

**5.1 No matters were reported**

### **CORONAVIRUS UPDATE**

#### **6.1 Sprowston supporting Our Community Together (SSOCT)**

It was noted that as of close of business on 11 November 2020 the Town Council had acted as facilitator for 551 financial transactions for shopping and other key services between vulnerable residents and SSOCT volunteers. The total amount transacted being £18,145.80.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

**7.1 None**

## **20/283. 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:

FUL/2020/0082 - retrospective application for temporary provision of single storey 2 class base modular building until 30/09/22 at Sprowston Community Academy, Cannerby Lane, Sprowston, Norwich, NR7 8NE.

2020/2008 - single storey extension to detached house at 1, Saint George Loke.

2020/2039 - variation of condition 2 of 20191991 - to allow increase in depth of extension and size of roof lantern at 67, Cromwell Road.

## **20/283. PLANNING (CONTINUED)**

2020/2052 - single storey lean-to front extension, single storey lean-to side & rear wrap around extension, two storey rear extension over existing ground floor flat roof extension at 2, Edwards Road.

2020/2063 - single storey rear extension at 56, Alford Grove.

2020/2064 - proposed replacement rear extension & associated alterations at 95, Wroxham Road.

2020/1993 - rear extension and outbuilding at Friends Dental Practice, 185, Wroxham Road.

2020/2112 - display of 2 x internally illuminated fascia signs at Harveys, 6, Sprowston Retail Park, Salhouse Road, Sprowston subject to the illumination of signage being restricted to opening hours of the business.

(b) Not to oppose the granting of planning application 2020/2007 - subject to:

(1) assurance that the spread of light between staggered lighting columns was adequate;

(2) all adopted areas were lit to the Town Councils standard;

(3) the lighting profile to be set at full brightness dusk - midnight and dimmed to 50% brightness midnight - 5.00am.

(c) to continue to strongly oppose to the granting of planning application APP/K2610/W/3259341 - erection of dwelling at 56, Colindeep Lane, Sprowston on the grounds that it is an undesirable form of back land development and would impinge on the amenities of all neighbouring properties. It is also an inappropriate development, with insufficient parking for two properties which would create highway issues as additional vehicles would be parked on a bend in the roadway. It is out of keeping with the area and contrary to the Sprowston Neighbourhood Plan.

## **20/284. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS**

Mrs J Leggett thanked Councillors who had helped collate Sprowston Matters, the Recreational Facilities Survey and Pre-paid envelopes.

## **20/285. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS REPRESENTING THE COUNCIL ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

Mr A J Barton reported that Sprowston Senior Citizens Club had been successful in securing a grant of £250.00 from the Community Foundation towards the cost of additional Newsletters to combat isolation.

The club had also applied for a Local Restriction Support grant.

**20/286. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS 18 NOVEMBER 2020**

The Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer presented the schedule and supplementary schedule of accounts to 18 November 2020 totalling £10,298.99 and £300.00.

The Town Clerk responded as follows to Councillors' queries on the Schedule of Accounts:

Invoice No. 5361 - LED at 65, North Gage Road, the Council's monthly maintenance fees to Cozens (UK) Ltd is for routine maintenance and change of bulbs. However, where a sodium lamp is replaced with a new LED an additional cost is incurred.

Invoice No. 5368 - Maintenance October 2020, following a request for routine change of bulb it was found that a street light on Blue Boar Lane had no inner workings and had not been functioning for some time. The lamp had been removed from the column to avoid residents reporting it as a light out. The Norfolk County Council street light in close proximity provided sufficient lighting for the area for it not to be replaced.

On the motion of Mr J M Ward, seconded by Mr N Shaw it was **RESOLVED** that payment of the accounts and supplementary payment of accounts to 18 November 2020 totalling £10,294.99 and £300.00 be approved and the schedules authorising payment signed by the appropriate signatories at the first opportunity.

**20/287. SCHEDULE OF DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENTS**

The schedule of direct debit payments totalling £1,674.36 was approved and noted.

**20/288. SCHEDULE OF CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS & BARCLAY VISA DEBIT TO 18 NOVEMBER 2020**

The schedule of credit card and Barclay Visa Debit payments to 18 November 2020 totalling £579.82 was approved and noted.

There being no other necessary business the Town Mayor of the Council thanked Councillors for their participation and declared the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

**2 December 2020**

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**Town Mayor**