

MEETING OF SPROWSTON TOWN COUNCILLORS – 27 JANUARY 2021

At the remote meeting of the Sprowston Town Council held by video conference on Wednesday 27 January 2021, the following Councillors were present: -

Mr J M Ward – Town Mayor

Mr A J Barton	-	Mrs B J Lashley
Mr M G Callam	-	Mrs J Leggett
Ms D Coleman	-	Mr I J Mackie
Mr W F Couzens	-	Mr J H Mallen
Mr J F Fisher	-	Ms C T Rumsby
Mr R J Knowles	-	Mr N Shaw

In attendance

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

1 member of the public was present

21/018. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS

No declarations of disclosable or pecuniary and other interests were received.

21/019. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Written apologies for absence were received and accepted by the Council from Mrs B Cook.

21/020. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council's meeting held on 6 January 2021, having previously been circulated to all Councillors were confirmed subject to the following amendment

Page 7, delete 27 January 2020 and insert 27 January 2021

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

21/021. PLANNING APPLICATION FUL/2020/0082 SPROWSTON COMMUNITY ACADEMY TEMPORARY PROVISION OF 2 CLASSBASE MODULAR BUILDING

Councillors noted planning application FUL/2020/0082 - temporary provision of 2 classbase modular buildings at Sprowston Academy, Cannerby Lane, Sprowston had been approved.

21/022. ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE NOMINATION - SPROWSTON SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

Further to Minute 20/293, the Town Clerk reported that Sprowston Sports and Social Club (SSSC) was listed as a refused Asset of Community Value on 22 November 2016 and could not be resubmitted until 23 November 2021.

The owners of the land had agreed a new eight-year lease with SSSC.

RESOLVED the Town Clerk re-apply in November 2021.

21/023. POLICE LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT

Norfolk Constabulary's January Newsletter was not available.

Mrs J Leggett reported she had submitted comments to Norfolk Constabulary regarding the process of reporting of crime statistics in lieu of Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel meetings but had not as yet received a response.

21/024. CORRESPONDENCE

(1) NDR Western Link

Councillors noted the update on the Norwich Western Link project to connect the Broadland Northway to the A47 trunk road.

(2) Wroxham Road Drainage Improvements

Councillors were pleased to note maintenance works to improve the surface water drainage system on Wroxham Road, south-west from its junction with Glenburn avenue and Fairstead Road towards the Mousehold Lane Roundabout.

Mr I J Mackie reported that Norfolk County Council had agreed £1.5m additional budget for drainage works following recent flooding.

21/025. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

A written report was received from Mr J M Ward.

Mr J M Ward also verbally reported:

Broadland District Council

I have now spent my £500.00 District Councillor Community Fund. I have awarded it all to Dawn's New Horizon so that they may buy a laptop to further their work in helping women who suffer domestic abuse.

Norfolk County Council

Norfolk is to receive £4.8m as part of PROJECT ADDER a Home Office initiative to tackle drug related crime and misuse.

21/025. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS (CONTINUED)

There will be a national Census on 21 March 2021. Each person will receive notification by post of how to complete the census on line.

There will be a freephone number for anybody unable to complete on line who needs a paper copy.

Norfolk County Council's Cabinet released proposals for the 2021-22 Budget. General Council Tax will rise by 1.99% with an extra 2% for adult Social Care.

The increase for a Band D property will be approximately £56.00.

Adult Social Care will receive £260m, Children's £191m, Community and Environmental Services £165m, Strategy and Transformation £7m, Finance and Commerce £30m and Governance £2m.

Total savings of £41m have been made. The Capital programme is £537m.

Members Highways Budget has been raised from £6k to £10k and can now also be spent on planting trees and on electric vehicle charging points.

Referring to Mr Ward's written report Mrs B J Lashley asked why Broadland and South Norfolk District Councils were hosting joint Business Awards if they were separate entities.

Mr Ward responded that the Councils worked together to save money.

Mrs J Leggett verbally reported that a waste collection vehicle could not gain access to empty residential bins at Cranes Croft due to cars parked on corners and junctions.

Broadland District Council had written to all residents.

Mr N Shaw verbally reported that airports could apply for freeport status which promotes regeneration and job creation. However, it did not appear that Norwich Airport had applied.

Mr J F Fisher verbally reported there was greater demand for IT from children and adults during this current lockdown than the previous one.

An extra 1000 laptops had been provided since the launch of the, Every Child Online campaign, supported by the EDP, asking businesses and organisations for pre-used corporate devices for refurbishment and distribution to schools.

650 new ones donated by Lotus and many from local Rotary clubs and other organisations.

Parents have realised the importance of helping educate children and Norfolk County Council has training in place to support them in doing so.

21/026. RESIDENT'S QUESTIONS

On the motion of Mr J M Ward, seconded by Mr W F Couzens 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 G Clements commented on the success of Beryl Bikes and was pleased to see an increase in active travel.

He expressed concern with regard to the cycle scheme at Blue Boar Lane advising he had received no response to his enquiries from Norfolk County Council and asked if Council was aware of any developments and when the consultation would open.

The Town Clerk responded that he thought consultation was part of the planning application and suggested Mr Clements directly contact the Planning Officer at Norfolk County Council to make his views known.

The meeting was reconvened.

21/027. REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

COMMUNITY BUILDINGS, ALLOTMENTS, PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

1.1 Public Open Spaces and Play

Council noted the Town Clerk's report and action taken in response to concerns about overcrowding at enclosed play areas. He confirmed he had arranged for Broadland District Council's COVID Support Advisors to visit Sprowston Recreation Ground and Sparhawk Park on Thursdays, with a view to increased visits if required.

1.2 Closure of Sports Courts

Closure of the basketball and all-weather tennis courts, in accordance with requirements of the national lockdown regulations with exception of access granted to a local elite athlete was noted.

CEMETERY

2.1 Ground Conditions

Council noted prolonged heavy rain had caused several graves at the cemetery to sink which would be back-filled and seeded when the ground settled.

Memorial stones had been checked for movement and appeared safe.

STREET LIGHTING

3.1 No matters were reported

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL

21/027. REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK (CONTINUED)

4.1 Grounds Staff - Further COVID Precautions and Reduced Hours

Further to his report the Town Clerk expressed his concern that although COVID secure measures are in place; given the more-transmissible variant of COVID-19 and rising infection rate in Broadland the grounds team were at increased risk of infection due to continuing to work full time and unavoidable contact with each other in and around Council sites. In addition to concerns about staff health, if members of the grounds team became infected, funerals could not take place and parks would not be opened.

Council supported the Town Clerks decision to pause the grounds staff usual hours of work and stay on call at home with parks continuing to open and graves continuing to be dug and a rota in place to ensure there was a staff presence at the Recreation Ground (in addition to one member of staff in the office).

He would monitor the regime in-line with Government announcements on 15 February 2021.

Mrs B J Lashley enquired if grounds men were considered key workers given part of their duties was to dig graves, and if so, would they be entitled to a vaccination.

It was agreed the Town Clerk to make enquiries.

4.2 Recruitment

The Town Clerk reported that having remotely interviewed three candidates for the post of Administration and Finance Officer no appointment had yet been made.

Recruitment of the fifth member of the grounds team would be postponed until such a time as the Coronavirus situation permitted the team to return to full-time working.

Responding to a question from J H Mallen the Town Clerk advised the new post of Compliance and Administration Officer was in the 2021/22 budget and he would look to commence the recruitment process in February.

4.3 COVID-19 Business Support Grant Award Received from Broadland District Council

Council was pleased to receive Government funding in the form of Local Restrictions Support Grants of £1,334 and £2,000 from Broadland District Council.

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

5.1 No matters were reported

ATTACHMENTS

A. None

21/028. 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:

2020/2386 - erection of a single storey timber frame outbuilding at 14, Wroxham Road, Sprowston.

2021/0041 - single storey flat roof rear extension at 44, Tiercel Avenue, Sprowston.

20/01624/MA - amendment of 18/01772/F to revise the care home layout, elevations and number of approved care home bedrooms at site of former 28, Mousehold Lane, Norwich

FUL/2020/0064 - retrospective application for a change of use to a Sui Generis use for the storage of top-soil, sub-soil, recycled construction materials, brick rubble, old fencing, green waste and concrete, and construction and demolition waste processing/recycling, the siting of mobile processing plant, offices, associated infrastructure and the construction of amenity bunds and landscaping at Gamble Plant (Norfolk) Ltd, Salhouse Road, New Rackheath.

(b) to oppose the granting of planning application 2020/2257 - variation of conditions 2 and 4 of 2020/0133 - to add Velux to attic storage area and add window to replace workshop doors Rm12 at 26, Rosemary Road, Sprowston on the grounds that it is an unneighbourly form of development and the design should be maintained as originally approved.

21/029. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

No written or verbal reports were received.

21/030. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS REPRESENTING THE COUNCIL ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

No written or verbal reports were received.

21/031. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS 27 JANUARY 2021

The Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer presented the schedule accounts to 27 January 2021 totalling £ 37,531.76.

In response to Councillors questions the Town Clerk advised that:

Invoice No. 476915 - John Deere 4066R Compact Tractor, the tractor was replaced every three to four years or when the maintenance became uneconomical.

21/031. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS 27 JANUARY 2021 (CONTINUED)

Invoice Nos 610151, 610153, 610152 - Flameskill Ltd 6 mthly F/Alarm, lighting test this service provider was one of the least expensive.

On the motion of Mr J M Ward, seconded by Mr A J Barton it was **RESOLVED** that payment of the accounts to 27 January 2021 totalling £37,531.76 be approved and the schedule authorising payment signed by the appropriate signatories at the first opportunity.

21/032. SCHEDULE OF DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENTS

The schedule of direct debit payments to 27 January 2021 totalling £ 8,408.30 was approved and noted.

21/033. SCHEDULE OF CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS & BARCLAY VISA DEBIT TO 27 JANUARY 2021

The schedule of credit card and Barclay Visa Debit payments to 27 January 2021 totalling £845.00 was approved and noted.

21/034. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Mr J M Ward proposed, seconded by Mr J F Fisher to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting for the remaining business because otherwise, information which is exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 would be disclosed to them and on being put to the vote the motion was **CARRIED**.

21/035. PURCHASE OF EX-VIKING PUBLIC HOUSE

RESOLVED to authorise the Town Clerk to negotiate the purchase of the ex-Viking Public House within an agreed budget.

There being no other necessary business the Town Mayor of the Council thanked Councillors for their participation and declared the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

17 February 2021

Town Mayor