

NORTH WALSHAM TOWN COUNCIL
25 July 2017

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 25 July 2017

Chair: Cllr S Stuckey

Town Councillors Present:

Cllr E Addison	Cllr P Edge
Cllr A Fryer	Cllr B Hester
Cllr R Murphy	Cllr M Seward
Cllr R Sims	Cllr D Turner
Cllr E Wheeler	

District Councillors Present:

Cllr V Gay	Cllr N Lloyd
Cllr E Seward	Cllr V Uprichard

County Councillors Present:

Cllr E Seward

The meeting opened at 19:00

Open to the Press and Members of the Public

The Town Mayor welcomed new Member Cllr Elaine Addison, representing the West Ward following her success in the by-election held on 20 July.

The Town Mayor wished to add two items to the agenda for discussion:

- A new representative to North Walsham in Bloom (NWIB), and
- The issue of poll cards should an election be called to fill the remaining vacancy in West Ward.

As proposed by Cllr Murphy and seconded by Cllr Wheeler, it was **RESOLVED**

To accept the additional agenda items.

1 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

(a) Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

(b) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Bull, Choudhury, Harris, Melville and Witte.

NORTH WALSHAM TOWN COUNCIL
25 July 2017

(c) Minutes of Town Council meetings

As proposed by Cllr Wheeler and seconded by Cllr Fryer, it was **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 30 May 2017 be accepted as a true record of that meeting.

As proposed by Cllr Edge and seconded by Cllr Seward, it was **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2017 be accepted as a true record of that meeting.

2 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING TO ALLOW PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

As proposed by Cllr Hester and seconded by Cllr Murphy, it was **RESOLVED**

That the meeting be adjourned in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to permit public participation and external reports.

(a) Reports from District and County Councillors

County Cllr Seward and District Cllrs Uprichard, Gay and Lloyd gave verbal reports on recent issues (Annex A).

(b) Public participation

A summary of matters raised by members of the public is at Annex B.

During the course of this section of the agenda it became apparent that it would extend beyond the 15 minutes generally permitted. As proposed by Cllr Hester and seconded by Cllr Seward, it was **RESOLVED**

To suspend Standing Order 1.7 to permit continuation beyond the permitted time.

As proposed by Cllr Hester and seconded by Cllr Murphy, it was **RESOLVED**

That the meeting be reconvened.

3 REPORTS FROM THE TOWN MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR

Details of meetings and events attended by the Town Mayor are at Annex C.

NORTH WALSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

25 July 2017

4 ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

(a) Town Strategy

Returns were now being received, and the deadline had been extended until 11 August. Cllr Seward, on behalf of the Council, expressed thanks to the staff and Members who had worked hard to get the surveys out. It was reported that people from out of town had asked if they could submit responses to the survey, and it was agreed to look at ways to achieve this.

As proposed by Cllr Sims and seconded by Cllr Hester, it was **RESOLVED**

That discussion of the next steps would be deferred until a meeting in early September, and that a Working Party consisting of Cllrs Hester, Murphy, Addison and Wheeler would work with the Town Clerk and Ms Collett to analyse responses.

(b) Bid for tennis court funding

North Walsham Sports Centre (NWSC) was constructing a bid for funding from the LTA to improve tennis facilities in North Walsham, and had asked if the Council would consider incorporating a bid for floodlighting for the War Memorial Park courts. If successful this would mean the courts useable hours would be extended, and that the ongoing concerns about the lack of lighting on the park would be addressed. As proposed by Cllr Hester and seconded by Cllr Murphy, it was **RESOLVED**

To agree to include a bid in the NWSC application.

(c) Information Office signage

Members had doubts about erecting signs at the new Information at Kings Arms Loke. The property had been leased for a year initially, and alternatives in Market Place may be considered in future. Given the location in a conservation area, there was also the possibility that a planning application would fail. Cllr Hester would approach the landlord and ask his views before any further progress was made on this.

(d) Street lighting

The Town Clerk was asked to request a full, detailed report (subsequently confirmed that the invoice was the report). As proposed by Cllr Hester and seconded by Cllr Sims, it was **RESOLVED**

To ask the Town Clerk to make arrangements for the urgent issues – Manor Road Cols. 2 and 7, Marshgate Col. 4 – to be resolved.

(e) Traffic issues on Aylsham Road

Members acknowledged that there were problems across North Walsham, but Aylsham Road was to the fore as a result of the large-scale development proposal. As proposed by Cllr Hester and seconded by Cllr Seward, it was **RESOLVED**

To thank Mr Marfleet and the SOS campaign for the work done to produce the report (Annex D) and that the Council would fully support the campaign going forward.

NORTH WALSHAM TOWN COUNCIL
25 July 2017

(f) Review of War Memorial Park gate policy

The Town Clerk opposed a reversal of the current policy on staff safety grounds, as the grounds team were receiving threats on a regular basis when the gates were last being locked. Other reasons for maintaining the current policy included emergency services access and public demand especially from dog walkers. It was acknowledged again that reports of issues on the park were fewer under the current policy, although the gathering point appeared to have moved from the Farman Avenue area towards the tennis courts. As proposed by Cllr Sims and seconded by Cllr Hester, it was **RESOLVED**

To ask the Town Clerk to request information from the police, and to defer discussion until a report was available.

(g) Recommendations from the Development & Amenities Committee

a. *Location of vehicle maintenance compound at War Memorial Park:*

It was proving difficult to obtain permission from the Diocesan Registrar to conduct GPR testing at the New Cemetery entrance. As proposed by Cllr Hester and seconded by Cllr Sims, it was **RESOLVED**

That investigations be carried out into a potential site at the War Memorial Park in the event that permission was not forthcoming.

b. *Equipment for grounds staff:*

As proposed by Cllr Murphy and seconded by Cllr Hester, it was **RESOLVED**

To approve the purchase of the equipment listed, which was needed as replacement for old items and to support the additional grass verge maintenance task.

An additional request for a new mower had been submitted, which a demonstration had shown would reduce significantly the time spent on cutting work. As proposed by Cllr Seward and seconded by Cllr Sims, it was **RESOLVED**

To approve the purchase of a Toro 20960 mower.

c. *Men in Sheds (Annex E):*

It was agreed that this would foster community spirit, which must be a good thing. As proposed by Cllr Hester and seconded by Cllr Sims, it was **RESOLVED**

To agree to the proposal.

(h) North Walsham In Bloom

Cllr Edge was already representing the Council, and was content to remain.

NORTH WALSHAM TOWN COUNCIL
25 July 2017

(i) Vacancy in the West Ward

Mr Burrows had declined to take up his seat, and a vacancy had been declared. As the deadlines for decisions would fall before the next scheduled full Council meeting in September, Members were asked to consider now whether poll cards should be issued for a possible election to fill this vacancy. Cllr Seward, seconded by Cllr Sims, proposed that poll cards should be issued on this occasion. By Town Mayor's deciding vote, weighing the costs to council tax payers, turnout records in the District and evidence from NNDC records indicating that poll cards had not been issued for a by-election since 2013 against arguments in favour, it was **RESOLVED**

That poll cards would not be issued.

[Cllr Edge left the meeting at 19:52]

5 COUNCIL RECESS, August 2017

As proposed by Cllr Sims and seconded by Cllr Murphy, it was **RESOLVED**

That powers be delegated to the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town Clerk to take appropriate decisions on behalf of the Council during August Recess.

6 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

(a) West Ward Election

This had been discussed at 4(i) above.

(b) Meeting with Regenerate North Walsham

A meeting to formally discuss the way forward with St Nicholas Court had been scheduled for Thursday 27 July 2017.

(c) Black Swan Loke lighting

This was scheduled for mid-August. Now that the dates had been confirmed the Town Clerk could contact the shop frontage owners.

(d) Trackside fencing

This had been scheduled for August and would include a double gate to allow easy access for larger, double prams.

(e) Storage at Chapel Cemetery

The Christmas lights were expected to be moved out of the Council garage shortly (subsequently confirmed to be the beginning of September). The tennis court covers would be offered to the North Walsham Sports Centre, and this would clear a considerable amount of space in the ISO-unit.

(f) Ground and access matters at New Cemetery

This had been discussed at Item 4(g)(i).

NORTH WALSHAM TOWN COUNCIL
25 July 2017

- (g) Council Office access**
NNDC had been asked to consider installing a stairway access from Kings Arms Street.
- (h) Mundesley Road Car Park**
The Town Clerk had written to NNDC, and the matter would be put to Members.
- (i) Electronic noticeboards**
The Town Clerk had received an email promotion on this matter, which had been circulated. The signs were built to order, and the Town Council sign depicted cost just over £5,000.
- (j) Town Councillor email issues**
These had arisen due to problems with the mail server. The matter would be taken forward by the Media & Information Committee.

7 FINANCE

(a) Expenditure and receipts, June 2017

As proposed by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr Fryer, it was **RESOLVED**

That the Payments & Receipts report for June 2017 be approved. (Annex F).

(b) Expenditure, July 2017 to date

As proposed by Cllr Murphy and seconded by Cllr Sims, it was **RESOLVED**

That the Payments report for July 2017 to date be approved and that cheques be signed. (Annex G)

(c) Q1 2017/18 report

As proposed by Cllr Sims and seconded by Cllr Murphy, it was **RESOLVED**

That the report be accepted. (Annex H)

8 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

There were no reports.

8 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

The following meetings and events were scheduled:

- a. Wednesday 26 – Saturday 29 July 2017: Fun Fair
- b. Sunday 13 August 2017: 3rd Annual Westover Vets Charity Dog Show

NORTH WALSHAM TOWN COUNCIL
25 July 2017

9 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Town Clerk had, at the request of Cllr Bull, circulated an email relating to Norfolk Park Homes planning breaches. This would be added to the next agenda.

10 **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

- Update on laptops/projector (these had been purchased and awaited setup)
- Market Cross improvements
- Town Guide

The meeting closed at 21:08