

WYMONDHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 1ST APRIL 2014 in the FAIRLAND HALL at 7.30pm.

Councillors present:

JRW Andrews	J H Turner	D Fernee
M Heard	RJ Savage	C Buckton
N Ward	C Foulger	M Gibbins
CA Longhurst	M Elias	J Halls
S Elliott		

Members of the public: 11

The Town Mayor, Cllr. D Fernee presiding

- 51/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllr. Taylor.
- 52/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None.
- 53/14 DISPENSATIONS No requests were received.
- 54/14 MINUTES OF MEETING Upon the proposition of Cllr. Ward and seconded by Cllr. Heard the minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2014 were approved as a correct record.
- 55/14 PROGRESS UPDATES
- 45/14 FIELDS IN TRUST Cllr. Fernee referred to the reply received to the Council's invitation to hold a meeting in respect of King's Head Meadow. As F.I.T have advised 'we have to be able to justify the travel costs by combining a few visits together' it was agreed that this would be deferred until they are able to visit.
 - 29/14 SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN Cllr. Heard enquired as to the level of responses received. Clerk replied very few.
- 56/14 LEISURE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE minutes of meeting held on 18th March 2014 were noted.
- 57/14 SUNDRY CREDITORS On the proposition of Cllr. Ward and seconded by Cllr. Andrews it was resolved to pay accounts for March, as per the submitted list to the sum of £13,953.27
- In compliance with Financial Regulations, the clerk tabled a list of salaries paid from the wages account to the sum of £7,930.86
- 58/14 CORRESPONDENCE received was considered and the actions proposed are recorded separately as an appendix to these minutes.
- 59/14 MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS Noted.

- 60/14 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
- P Travis – Congratulated Cllr. Fernee in doing a fantastic job as Mayor as this was her last meeting in this role.
 - P Travis asked if the Council would consider having the Mayor and Chairman of the Council as different roles.
 - M Walker read out two questions and a statement supporting the introduction of recording Council meetings under agenda item 14.
 - Q1 Wished - agenda item 10 – Public Participation – wording changed to incorporate ‘unless directed by the chairman of the meeting’. Cllr. Fernee replied that she would raise this with the Clerk.
 - Asked why he was being excluded under agenda item 18 was this because of agenda item 19. Cllr. Fernee replied – yes.
- 61/14 YOUTH COUNCIL Cllr. Fernee referred to the paper attached to the agenda in which she together with Cllr. Longhurst were seeking support in preparing a proposal for the establishment of a Youth Council. She then outlined the benefits to the town and local democracy. After discussion it was resolved to agree that the preparation of a proposal should proceed.
- 62/14 CIVIC AWARD Cllr. Fernee outlined a nomination for Trevor Brown for his community work especially with Brea, Ashcroft Project and Wymondham Dementia support group. Cllr. Turner nominated Mrs Diana Hockaday who had retired recently through ill health for her work as a Councillor over many years. After discussion it was agreed that both would receive an award.
- 63/14 CHAPEL LANE PLANNING APPEAL Cllr. Fernee referred to the email from the Friends of The Tiffey asking that a further letter is sent to the Secretary of State who is considering the planning application for housing at Chapel Lane. It was confirmed that the Clerk would send a further copy of the Council’s original objections.
- 64/14 RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS Cllr. Heard outlined his paper as attached to the Agenda and then read out his proposal ‘For a trial period of a month, Wymondham Town Council is in agreement to allow residents to record full council meetings and sub committee meetings. The council ask that any recordings are shared with the Town Council to enable these to be placed on their web site’ .. A discussion took place with some Councillors in favour of video and sound recording as this would improve the public’s perception of the way the Council worked whilst other had a variety of concerns including:
- What happens to recordings
 - Who owns the copyright
 - Who would be operating the camera / recording equipment
 - Possibility of editing to caricature/insult or belittle Councillor.
 - Concerns over control and regulations
 - More information required.

Cllr. Foulger reminded Councillors that the Governance Toolkit for Parish & Town Councils advised that minutes should be brief, precise and concise, self contained and decisive. They are minutes, not hours and are therefore not a verbatim record of everything said.

Upon the proposition of Cllr. Elias and seconded by Cllr. Elliott a counter proposal was put forward and it was resolved that Wymondham Town Council investigates methods by which proceedings of full Council and sub- committee meetings can be recorded and the matter to be considered after such an investigation has been carried out..

65/14 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT / COUNTY COUNCILLORS

- Norfolk County Council – Cllr Foulger – Energy for Waste proposals were to again be discussed shortly with an officer recommendation that the scheme is cancelled.

66/14 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

- Cllr.Heard – Wymondham Town Football Club
 - held their EGM last night with the main points being
 - Election of officers to the club were made
 - Clear intentions were stated that the club would be run under strict financial controls
 - Financial figures would be published within the club house (and therefore available to their membership on a regular basis)
 - Current financial projections are that the club will be able to settle their debts during March and the club will be in a solvent position

WTFC, in order to instigate pitch repairs for the coming season, request permission to zone off the pitch for a period of one week to allow the pitch to be re-drilled and re-seeded, thereafter the pitch would be available for recreational use. No objections were raised.

- Cllr. Andrews – Allotment Association – referred to report attached to these minutes.
- Cllr. Gibbins – Old Grammar School Trust
 - 14 educational grants issued totalling nearly £10,000
 - Meeting of interested parties had taken place to consider a Heritage project for Becket's Chapel which was being promoted by Arthur Lucas on behalf of Wymondham Arts Forum.

67/14 SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING None

68/14 EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC On the proposition of Cllr. Ward and seconded by Cllr. Savage resolution by the Council under the provisions of Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admissions to meetings) Act 1960 to exclude Press and the Public from the meeting of Wymondham Town Council in order to discuss matters where publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential.

69/14 EFFECTIVE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN COUNCILLORS Cllr. Elias introduced and outlined the paper he had submitted following receipt of a letter from A Radford (monitoring officer) in response to letters sent to South Norfolk Council. He then thanked Cllr. Fernee for responding to his report clarifying matters in red on his paper that all Councillors had a copy of. There then followed a lengthy discussion with Councillors airing their views including:

- Lack of togetherness of Councillors.
- Experience should not be a weapon to beat inexperienced Councillors.
- Was the Committee structure still fit for purpose?
- Councillors should be adult enough to sort themselves out.
- Should a member / officer protocol be introduced?
- Criticism was being levelled at Councillors who undertake Council work. Councillors need to go into the Council Offices to see the staff to update themselves on work being undertaken.
- Experience builds up knowledge of how Council systems work. Perception for a new Councillor its like walking through treacle.
- Unless I ask the right question, I don't get the response I require.
- Councillors should have a good working relationship between themselves and should seek help and advice from the Clerk and experienced Councillors.

[The meeting closed at 21.34 pm]

DATED thisday of2014

SIGNED(Chairman)

DRAFT

WYMONDHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING 1st APRIL 2014

CORRESPONDENCE

Action

1. Norfolk Community Transport Association – invitation to attend meeting. **Noted**

Information

1. Norfolk Association Local Councils – Link Newsletter. **Noted**

Mayor's Engagements

1. Wymondham Rugby Club – Match – 2.3.14 **Noted**
2. Mayors Community Fund – Coffee Morning – Dementias awareness – 5.3.14 **Noted**
3. Wymondham High School – Duke of Edinburgh awards – 6.3.14 **Noted**
4. Wymondham Pabulum Cafe – 5th Birthday – 7.3.14 **Noted**
5. Spooner Row School – School Council – 13.3.14 **Noted**
6. Wymondham Heritage Society – 2014 opening – 14.3.14 **Noted**
7. South Norfolk Council – Business Breakfast – 19.3.14 **Noted**
8. Norfolk Police – Youth Activities – 19.3.14 **Noted**