

WYMONDHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 4th December 2012 in the Fairland Hall at 7.30pm.

Councillors present:

JRW Andrews	N Ward	JH Turner
M Elias	A Taylor	MJ Gibbins
DM Hockaday	R Savage	A Gardiner
CA Longhurst	D Fernee	C Foulger
D Roberts	G Jeffery	

Members of the public: 28
District Council : Cllr. Hornby
County Council ; Cllr. Herbert
The Town Mayor, Cllr. R Savage presiding

224/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE None

225/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None

226/12 RESIDENTS QUESTIONS

- Mr Ward asked Cllr. Savage to put some positive thoughts behind security of King's Head Meadow. Townsfolk want to see some positive leadership. Cllr. Savage replied of course – yes.
- Mr Travis in respect of item 10 asked for a resume of options to date. Cllr. Folger explained that 5 or 6 options had been looked at but could not disclose any further information because of confidentiality. The working group were continuing to look for a suitable solution to the Council's need for Council offices.
- Mr Witt as Vice Chairman of Wymondham Town Football Club (WTFC) asked when the Council were going to engage with them regarding the future of King's Head Meadow. Councillors replied that recent meetings of the football committee had been cancelled. Cllr. Ward & Fernee as appointed representatives of the Council to speak to Mr Witt to arrange a date for a meeting. Mr Ward commented that he was astounded that WTFC now take an interest in King's Head Meadow as they didn't do so when a supermarket was proposed. Mr Hawkins asked what position Mr Witt held in WTFC.
- Mr Walker started to ask a question regarding agenda item 19 Q1 but was advised by Cllr. Savage that this related to a personal matter and not to Council business and any questions were inappropriate.

227/12 MINUTES OF MEETING Upon the proposition of Cllr. Ward and seconded by Cllr. Gibbins the minutes of the meeting held on 6th November 2012 were approved as a correct record.

228/12 MATTERS ARISING None

229/12 LEISURE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE the draft minutes of the meeting held on 20th November 2012 were presented by the Chairman and noted.

230/12 SUNDRY CREDITORS On the proposition of Cllr. Ward and seconded by Cllr. Fernee it was resolved to pay accounts for November, as per the submitted list to the sum of £38,248.49

In compliance with Financial Regulations, the clerk tabled a list of salaries paid from the wages account to the sum of £8,914.99

231/12 CORRESPONDENCE received was considered and the actions proposed are recorded separately as an appendix to these minutes.

232/12 MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS were noted.

233/12 COUNCIL OFFICES WORKING GROUP Cllr. Foulger advised that following two meetings of the group, several suggestions have been considered such as new build, converting existing premises or leasing, but on closer inspection, it was agreed that many of the proposals were, in several respects either physically or in cost terms, no better than the present accommodation. However the group has resolved to continue its task.

234/12 KING'S HEAD MEADOW Cllr. Foulger explained that following a recent Leisure & Environment Committee meeting the following had been agreed ' Wymondham Town Council recognises the current public desire that Kings Head Meadow should be retained for recreational use and that this Council should evaluate and ratify a more formal and legal mechanism to effect this desire as soon as possible'.

Upon the proposition of Cllr. Gardiner and seconded by Cllr. Jeffery it was unanimously agreed to constitute a working group to evaluate the above and to report to the Leisure & Environment Committee. The working group to consist of Cllrs. Gardiner, Taylor, Fernee, Gibbins and Foulger.

235/12 MEETING DATES 2013 Schedule of meeting dates for 2013 was noted.

236/12 COUNCIL VACANCY Clerk advised of the resignation of Cllr. Wright. South Norfolk Council as the electoral authority have been informed and notice of vacancy displayed. If a by election is needed it was agreed that polling cards should be issued.

237/12 APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

- Cllr. Elias was appointed to the Planning Lighting & Highways Committee.
- Cllr. Gardiner was appointed to the Leisure & Environment Committee.
- Cllr. Gardiner resigned from the Planning Lighting & Highways committee and it was agreed to leave the subsequent vacancy in abeyance.

238/12 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

- Cllr. Roberts was appointed to the Archive Management group
- Vacancy re Wymondham Tennis Club was left in abeyance.

239/12 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT / COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Norfolk County Council

Cllr. Herbert:

- S Betts elected as Police Commission
- Gravel extraxrtion Min 118 at Stanfield is still part of the County Council Strategy awaiting ratification. Planning application has been withdrawn due to highway objections and requirement for ecological survey and may well be resubmitted.
- Working in conjunction with District Councils to apply for grants under Central Governments Citydeals scheme.
- Campaign to dual carriageway the A47 started.
- Anticipated that County Council share of Council Tax will be a nil% increase.

South Norfolk Council

Cllr. Savage

- Free parking on Friday 21st December in the South Norfolk Council Car Parks has been arranged.

240/12 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

- Cllr. Turner – Spooner Row Village Hall – Funds were healthy at £15,000 and plans for small buildings work were progressing.
- Cllr. Gibbins – Wymondham Fuel Allotment Charity - £40 Waitrose vouchers issued to 90 residents.

241/12 HEALTH & SAFETY Nothing to report.

242/12 QUESTIONS UNDER S/O 8
Councillor Gardiner

1/ Regarding the recent Wymondham Town Council election in Rustens Ward (November 15th 2012).

When voters went to the polls, and during the election campaign it was stated on the ballot paper to be between two Independent candidates. Only after new Councillor Elias was elected did he admit to still being a member of the Liberal Democrat party. This was not an oversight as it had been pointed out to him on many occasions.

Does the Chairman or the Council, feel this was morally correct or fair to the voters of Rustens Ward, in an election that was won by 10 votes. Also, do the Chairman and council not feel that a dangerous precedent has been set in a town council that is elected on party lines? All members of political parties or radicals can now stand as independents. This will completely confuse and hoodwink the residents of Wymondham, by not declaring their political affiliations?

In your article in the Mercury of May 10th this year Mr Chairman you stated “.....to re establish trust between the council and local residents after the challenges of the previous year”. Although no procedure may have been broken do you not feel that what happened during that election fell well short of re establishing trust?

Cllr. Gibbins on a point of order queried if this related to Council Business. Clerk advised that whilst strictly not Council business there was enough of a link to allow Cllr. Gardiner to make a short comment, which he did. Cllr. Elias then responded by reading out a statement attached to these minutes.

2/ Does the Chairman or Council feel the removal of the cobbles on the Market Cross has been beneficial to Wymondham?

The language and behaviour has become noticeably worse since the changes and I have personally witnessed twice in the last 10 days skateboarders very narrowly missing cars in Market Street. Yes, the cobbles had to be scaled back but not totally replaced. The new surface is an accident waiting to happen regarding skateboarders and traffic and we are yet to see what it is like with snow and ice on it. Can I request this council seeks to start the process to re instate the cobbles at the earliest opportunity before a serious accident takes place or the anti social behaviour rises still further?

Cllr. Savage responded that he felt the work had been beneficial. Activities by youths had been reported to the police and they had been spoken to. Area referred to is in the ownership of Norfolk County Council and any insurance claim would be made to them.

[The meeting closed at 20.25 pm]

DATED thisday of2013

SIGNED(Chairman)

WYMONDHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING 4th DECEMBER 2012

CORRESPONDENCE

Action

1. Letter – Wymondham Dementia Support Group letter (see overleaf) **Noted**

Information

1. Norfolk Rural Community Council – Signpost newsletter **Noted**

Mayor's Engagements

1. Mayor of Diss – Freedom of the Town Celebration – 7th November 2012 **Noted.**
Cllr. Savage thanked all Councillors who attended the Remembrance Day events
And that he had attended the depositing of a time capsule in Priory Gardens.