

WYMONDHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 4th JUNE 2013
in the FAIRLAND HALL at 7.30pm.

Councillors present:

JRW Andrews	J H Turner	S Elliott
M Heard	CW Foulger	MJ Gibbins
DM Hockaday	M Elias	A Taylor
CA Longhurst	A Gardiner	RJ Savage

Members of the public: 28
District Council: Cllr. Hornby

The Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr. C Foulger presiding

103/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllr. Buckton, Ward & Fernee.

104/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- Cllr. Hockaday – Prejudicial interest in respect of any items relating to Wymondham Tennis Club and a Personal interest in any item relating to Ketts Park.
- Cllr. Heard – Prejudicial interest in matters pertaining to King’s Head Meadow as he lives adjacent to the site.

Cllr. Savage asked that the Council’s congratulations to the Queen on her coronation 60 years ago be recorded.

105/13 RESIDENTS QUESTIONS

- Mr D Ward – Agenda item 11 – Asked if the King’s Head Meadow Trust Working Group were fully committed to Wymondham Town Football Club having a pitch on the meadow. Cllr. Foulger responded that he would not want to see anything else on the meadow. Cllr. Gardiner agreed with him.
- Cllr. Hornby – Agenda item 3 - asked for clarification if residents were only allowed to ask 1 question. Cllr. Foulger referred him to Standing order 1f ‘each member of the public is entitled to speak once only in respect of business itemised on the agenda and shall not speak for more than 5 minutes.
- Mrs Ford – Vandalism at Chandlers Hill. Cllr. Foulger advised that this was not an agenda item and couldn’t be discussed, however it could be placed on a future Leisure & Environment Committee agenda.
- Mr Poulter – Agenda item 12. Concerns that National Express had ceased 727 service stopping in Wymondham and asked that the Council writes to request re-instatement.

106/13 MINUTES OF MEETING Upon the proposition of Cllr. Savage and seconded by Cllr. Gardiner the minutes of the meeting held on 7th May 2013 were approved as a correct record.

Cllr. Heard advised that the communications working group were scheduled to meet on the 13th June.

Cllr. Hockaday noted that Cllr. Savage had not been thanked for his hard work as Mayor at the last meeting and she wished to place her appreciation on record. Cllr. Savage thanked her for her kind tribute.

107/13 MATTERS ARISING

- 99/13 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR Cllr. Hockaday raised concerns that no public consultation event in respect of connecting South Wymondham had been held and that she was concerned about the disruption to businesses and residents if the proposed works are carried out. Clerk advised that an article re the consultation would be in the 'About Wymondham' newsletter that would shortly be distributed.

108/13 LEISURE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE the draft minutes of the meeting held on 23rd May 2013 were presented by the Chairman and noted. Cllr. Turner asked what the Spooner Row under spend was and would this be refunded to Spooner Row residents. Cllr. Gibbins replied that £1500 had been budgeted for maintenance work and only £244 had been spent and therefore an under spend of £1256 had occurred.

109/13 SUNDRY CREDITORS On the proposition of Cllr. Savage and seconded by Cllr. Longhurst it was resolved to pay accounts for May, as per the submitted list to the sum of £19,969.18

In compliance with Financial Regulations, the clerk tabled a list of salaries paid from the wages account to the sum of £8,458.27

110/13 CORRESPONDENCE received was considered and the actions proposed are recorded separately as an appendix to these minutes.

111/13 MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS Noted.

112/13 APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS Clerk handed out a copy letter received from the Council's internal auditors (Larking Gowen) confirming that they had completed the internal audit procedures for the year ended 31st March 2013 and that no matters came to light to indicate that the internal control objectives were not being achieved and that they had signed the appropriate section of the external auditors form. Cllr Gibbins presented the Councils Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2013 as agreed by the Finance & General Purposes Committee to be signed off by the meetings Chairman and the Clerk as the Responsible Financial Officer in conjunction with the Annual Return and Statement of Assurance. He then gave an outline of some of the key factors affecting the accounts and invited Councillors to contact either himself or the Town Clerk if any further clarification was required. Upon the resolution of Cllr. Gibbins and seconded by Cllr. Savage it was unanimously resolved to approve these.

113/13 KING'S HEAD MEADOW TRUST WORKING GROUP Cllr. Gardiner gave a verbal report outlining some background work that had been undertaken including meetings with Wymondham Town Football Club (WTFC). The working group are following advice given by the Council's solicitors. Together with Cllr. Fernee he attended their May meeting and a further meeting scheduled for Monday 3rd June to resolve their constitution issues was cancelled at the last minute. WTFC are not very organised and at present are not legally constituted. At present the working group cannot proceed until the WTFC problems are resolved and the working group will be meeting on Monday 10th June to discuss the situation further. Cllr. Savage thanked Cllr. Gardiner for the update and asked the working group to consider the way forward should the football club fold and that the Council should not lose sight of other opportunities for new Council accommodation.

114/13 NATIONAL EXPRESS COACH ROUTE Cllr. Foulger referred to the recent decision by National Express Coaches to withdraw their Service 727 from Attleborough & Wymondham. Attleborough had campaigned and a limited service has been restored. Cllr. Savage advised that together with Cllrs. Mooney & Hornby (SNC) he had become involved in raising a petition to have the service re-instated in Wymondham. After a long discussion during which it was noted that alternative stops to the present one on Avenue Road, including the Police HQ, should be considered it was agreed that the Clerk be instructed to write to National Express asking for the service to call at Wymondham.

115/13 PROPOSAL
Councillors consider whether committee makeup should be adopted along the proportion of Councillors from relevant parties in relation to the total number of Councillors with Independent Councillors then making up the balance. Such that
for a committee of 5, this would be 2 Conservatives, 1 Liberal Democrat with 2 Independents
for a committee of 4, this would be 2 Conservatives, 1 Liberal Democrat with 1 Independent
for a committee of 3, this would be 1 Conservatives, 1 Liberal Democrat with 1 Independent

Proposer Cllr. Heard
Seconder Cllr. Hockaday

Cllr. Heard explained that he felt that the election of the new committee members at the last meeting had not been sufficiently aired and discussed and that he was not trying to make the committees more political and just wanted them to work towards a common goal.

Cllr. Hockaday explained that she had agreed to support the principle of the committee system being discussed but didn't agree with points 2 & 3.

Cllr. Taylor commented that she had worked with various Councillors and politics hadn't got in the way. It was a good idea to utilise Councillors particular skills and that a political split is not relevant. Cllr. Longhurst agreed.

Cllr. Savage commented that recent independent election literature had indicated that party politics was inappropriate at Town Council level and were independent Councillors acting as independents or as a formal group.

Cllr. Heard stressed that 15 Councillors working for Wymondham was important.

Cllr. Foulger concluded that most Councillors were happy to be on a committee and it would be a sorry affair if the Council went down this road.

Cllr. Heard withdrew the proposal.

116/13 PROPOSAL

All interested Councillors attend a workshop to consider and prioritise the issues to be addressed during the remainder of the current term with the aim of focusing our efforts during that time.

Proposer : Cllr. Heard

Secunder : Cllr. Elliot

After discussion it was agreed that Cllr. Heard be asked to arrange an informal session for Councillors only and to prepare a suggested format.

117/13 MOTION TO TOWN COUNCIL.

That Wymondham Town Council allows me to initiate proceedings working with Dr Ian Gibson with a view to twinning Wymondham with the ruling officers in Boston, Massachusetts USA. If successful the twinning would raise Wymondhams profile and potentially have a positive affect for investment and employment with in the Town. This motion would allow Dr Gibson and I to investigate and report back to full council. If our recommendations were accepted then a small working group to be elected to drive the project forward.

Proposed Cllr. Gardiner

Seconded Cllr. Heard

During the discussion Council opinion was divided as the benefits to the Town and to Boston. Cllr. Gardiner explained that Dr Gibson had strong links with a university in Boston and had offered to explore the possibility of twinning.

Cllr. Andrews read out a statement which is attached to these minutes. Following a vote it was resolved to authorise Dr Gibson and Cllr. Gardiner to proceed with their enquiries and if appropriate for Dr Gibson to address the Council on progress in due course.

118/13 SOUTH NORFOLK COUNCIL Your Neighbourhood, Your Choice consultation was discussed and Councillors were advised that they could complete and return this individually. In respect of a Council response SNC to be asked for more time, any ideas to be forwarded to the Clerk for collation.

119/13 APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

- PLANNING LIGHTING & HIGHWAYS It was resolved to appoint Cllr. Heard
- LEISURE & ENVIRONMENT It was resolved to appoint Cllr. Elliott.

120/13 APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES

- WYMONDHAM TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB It was resolved to appoint Cllr. Gardiner
- WYMONDHAM TENNIS CLUB It was resolved to appoint Cllr. Elliott.

121/13 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT / COUNTY COUNCILLORS

- Norfolk County Council
 - Nothing to report
- South Norfolk Council – Cllr. Savage
 - Planning application No 2012/1434 (Chapel Lane) had gone to appeal
 - Planning applications 2011/0505 & 2012/037 (South Wymondham) were to be discussed at a Development Management Control meeting on 18th June.

122/12 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

- Cllr. Gibbins – Old Grammar School Trust – Still trying to resolve Becketts Chapel issue and may have to form a Trust to raise grants. Council agreed to support in principle and if necessary to put forward a Trustee.
- Cllr. Taylor advised that the allotment Association were participating in the ‘Tastes of Wymondham’ event that was taking place on Saturday 8th June.

123/12 HEALTH & SAFETY Nothing to Report

124/12 QUESTIONS (S/O 8) None received

[The meeting closed at 21.35 pm]

DATED thisday of2013

SIGNED(Chairman)

WYMONDHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING 4th JUNE 2013

CORRESPONDENCE

Action

1. Norfolk Association Local Councils – Police & Crime Commissioner meetings **Noted**

Information

1. Friends of Windmill House – letter of appreciation re use of Market Place **Noted**
2. Norfolk Police – Summary of Police & Crime Plan 2013/17 **Noted**

Mayor's Engagements

1. Wymondham Music Festival Preview Evening – 9.5.13 **Noted**
2. Wymondham & Attleborough Talking Newspapers –AGM – 16.5.13 **Noted**
3. Wymondham Library Dementia Day – 23.5.13 **Noted**
4. Star Throwers - Lunch – 24.5.13 **Noted**