

WYMONDHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 6th AUGUST 2013
in the FAIRLAND HALL at 7.30pm.

Councillors present:

JRW Andrews	J H Turner	D Fernee
M Heard	CW Foulger	C Buckton
DM Hockaday	M Elias	S Elliott
CA Longhurst	A Gardiner	RJ Savage
M Gibbins		

Members of the public: 21
District Council: Cllr. Hornby
County/ District Council: Cllr Mooney
The Town Mayor, Cllr. D Fernee presiding

141/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllrs. Ward & Taylor

142/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- Cllr. Heard – Prejudicial interest in matters pertaining to King’s Head Meadow as he lives adjacent to the site.

143/13 RESIDENTS QUESTIONS

- Mr Travis referred to the report that he had today received from Cllr. Gardiner. He asked if the Council were going to report Wymondham Town Football Club (WTFC) to the police in respect of any suggested possible financial irregularities. Cllr. Fernee responded that the internal running of WTFC, financial or otherwise, was not the responsibility of the Town Council. She further suggested that she felt it was up to any WTFC member to take action if they felt it was appropriate. Cllr. Gibbins commented that the report had been prepared by Cllr. Gardiner however it had not been agreed by the King’s Head Trust Working Group (KHMTWG) members. Cllr. Gardiner replied that having attended WTFC meetings he wasn’t accusing them of impropriety and that he had attended a WTFC meeting the previous evening and the Vice Chairman and former Treasurer had not attended.
- Mr Ward asked if the Town Council had a plan B and if so could it be shared with residents. Many players had left WTFC and the Council needed a clear strategy for the future of WTFC on the meadow. He would accept a Community building on part of the meadow but not a new Council Office on its own. Cllr. Gardiner responded that he was trying to be open and that the KHMTWG didn’t think that WTFC would not buy into scheme. It was morally wrong that WTFC were holding the Council and residents to ransom
- Cllr. Hornby asked for an update on proposals to Twin with Boston (USA) and if Dr Gibson was still involved. Cllr. Gardiner replied yes he was and that he had yesterday spoken to the Town Clerk who had given him information on the Norfolk Twinning Association.

- Cllr. Mooney asked the following questions:
 1. Is the lease with WTFC valid.
 2. Have WTFC funds to pay towards a new lease.
 3. Are KHMTWG meetings minuted.
 4. When will costings for the proposal be available.

Cllr. Gardiner replied that

1. The lease is valid.
 2. As WTFC had not produced any recent financial figures no definitive answer can be given.
 3. As advised by the Clerk there is no requirement to keep minutes but notes are kept.
 4. Until the Council are advised that WTFC are in support of the proposals the working group cannot proceed forward.
- Mr Hornby asked if the Communications working Group had looked into residents asking any questions at Council meetings. Cllr. Fernee responded that this was being looked into.

144/13 MINUTES OF MEETING Upon the proposition of Cllr. Elias and seconded by Cllr. Savage the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd July 2013 were approved as a correct record subject to the addition of Cllr. Hockaday attending the South Norfolk Council Development Control Meeting referred to under minute 134/13.

145/13 MATTERS ARISING

- 127/13 Planning Applications Cllr. Heard reported that he had received a response from South Norfolk Council which is appended to these minutes.

146/13 LEISURE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE the draft minutes of the meeting held on 16th July 2013 were presented by the Chairman and noted.

147/13 SUNDRY CREDITORS On the proposition of Cllr. Gibbins and seconded by Cllr. Heard it was resolved to pay accounts for July, as per the submitted list to the sum of £40,836.96

In compliance with Financial Regulations, the clerk tabled a list of salaries paid from the wages account to the sum of £8,455.09

148/13 CORRESPONDENCE received was considered and the actions proposed are recorded separately as an appendix to these minutes.

149/13 MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS Noted.

150/13 KING'S HEAD MEADOW TRUST WORKING Cllr. Gardiner read out a précis of the report that he had belatedly prepared and circulated giving his concerns over the internal running of WTFC. Following this a discussion ensued regarding the problems being encountered by KHMTWG with WTFC in respect of proposals for King's Head Meadow. Cllr. Turner referred to work undertaken by the original King's Head Meadow Working Group which revealed that when residents were asked if they wanted to retain football on King's Head Meadow a majority had ticked the 'Strongly Disagree' box. Cllr. Savage expressed concerns over the circulation of Cllr. Gardiner's report as it had not come from or been approved by the KHMTWG. He also asked what the association was between the Trustees who had signed the lease and WTFC. Cllr. Gibbins advised that as WTFC do

not have legal capacity then trustees were needed to sign the lease on their behalf. The trustees hold the lease on trust for WTFC and if a trustee had resigned then there should have been documentation drawn up appointing a new trustee and this is what WTFC appears not to have done.

151/13 TOLLS MEADOW Upon the proposition of Cllr. Savage and seconded by Cllr. Gardiner it was resolved to ratify the recommendation of the Leisure & Environment Committee.

152/13 NATIONAL EXPRESS Cllr. Savage reported that despite receiving a letter from National Express declining to re-instate the 727 Service, following work undertaken by himself, Cllr. Hornby & Cllr. Mooney, together with pressure from Mid Norfolk MP George Freeman, he was pleased to report that a meeting had been arranged for Thursday 15th August at 11.30am in the Council Chamber. All Councillors and interest parties were welcome to attend.

153/13 COUNCILLOR TRAINING Cllr. Fernee referred to paper G attached to the agenda which had been prepared by Cllr. Hockaday and answered the following recommendations:

I would recommend that :-

1. The Communications Working Party Looks at the Mattishall Parish Council General Guide for residents as a possible means of improving communication with our residents.
The Communications working Group were working on a similar guide.
2. The Council uses the Mattishall Parish Council Staff Appraisal Form and Guidance as a guide for appraising all Council staff, including the Clerk.
The Town Council had already approved an appraisal form which would be reviewed in due course.
3. All councillors attend some form of training or at least read The Good Councillors Guide from www.nalc.gov.uk
All Councillors had been offered Training and it was their personal choice if they wished to attend. No Councillor can be forced to attend.
4. Wymondham Town Council has a training session tailor - made specifically for Wymondham Council with the Clerk and as many councillors present as possible
A Training course had been in the Council chamber for new Councillors shortly after the new Council was elected in 2011. Courses are regularly available and brought to the attention of Councillors who can attend if they wish.

154/13 TIFFEY TRAIL PERMISSIVE FOOTPATH Cllr. Fernee referred to paper H attached to the meeting agenda which explained the current position. Further work was to be undertaken in respect of the permissive footpath between Becketswell & Chapel Bell and this would be reported back to Council in due course. Cllr. Gardiner asked if Council's support to keep the permissive footpaths open would help residents who oppose the proposed housing development on Chapel Lane?. Cllr. Savage replied that it may help but it was primarily being done for the benefit of the residents of Wymondham.

155/13 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT / COUNTY COUNCILLORS

- Norfolk County Council - Cllr. Mooney
 - Campaign had been started to find more child adoption placements.
- South Norfolk Council - No reports

156/12 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES – No reports

157/12 HEALTH & SAFETY Nothing to Report

158/12 QUESTIONS (S/O 8) Question received from Cllr. Hockaday.

" Is it acceptable for Wymondham Town Council to fill a staff vacancy without advertising and interviewing for the post?"

Cllr. Fernee replied ‘Yes’ and if Cllr. Hockaday was referring to the recent appointment of Mr Mann at the TIC then the rationale for this had been explained to her in the Clerks email of the 17th April 2013 which responded to her initial enquiry. The decision to employ Mr Mann was prudent and the procedure followed was sensible and had been carried out in conjunction with the then Mayor, Cllr. Savage, and Cllr. Gibbins as Chairman of the Buildings, Health & Safety and Personnel Working Group. Cllr. Turner complained that the first they had known of Mr Manns employment was an article in ‘About Wymondham’. Cllr. Fernee apologized that they had not been kept in the loop. Cllr. Gibbins responded to Cllr. Hockaday that if she felt the Council had transgressed in any way then she should provide full details of the appropriate legislation to the Clerk.

[The meeting closed at 20.35 pm]

DATED this day of2013

SIGNED(Chairman)

WYMONDHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING 6th AUGUST 2013

CORRESPONDENCE

Action

- 1.

Information

1. Norfolk Playing Fields Association Newsletter **Noted**
2. Environment Agency letter to Spooner Row residents to reduce pollution from Septic Tanks and Private Sewage Treatment Plants. **Noted**
3. Norfolk County Council – Northern Distributor Route – notification of Consultation. **Noted**

Mayor's Engagements

1. Wymondham College – Speech Day – 29.6.13 **Noted**
2. Wymondham High Academy – Art Showcase – 11.7.13 **Noted**
3. Wymondham High Academy – Presentation Evening – 18.7.13 **Noted**
4. Wymondham Art Society – Exhibition Preview – 22.7.13 **Noted**
5. Wymondham Dementia Group – 26.7.13 **Noted**
6. Attleborough Mayors Civic Reception – 27.7.13 **Noted**
7. Mad Hatters Tea Party – Mayors Community Fund – 28.7.13 **Noted**

Response from South Norfolk

SNC appreciate that there is much concern over the number of houses currently being approved in the Wymondham area prior to adoption of the Wymondham Area Action Plan (WAAP). Although the 2,200 set in the Joint Core Strategy (JCS) is a minimum the Council fully recognises the local desire for this to be a maximum. The Council have recently argued that the 2,200 for Wymondham should be a maximum through the recent Joint Core Strategy examination in public, based on evidence from Wymondham High School submitted through the WAAP process and a paper from Norfolk County Council on housing numbers.

The timeline for the 2,200 dwellings starts at the base date of the JCS, which is the 1st April 2008. Anything already committed at that date either through grant of planning permission or allocated in the 2003 South Norfolk Local Plan (SNLP) will be counted in the base date figures and will not count towards the 2,200. This includes the large development at Whispering Oaks, permission for 53 units on the Saleground and 35 units allocated in the SNLP at Friarscroft Lane .

Anything committed after 1st April 2008 will potentially count towards the 2,200 target. We would only count developments of 5 or more units as this is the minimum site size that we are proposing to allocate across the district in our Site Specific Allocations and Policies document. Any site less than 5 units would be considered to be a windfall and would not count towards the 2,200.

Since the 1st April 2008 base date planning permission has been granted for, or there is a Development Management Committee resolution to grant permission for:-

- 11 extra units on the Saleground site
- 28 units Cemex Site
- 323 units Norwich Common
- 350 units Carpenters Barn
- 1230 units South Wymondham
- 275 units Opposite Waitrose
- 20 units London Road
- 37 units Harts Farm School Site
- 6 units – top of Right Up Lane
- 11 - Norwich Common

These commitments total 2291 units, so in the context of the 2,200 you will appreciate that the Council now have some decisions to make in terms of the sites to be allocated for housing in the final WAAP document. This work is on-going at the moment and the Council are currently busy responding to the responses received to the Preferred Options WAAP consultation that took place between January – March this year with the aim of taking the pre-submission version of the WAAP to Full Council in September with submission shortly after that.