



Saxmundham Town Council

Market Hall

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Minutes of a meeting of Saxmundham Town Council held at the Market Hall on Monday 9 MARCH 2015 at 7.15pm

Present:

Cllr J. Fisher – Chairman
Cllr Mrs M. Andrews
Cllr Sir Peter Batho
Cllr Ms L. Hailey
Cllr K. Howe
Cllr Mrs L. Jardine

Cllr R. Plant
Cllr Mrs D. Sculley
Cllr D. Tricker
Cllr Ms Trotter-Langlois

In attendance:

Ms M. Gallop, Town Clerk
Imogen Green, Clerical Assistant
Cllr Mr M. Gower Suffolk County Councillor arrived at 8.10pm
PC Kevin Stollery
4 members of the Public
Richard Cornwell, EADT

PUBLIC FORUM:

The Memorial Field and Seaman Avenue Play Area are causing concern:-

- The Town Clerk has been aware of the problems in the Play Area for some time. At present she has established new equipment for Chantry Road Play Area and it is being installed as we speak. However thoughtless youths have damaged the Teen Shelter in Seaman Avenue which was requested by the youth four years ago. This was installed and had been an area for young people to enjoy and meet their friends. The whole play area is sadly strewn with broken glass and litter and the Clerk is already in the process of organising a clean up there. Quotations will be sought for the repair to the Teen Shelter and this will be discussed in detail later in the meeting.
- The Memorial Field has also had an increase in litter being thrown around and youngsters have actually been seen picnicking and leaving all the debris behind, similar incidents occurring in Carlton Park also. The Clerk will contact the Schools for assistance in training youngsters to tidy up after themselves and leave open spaces and Play Areas a place for all to enjoy. It seems to be a sad reflection of our time that some children who are not taught to respect the environment and other people at an early age will obviously continue to do this as they grow up.
- The footpath from Seaman Avenue to Mill Road has also an increasing amount of litter and garden debris and a Spring Clean will be organised in the near future.
- The proposed disco for young people, called CHILL, will, unfortunately not take place this month but hopefully the organisers will have everything in place before too long.

REPORT FROM THE LOCAL POLICE: PC K Stollery reported that there had been 17 recorded crimes during February, 1 burglary, 1 attempted burglary, 2 criminal damage, 2 thefts, 1 attempted robbery to local shop with injury caused to victim, 1 assault to male, 1 GBH, 2 common assaults, 1 violence to secure entry of home, 1 drug incident, 1 abuse by telephone & 2 indecent/threatening text incidents, 1 harassment breach causing distress.

PC Stollery, having previously read our agenda, thought that the Teen Shelter on Seaman Avenue Play Area is a total 'eye-sore' and has become a Health and Safety issue as the Perspex has been burnt and bottles have been deliberately thrown at the shelter hence an increasing amount of broken glass.

REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR: Cllr M Gower will be arriving late due to a previous meeting at Bramfield.

REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS:

Cllr Mrs Andrews attended a Development Control Committee Meeting with Cllr Sir Peter at Woodbridge on Wednesday. She opposed the proposed build of a further 170 houses by Hopkins Homes at Church Hill as she thought there should be another entrance/exit via Street Farm Road due to increasing traffic congestion down Church Hill. Both Cllr Sir Peter and Country Councillor Michael Gower agreed with her. Cllr Mrs Andrews thought that yellow boxes should be implemented outside the supermarket entrances. She also advised that the Church has had a problem with the Tower. As a listed building, in planning law, the Church should have been notified of any ground compaction as it can cause structural damage to nearby buildings. The Church Tower has suffered cracks and they have had to spend £7000 for repairs. The Church Warden has written to Hopkins Homes informing them of the damage and resulting costs but unfortunately he has not received any reply and will be writing once more. Church Hill is actually a clay ridge and Hopkins Homes are building on clay. The Chair of the Planning Committee at SCDC has spoken to Hopkins Homes and informed them that the builders had to do something about the Church Tower.

Cllr Mrs Andrews advised that at every meeting the Planning Officer states that they haven't got a five year land supply but Suffolk Coastal District Council haven't released it. There is a Lobby Group saying –No Adastral New Town – as the proposed 2000 houses are not wanted in that area and they have lodged an objection which will eventually go to the Supreme Court.

Saxmundham is already experiencing problems without further approval of more housing developments from SCDC. Our Primary School cannot continue adding further classrooms because it is not big enough to accommodate increasing pupils attending school. A new Primary School is needed for the additional school places that will be required with the extra approved new builds together with more infrastructure.

Cllr Sir Peter advised that our Chairman, Cllr Fisher, had also attended the meeting at SCDC and had spoken in favour of an alternative entrance to the Church Hill site via Street Farm Road. According to the District Council the extra 170 houses will not cause undue problems at the traffic lights. However it is a well-known fact that despite SCDC previously stating there would not be any problems when Tesco's was built this was proven not to be the case with traffic tail-backed as far as Benhall from the traffic lights. The additional traffic from an extra 170 homes down Church Hill will undoubtedly cause traffic problems.

Cllr Sir Peter advised that SCDC had agreed a nil increase in their portion of the Council tax for the coming year.

AGENDA

4640. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

- To Receive Amendments to the Register – **None declared**
- To Receive Declarations of Pecuniary Interest in Respect of Items on the Agenda – Cllr Sir Peter declared an interest in planning number DC15/0327/VOC as this is adjacent to his own land.
- To Receive Declarations of Non Pecuniary Interest in Respect of items on the Agenda - Cllr Tricker declared an interest as a volunteer director of SADCIC who manages the Fromus Centre. .
- To Consider Full/Partial Dispensations for Pecuniary Interests declared **n/a**

4641. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR AND CONSENT TO ABSENCE: Cllr Willett, work commitments

4642. TO APPROVE AND SIGN AS A TRUE RECORD THE MINUTES OF 9 FEBRUARY 2015 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING previously circulated: Unanimously agreed and signed as a true record.
Motion carried.

4643. TO NOTE THE STATUS OF ACTIONS ARISING FROM THAT MEETING: previously circulated

Action	By	Status
Action: C469 grit bins	Clerk	SCC have paid for the 2 grit bins
Action: C477 CHILL event	Clerk	Awaiting relevant forms for CHILL event to occur
Action: 4620 Production of A2 town map	Cllrs Tricker/Fisher	Awaiting update
Action: 4634 Purchase PA system	Clerk	Clerk ordered PA system
Action: 4634 Contamination survey for Police Station	Clerk	Clerk requested Survey to be carried out

4644. TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

A – CORRESPONDENCE TO BE NOTED AND CIRCULATED:

- 803 Jenny Ward healthwatch suffolk – local services
- 804 Carolyn Barnes – response to Clerk’s email regarding Market Place car park fees
- 805 BOS newsletter February 2015
- 806 SALC – Suffolk Coastal Area meeting- Chairman’s report
- 807 Email eastsuffolk – SCDC Quality of Place awards 2015

B – CORRESPONDENCE TO BE DISCUSSED BEFORE REPLY:

- 271 SCC – Education and learning infrastructure plan – plans need to be looked at
- 272 Suffolk Coastal Norse – Spring Clean Suffolk 21 March 2015 – this needs to be organised promptly.
- 273 Saxmundham Futures Meeting 28th March at Saxmundham Free School, 10am-2pm

C – OTHER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED TO DATE:

C478	J. Norgan	Complaint about Hopkins going through private land 30 & 32 High Street & 30 abc & d	Clerk will respond
C479	East Suffolk	Sizewell C joint authority engagement event SCDC & SCC invitation 10am-1pm High Lodge, Darsham	Cllr Fisher to attend
C480	SALC	Sizewell A & B Stakeholder group report	Circulation
C481	Suffolk Coast Business	Business event 25 March High Lodge Darsham	Circulation
C482	Email Julia Ewart	CHILL- to be placed on hold	Noted

County Councillor Michael Gower arrived at 08.15pm

4645. CHAIRMAN'S/TOWN CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Cllr Fisher advised that the period of Purdah will begin on the 23rd March and caution was needed with regard to the publishing, or arranging for or give financial support of any material that appears to be designed to affect public support for a candidate in the elections.

The Town Clerk had previously advised that the Chantry Road Play Area was being transformed.

4646. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND CONSIDER ITS RECOMMENDATIONS:

- To approve the monthly Finance Report to the end of February 2015 – Cllr Plant proposed this as correct, seconded by Cllr Mrs Sculley. Unanimously agreed. **Motion carried.**
- To consider the purchase of office storage equipment for the Webster room. The Webster Room is overcrowded and needs additional storage and Cllr Plant proposed that as it is essential to purchase new equipment up to £1000. Cllr Howe seconded. Motion carried on majority. 2 abstentions – Cllrs Mrs Andrews and Sir Peter.
- To consider the options regarding the teen shelter on Seaman Avenue play area – after a lengthy discussion Cllr Plant proposed to refurbish the shelter up to £3500 – seconded by Cllr Ms Trotter-Langlois. Motion carried on majority vote. One abstention – Cllr Sir Peter. The whole area needs extensive renovation and the Clerk has this in hand.
- To consider the following request for a donation
 - MAGPAS HELIMEDIX AIR AMBULANCE – Cllr Plant advised that this request had been considered but he proposed that we do not donate to this national charity on this occasion, seconded by Cllr Fisher. Motion carried on majority. Cllr Mrs Andrews abstained.
- To consider drainage of the memorial field – Cllr Plant advised that drainage had previously been approved by full Council for £28,000. However completed a bona fide tender process in accordance with Local Government rules Cllr Plant advised that we only received one tender back which was inclusive of the play area as well which reflects the increase in cost of £39,000. The original amount is held in our earmarked reserves and the remainder can be taken out of our reserves. There will be minimal ongoing maintenance costs for the pump that will be installed. Cllr Plant proposed we accept this quotation, seconded by Cllr Ms Trotter-Langlois. Motion carried on majority vote. One abstention – Cllr Sir Peter.
- To receive an update on the Police Station – Cllr Fisher advised that we had finally received a response from the Police and this will be discussed at the end of the meeting 'en camera'
- To consider maintenance of trees and hedges in the Play Areas – Cllr Plant proposed that the Clerk has the authority to maintain trees and hedges in the Play Areas, seconded by Cllr Tricker. Unanimously agreed. **Motion carried.**

4647. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR: The meeting was closed to allow County Councillor Michael Gower to give a report: He advised that it is a quiet time of the year and there was not much to report on. The budget had been agreed but the County Council have to make savings of £120 million in the near future. There are various meetings being held with regard to Sizewell and road links will be discussed with Highways and the County Council are awaiting EDF to come up with proposals.

A small break ensued.

4648. TO APPROVE AMENDMENT OF THE STANDING ORDERS:

- To incorporate recording of meetings and the adoption of a media policy. This was deferred.
- Cllr Fisher proposed that the Clerical Assistant should be able to undertake the work of the Proper Officer when the Clerk is absent – seconded by Cllr Plant. Unanimously agreed. **Motion carried.**

- 4649. TO CONSIDER SAXMUNDHAM YOUTH PROJECT CONSULTATION PROPOSAL (papers circulated previously):** Cllr Plant has spoken with Ormiston Families Trust with regard to providing a professional study to establish the need from a children's/adolescent perspective and enable us to get our facility right for a Youth Project.. The consultation with schools and other interested groups, is the key to Saxmundham's long-term sustainability and inclusiveness of this Youth Project. Cllr Plant proposed the Town Council engage with Ormiston Families Trust to provide this Professional Study, seconded by Cllr Tricker. Unanimously agreed. **Motion carried.**
- 4650. TO DISCUSS PARKING IN SAXMUNDHAM:** The Clerk advised that she had received complaints regarding parking along Albion Street. She enquired about parking permits from the District Council and received a questionnaire in return. Cllr Tricker advised that if we ended up with parking schemes there will nowhere for anyone to park plus the cost of permits is expensive. It was felt that in this day and age parking outside your own property is not always available unless you have designated parking, a driveway or a garage.
- 4651. TO CONSIDER THE ROLE OF THE BUSINESSES OF SAXMUNDHAM:** Cllr Mrs Andrews had expressed concern about the apparent demise of the Business Association. Cllr Howe said that their AGM had been deferred for six weeks as they had been unable to appoint a Chairman and a Vice Chairman. However Cllr Howe had heard that the situation had just changed and a Chairman and Vice Chairman will be appointed at the next BOS meeting.

4652. TO REVIEW AND COMMENT ON THE FOLLOWING PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

DC/15/0354/VOC	David Wilson Homes Eastern Counties	Land between Rendham Road & A12 Rendham Road, Saxmundham	Variation of conditions 10,12,13 of planning permission C11/2864 to submit revised plan relating to highway works	Cllr Fisher advised that the Highway works plan associated with the Section 106 agreement on the Mayflower Green Development was different from the plan with the application that had been given permission. The work was carried out according to the S 106 plan and this is a retrospective application to do the work as it has already been done. We strongly object on 2 grounds. Firstly the footway on the southern side of Rendham Road should continue to the Memorial Field to enable a safe route to be put in via the field and secondly on the northern side of Rendham Road an extra triangular footway has been added with a dangerous slope in the middle which we would like to be made safe.
DC/15/0327/VOC	David Wilson Homes	Land west of 56 to 80 Mayflower Avenue , Sax	Updated versions of two documents of materials – substitution of approved Design and Access Statement for Design and Access Statement and approved Planning Compliance Statement	Cllr Batho had previously declared a pecuniary interest & didn't vote. This application is for a change of colour for the bricks and tiles. Cllr Fisher proposed no objections to this, seconded Cllr Plant. Motion carried on majority.

4653. TO CONSIDER THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ST. GEORGES' WEEKEND 25/26 APRIL 2015 :

Cllr Mrs Jardine advised the following:-

- Morris Dancers have been appointed
- The WI have agreed to do the refreshments on the Saturday morning
- The bunting has been collected and the flags need new broom handles. Cllr Jardine will ask Cllr Willett to attach the flags to the handles.
- Volunteers will be needed on the Saturday. Cllr Plant has offered help with the disco and Cllr Fisher has offered assistance.

4654. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS OTHER BODIES INCLUDING WORKING PARTIES:

Three Communities Cycling project. - Cllr Miss Hailey gave an update on this.

- The information has already been published in Saxmundham News.
- A link has been put onto facebook.
- An impact statement will begin in April seeking to show how this project will impact on the town and villages, businesses, schools residents and the environment.
- It should be possible to develop a version of 'shared space' as other towns have.
- The Ladies Cycle Tour will be passing through Saxmundham on the 17th June 2015 and hopefully that will make the town more cycling friendly.
- Negotiations are ongoing with the Sax Music Fest.

Site Allocations and Area Specific Policies Working Group – Cllr Mrs Jardine attended a meeting regarding the first phase consultation which ended on the 27th February and the next phase will begin after collecting all the views given.

4655. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: 13 APRIL 2015 at 7.15pm

4656. To exclude the public under the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to public interest by reasons of the confidential nature of the following business being transacted:

To consider the response to our offer for the Police Station:

Meeting ended at 10pm

SIGNED _____

DATED _____