



Saxmundham Town Council

Market Hall

High Street

Saxmundham Suffolk IP17 1AF

Tel/Fax: 01728 604595

www.saxmundham.org

townclerk@saxmundham.suffolk.gov.uk

Minutes of an Extraordinary meeting of Saxmundham Town Council held at the Market Hall on Monday 27 JULY 2015 at 7.15pm

Present:

Cllr R. Plant – Chairman	Cllr Mrs L Jardine
Cllr P. Dunnett	Cllr Ms P MacKay
Cllr Mrs A Eves	Cllr J Sandbach (arrived at 7.55pm)
Cllr P Ewart	Cllr Ms C Trotter-Langlois
Cllr J. Fisher	Cllr M. Turner
Cllr K Howe	

In attendance: Ms M. Gallop, Town Clerk

County Cllr Michael Gower – arrived at 8.00pm (previous meeting)
PCSO Kevin Mann
PCSO Christian Hassler
12 members of the Public
Richard Cornwell, EADT

Cllr Roger Plant welcomed everyone to this Extraordinary Meeting and advised that there were 'pockets' of anti-social behaviour but he thought that some of this is a symptom of society due to lack of amenities in our town. Facilities for young people are the main topic for the Town Council to address and we employed Ormiston Families Trust to carry out a survey to find out what the young people would like to have. They targeted the young and went out on the ground to reach them. The Town Council have set aside £60,000 from the Precept over the next two years for youth provision. He advised that the Councillors would give their ideas about both subjects first and then the meeting would be closed at certain times to enable members of the public to have their say. After that the Councillors would vote on the way forward regarding the provision of a Youth facility.

AGENDA

4714. 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 – **None declared**
- To Receive Declarations of Non Pecuniary Interest in respect of items on the Agenda – Cllr Ms Trotter-Langlois declared an interest as a member of both SAVVY and CYDS and Cllr Plant

declared an interest as he was instrumental in organising the Consultation and the subsequent report from Ormiston Trust. However the remaining members of the Town Council unanimously agreed a dispensation to allow Cllrs Trotter-Langlois and Plant to vote on matters concerning the youth. **Motion carried.**

- To Consider Full/Partial Dispensations for Pecuniary Interests Declared n/a

4715. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Sandbach arriving later due to work commitments

4716. TO CONSIDER FUTURE FACILITIES FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF SAXMUNDHAM:

Cllr Plant had circulated a report to the Councillors to enable them to look at the options provided from the Ormiston Trust including a long report which has been put onto our website for everyone to look at. Cllr Ms Trotter-Langlois also sent a small report in response to Cllr Plant's. (All three reports attached). Ormiston Families Trust concentrated their research on youngsters from the age of 10 to 16. One of the criticisms that came out of this report was that they thought the Town Council is a restraint for the young people. As the Town Council have a restricted amount of money from the public purse they wished to provide a safe haven for youngsters to attend and enjoy.

The Town Council met with the Crime Commissioner, Mr Tim Passmore, last week to discuss the various anti-social problems that the town had been experiencing. Mr Passmore has up to £3500 to donate towards CCTV if it was thought necessary to provide it. However a facility for the young to go with an experienced Youth Leader who could organise and co-ordinate other organisations would be beneficial to the young people. Anti-social behaviour is often a misconception – it is frequently about tolerance i.e. noise – the young are noisy but that does not mean they are intent on doing damage. Only a small pocket of youngsters have been involved in real anti-social behaviour particularly when the Memorial Field was closed for drainage purposes.

Cllr Mrs Jardine advised that our restricted budget is for the benefit of Saxmundham people. Any project must not drift and will have targets that have to be agreed with the Town Council and which are to be achieved. Cllr Howe thought that the anti-social behaviour was not as bad as people thought – it is still safe to walk the streets! Unfortunately the Skate Park never materialised after a good many years and it is now our job to fulfil our commitments to the young. However Cllr Ms Trotter-Langlois said that previously the Town Council did not wish to assist with the provision of a Skate Park. Much money would be needed to provide this facility and the Town Council only have £13,000 in the bank towards this. Funding from grants would be essential but to increase the Precept to provide this facility would need very careful consideration. We could make provision in our next budget and this will be discussed at our next Finance Meeting.

The meeting was closed to enable the public to have their say regarding anti-social behaviour and the Youth Facility.

The following points were given:-

- A porta-cabin would be easier to clean than a High Street facility – plus windows are cheaper to replace if necessary
- An Advisory Board to help steer the project should be appointed
- Liaison with schools and stakeholders to promote any new project
- Appoint a trusted and experienced provider to deliver the new project and consider future funding revenues
- Consideration given to possible alternatives to the porta-cabin
- Young people should take ownership of the project to value the new facility
- New Provider should act as gatekeeper and liaise with other organisations
- Facility needed for young people between the ages of 10 and 16
- Value for money necessary – public purse
- The first three favourite projects that the young people wished for were a Youth Club, Skate Park and a Bike Track

The meeting was re-opened.

Cllr Plant advised that despite having limited funds it is essential that the Town Council provide a facility for the young people as soon as possible.

Cllr Mrs Eves stated that many youngsters will not go to the Seaman Avenue Play Area due to a few hooligans possibly inhibiting them. The young people need somewhere which is safe, dry and warm to enjoy various activities. Cllr Mrs Eves advised that there had been a Youth Club type evening at the Primary School where music, bean bags and space to relax was provided with the view of potentially starting a youth club where table tennis, a pool table and Wii were available. The Town Council have already obtained planning permission for a porta-cabin to be erected on the Memorial Field and the rent for this would be £10,000 per year for the next two years. An alternative to this would be to find premises in the High Street. It was thought that the Town Council should approach Carlton Park about the availability of having a facility there. Clerk will pursue depending when their next meeting is.

Cllr Fisher proposed that we go ahead with the provision of a porta-cabin on the Memorial Field and get CYDS to run it. As Cllrs Mrs Eves and Ewart abstained a second proposal was requested on how we run and staff the facility because this would need to be carefully worked out by tender with key performance/targets. A porta-cabin would take a minimum of 12 weeks to be erected but the foundations would have to be put in place beforehand plus septic tanks are no longer acceptable and proper treatments would have to be installed together with provision of a disabled ramp. Costings for these would need to be ascertained.

Cllr Mrs Jardine proposed that we appoint an Advisory Board, as recommended in the report from Ormiston Trust, immediately to enable them to report back to the Town Council before the next Town Council meeting on the 14th September. Seconded by Cllr Turner. **Motion carried on majority.** After much debate it was agreed that the Board would consist of Cllrs Mrs Eves, Ewart, Fisher, Howe and Turner. After further discussion it was unanimously agreed that Haydn Morris and Gillian Benjamin would also be included plus Rachel Rowe will be asked whether she would like to join. County Cllr Michael Gower agreed to attend some of the earlier meetings. The Heads of the two schools will also be asked if they would like be on the Board. Obviously the first task for the Board will be to appoint a Chairman. The original proposal by Cllr Fisher that we go ahead with the provision of a porta-cabin on the Memorial Field was agreed and Cllr Plant will procure the building and tender out for the foundations.

Cllr Plant advised that the Town Council are embarking on many projects at the present time for the benefit of our community.

Meeting ended 9.00pm

SIGNED _____

DATED _____