



Redenhall with Harleston Town Council

Clerk: Mrs. L. Ling
Chairman: Mr B. Woods

Minutes of a meeting of Redenhall with Harleston Town Council Held at Harleston Leisure Centre On Wednesday 19th April 2017

Present: Councillors – Barry Woods, Frances Bickley, Mark Betts, Adrian Brownsea, Ian Broughton, John Marjoram, Sandra Nicholson, Martin Roberts, and Greg Rose

Also Present: District Councillor Brian Riches, County Councillor Martin Wilby, Lynda Ling (Clerk), Tina Page (Office Administrator), 4 members of the public

1. **Welcome** – Councillor Woods welcomed those present at the meeting.
2. **Apologies** – None

It was stated that all meetings will be recorded.

3. **Declarations of pecuniary and other interests** – Councillor Nicholson declared a personal interest in item 13
4. **Approval the minutes** - of the meetings held on Wednesday 15th March 2017 and note the draft minutes from the Recreation Committee Wednesday 1st March 2017, draft minutes from the Personnel Committee 13th March 2017, Planning Committee 5th April 2017 and the Finance Committee 4th April 2017. Agreement proposed by Councillor Brownsea and seconded by Councillor Nicholson. **ALL AGREED**
5. **To consider co-opting candidates who have come forward in response to the casual vacancies on the Council.**

Councillor Woods thanked Councillors Goodswen and Simon Marjoram for their services to the Town Council.

Joanne Robins: Joanne has been on other councils, where she has chaired meetings. Joanne gets enjoyment from being on a council and her job encourages her to do these things. She has already completed Councillor training and she likes to be involved with small children.

Richard Joselyn: Richard moved to Harleston in December, although runs a business nearby. Richard has not been on a council before but he would like to be part of the council to help retain Harleston's character. He would like to be part of the planning process so that he can have an input into the planning process as he has seen how Leighton Buzzard has changed over the years and he would like Harleston to stay the same.

Thomas Howard: Thomas has lived in Harleston all his life and is currently studying at the UEA and is interested in politics. Councillor Nicholson informed Thomas that the council is non-political. Thomas voiced his concern to the council that there is no forum for the younger

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generation. There appears to be no facebook and twitter social media and the website also appears to not be working properly. It was questioned why he had not attended as a member of the public before, and he replied that he had not known about the meetings and he did not know about the noticeboards.

After all candidates had been interviewed and left the room, a lengthy discussion between councillors took place and it was agreed to co-opt Joanne Robins and Richard Joselyn based on their knowledge and experience.

Proposed by Councillor Marjoram and seconded Councillor Betts.

ALL AGREED

The meeting was adjourned 7.40pm while Councillor Woods spoke all three candidates and reconvened 7.50.

Councillor Woods welcomed Councillors Robins and Joselyn, both of the councillors signed the declarations of office form.

6. Matters arising from previous minutes - Councillor Woods commented on item 11. Regarding the Budget and programme for the work for the Social Room. There will be a comprehensive plan once we have completed the year end process.

7. Police, District and County Councillor's reports – Councillor Woods reported that the statistics are not just for Harleston area however the statistics are:- Burglary non dwelling 2, Criminal Damage 5, Domestic 8, Public fear, alarm or distress 4, Theft from a motor vehicle 1, Theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle 1.

County Councillor Wilby read out his report which comprises of:

- Norfolk County Council recently launched the Business Energy Efficiency Carbon Charter Award which is presented to small and medium businesses to recognise the steps they have taken to reduce carbon emissions.
- At the Norwich and Norfolk eco awards, the Norfolk's Master composters were recognised for the valuable work they carry out within their communities by recycling waste and reusing it as compost therefore reducing residual waste.
- Norfolk achieved it's higher ever recycling rate at 45.8% in 2015/16, the national average is 44.3%.
- Great Yarmouth's third river crossing has moved a step nearer as NCC, backed by Local Enterprise Partnership and Norfolk and Suffolk Chamber of Commerce when the business case was submitted to the Department for Transport. Building work could start in the winter of 2020.
- The County Council elections take place on 4th May where all 84 county council divisions are to be contested.
- National Infrastructure Conference in Birmingham, NDR Case study.
- Town meeting last week it was good to hear all the reports from local organisations.

8 Chairman's Report – Councillor Woods read out his report which comprises of:

- VAT – 18th April Lynda, Tina and myself had some VAT training from Elysian Associates who have assisted us in this Council for some years. They checked our VAT information to make sure it was correct. At the next finance meeting there will be an item for authorisation for the office to receive this support on a year to year basis. The council is being forced to pay VAT on leisure facilities whereas others providers are not. This is currently being challenged in the Courts. Should the judgement be in favour of the Councils then those Council's would be in line for a refund of 4 year's worth of VAT, in our case it could be a substantial sum. Elysian Associates have said that they could assist us on this claim against HMRC on what is effectively a no win, no fee basis.
- After the town meeting, and the assistance of the Rev, Nigel Tuffnell, the chairman went to the church and made an entry in the 'in memoriam' book dedicated to the three youngsters who unfortunately died recently, on behalf of the Council.

9 To note the Statement of Accounts for the Accounts for the Dove Charity and Redenhall with Harleston Relief in Need Charity

Noted -

Dove Charity – receipts £6,066.99, payments £3,075.00, balance £2,991.99

Relief in Need charity - receipts £301.94, payments 3233.50, balance £68.44

10 Consideration of a recommendation from the Finance Committee for the purchase of flooring for the social room and agree any action –

Quote A £5,758.00

Quote B £5,520.00

The Finance Committee recommended acceptance of Quote B

Proposed by Councillor Betts and seconded by Councillor Broughton

ALL AGREED

11 Consideration of changing the Environment Working Group to a committee and agree any action – Councillor agreed that the Environment Working Group should become a committee with the same remit.

Agreement proposed by Councillor Broughton and seconded by Councillor Betts

ALL AGREED

12 To discuss changes to the pricing structure for the cemetery and agree any action – This was agreed by the Environment Working Group, and Councillor Bickley, Councillor Nicholson and the clerk has looked at the costing of other cemeteries for comparison. Wortwell Parish Council were also consulted on the proposals and agreement was proposed by Councillor Marjoram and seconded by Councillor Nicholson.

ALL AGREED

13 Consideration of the skate park idea's put forward and agree any action - Councillor Bickley reported that letters have been received from Malthouse Court and also Ian Carstairs. After a general discussion it was proposed that although the skate park concept is supported by the council, that it should not be on the Recreation Grounds. Proposed by Councillor Rose and seconded by Councillor Roberts

ALL AGREED

14 Consideration of the resurfacing of the tennis courts and agree any action – The Tennis club would like the tennis courts resurfaced which would cost £21,000. The Finance Committee has rejected the plan outright. There is another suggestion, which is that the council will re-surface the tennis courts cheaper and for also make it multi-use using coloured lines. There was a proposal to not go ahead with the re-surfacing in its present form at the moment, but to investigate the costs for a multi-use court. Proposed by Councillor Marjoram and seconded by Councillor Broughton.

ALL AGREED

15 Consideration of the proposed relocation of a bench on Mendham Lane – The Finance Committee did not agree the spend of £250 on a concrete plinth for the bench to be placed on Mendham Lane and suggested it was installed on the recreation ground. Proposed by Councillor Betts and seconded by Councillor Broughton.

ALL AGREED

16 Consideration of a recommendation from the Environment Working Group regarding the addition of a dog bin near the Angles Way footpath – Councillor Bickley reported that Alan Pretty had contacted the Clerk regarding a big issue of dog bags thrown in ditches and hedges. He had requested 3 dog bins. The Environment Working Group has agreed to purchase one and to locate it on the other side of the A143. Proposed by Councillor Marjoram and seconded by Councillor Betts.

ALL AGREED

17 Consideration of a request from a resident to plant wildlife flowers on the new roundabout near the Poppies estate and agree any action – The Town Council will not accept any responsibility to maintain the roundabout. It has not been adopted by Norfolk County Council at this time and it was suggested that although the council agrees in principle, they do not want to be involved. Proposed by Councillor Rose and seconded by Councillor Nicholson **ALL AGREED**

18 Consideration of a report from the football club regarding proposals for future development and agree any action – Councillor Woods reported that the Football Club had the opportunity to purchase second hand flood lights. The Football Club will be responsible for the purchase and installation of these lights and there will be no cost to the Town Council. Planning permission will need to be attained. The Town Council finds the idea acceptable subject to an agreement to be formulated and subject to conditions and agrees in principle. Proposed by Councillor Marjoram and seconded by Councillor Betts. **AB AGAINST
8 AGREED**

19 Consideration of the recommendation from the Finance Committee for £100 to be allocated for HR purposes and in addition to add Kim Bryant to the preferred suppliers list and agree any action – Proposed by Councillor Marjoram and seconded by Councillor Nicholson **ALL AGREED**

20 To receive an update with regard to two grant applications (Harleston Magpies and Harleston Future) –

The Finance Committee refused Harleston Magpies as they have a substantial amount of money in the bank.

The Finance Committee suggested that the Christmas Lights Group contribute £250 and Town Council contribute £250 – Although the Christmas Lights Group have not met yet to discuss.

Proposed by Councillor Marjoram and seconded by Councillor Rose. **ALL AGREED**

21 To receive reports from working groups and agree any action – None

22 To receive reports from Committees and note their decisions and where appropriate agree any action –

Personnel – Wes Kent has resigned and left the council before seeing out his notice. Chris Lown was interviewed and started work today. The training of the maintenance staff will still go ahead as planned.

Finance Committee will be looking at the reserves in the near future.

23 To receive reports from town councillors (for information only) –

Councillor Brownsea – the recording equipment was on trial, we should have a report on how effective the recording is. There should be a procedure on who can use it and the terms of access.

Councillor Bickley – Launch of a Dementia Friendly café and support group.

24 To receive the Clerk's report (for information only) – The Clerk reported the following:

- War Memorial – confirmation that the assessment has been included on the National Heritage List for England (Grade 2), The assessment has also been submitted to Norfolk Remembers project.
- Spencer's Bench – This has now been delivered, just now needs a suitable date to install.
- Photocopier – The new photocopier has been installed and it was agreed to sell the old one on Ebay.
- Bench outside the Esso Garage – Following a request from Councillor Brownsea, the bench has been looked at and the rotten/damaged wood taken away.
- Entrance onto the Recreation Grounds from Wilderness Lane – Work has been started to clear the hedge – work on the footpath will start on 24th April.

- Weights Room – This has now been completed although it is not being used, we are waiting on a few pieces of equipment.
- Container – This has now arrived and will form part of the maintenance compound.
- Reminder for the Parish Council and Community meeting 24/5/17 – representative has been invited from all Parish Councils to attend an open evening at Long Stratton 7.30-9.30pm.
- Jay’s Green footpath – the work was completed during the Easter school break.
- Canadian Airman Cross near Gawdy Woods.. Mervyn Hickford cuts the grass 4 times a year, and can no longer do this work and it was suggested that the maintenance team takes this on. Proposed by Councillor Rose and seconded by Councillor Nicholson.

25 To approve items of expenditure invoiced since March 2017 meeting and note the balances -

Expenditure total – Payments for TC - £9,367.33 and Recreation Committee - £1,404.60.
 Agreement proposed by Councillor Marjoram and seconded by Councillor Broughton

ALL AGREED

26 Significant correspondence – Item 7 - Councillor Bickley already going to the Mosaic Group Presentation and Councillor Brownsea stated that he would go too.

27 To confirm the date of the next meeting – Wednesday 17th May 2017 at 7.00pm at the Harleston Leisure Centre

Meeting ended at 9.13pm

Signed:

Date: