



# Redenhall with Harleston Town Council

Clerk: Mrs. L. Ling

## Minutes of a meeting of Redenhall with Harleston Town Council held at Harleston Leisure Centre On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017

**Present:** Councillors – Frances Bickley, Mark Betts, Ian Broughton, Adrian Brownsea, Thomas Howard, Richard Joselyn, John Marjoram, and Greg Rose

**Also Present:** District Councillor Brian Riches, Lynda Ling (Clerk), Tina Page, Jonathan Pyle (SNC), Zach Ward (Press) and 8 members of the public.

- 1. Election of Chairman** – Councillor Brownsea nominated Councillor Bickley for Chairman which was seconded by Councillor Betts **ALL AGREED**

The new chairman and clerk both signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

**Election of Vice-Chairman** – Councillor Joselyn nominated Councillor Betts as Vice-Chairman which was seconded by Councillor Marjoram

- 2. To receive and accept apologies from members unable to attend** – Apologies were received for Councillor Roberts via Councillor Marjoram

- 3. Declarations of pecuniary and other interests** – Councillor Joselyn and Howard declared an interest in item 9.

- 4. Approval Minutes** – Approval of the draft minutes of the town council meeting held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> August 2017 and note the minutes from the Recreation Committee held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2017, the draft minutes of the Recreation Committee (6<sup>th</sup> September 2017), draft minutes of the Finance Committee (8<sup>th</sup> August 2017), and draft minutes of the Environment Committee (5<sup>th</sup> September 2017)

Agreement to approve the two town council minutes where proposed by Councillor Broughton and seconded by Councillor Marjoram **ALL AGREED**

- 5. Matters arising from previous minutes – None**

**Meeting was adjourned at 7.05pm and reconvened 7.14pm**

**Member of the Public** - Eric Bird spoke of his concerns regarding the results of the parish poll and the confusing way in which the votes were counted, and also spoke of the lack of information on how the voting was meant to be done. Councillor Bickley explained her understanding of the rules surrounding parish polls and asked Jonathan Pyle from SNC if he could help explain the process, Jon explained that polls are subject to legislation and are run by the Electoral Commission. The chairman explained that hasn't been a parish poll in Harleston before as far as she knew.

**Member of the Public** - As Cllr. Clayton Hudson had been the person to suggest holding a parish poll at the August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, and had challenged the Leader of the Council at the same meeting, he congratulated the town council on holding firstly the parish poll, and secondly with the result. He commented that he was pleased with the result of the poll, and said that the ball was now in the council's court and pressure should be put on the two local district members for help and then go back to Councillor John Fuller with a counter offer. The breakdown of costs which was supplied by SNC included over £8k towards enforcement, and litter picks, transport costs etc, which can be negotiated. He understands that the first offer made by the council was for a peppercorn rent and with no cost to SNC and the council should use the opportunity to negotiate.

**6. Police, District and County Councillor's reports** – Councillor Bickley read out a message from Insp. Savarajah – focusing on speeding and social behaviour and will be updated on social media. Councillor Brownsea stated that he was surprised to see a change of policy since Long Stratton and unlike previous meetings includes members of the public. If anyone would like to read the Police report, there is a copy of it in your supporting paperwork.

District County Councillor Brian Riches stated that he would be more than happy to help with car parks and toilets.

Councillor Savage's report was read out by Chairman, which consisted off:-

- At a SNC meeting it was decided that South Norfolk and Broadland Council officials would explore avenues of closer working and joint working.
- SNC are expecting a planning application in October for Long Stratton bypass.
- In December the Greater Norwich District Plan Annual Monitoring Report is to be published, this will assess the 5 year land supply, The Greater Norwich development area consists of Broadland, South Norfolk and Norwich.
- In October the new Director of Housing, Leisure and Early Help joins south Norfolk, he is Jamie Sutterby who moves from Herts County Council.
- Depending on the Harleston Council's decision on car parking, it may be necessary to look at Resident's Parking Permits and Harleston and other areas of South Norfolk.

#### **7. Chairman's report –**

Reminder about thinking about the budgets for 2018/19 for various committee's.

**8. To receive an update on monthly finances** – All members have received a copy of the monthly income & expenditure against budget, there was no unforeseen expenditure at this stage of the financial year. The Annual Return has been returned by the external auditors giving the council a clean bill of health and this will be displayed on notice boards and the website.

**9. To receive an update on the car park parish poll, any ongoing discussions, proposals and discuss the way forward** – Chairman spoke briefly of the parish poll and read out figures and differences between the council taking on the lease and Options 1 and 2. The chairman also gave a brief update on information received from the Co-op who have expressed publicly that they want to help with the costs. An email today confirms that the Co-op have instructed an independent valuer to look at the lease value and the council will be informed when there is further information.

#### **Adjourned 7.15pm and reconvene at 7.20pm**

**Member of the Public** – assumes we won't have to pay as much in precept if they help – based on figures at the time the flyers went out. It's not fair to say everyone has to pay when the precept went up by 200% a number of years ago, Harleston is the highest precept authority in South Norfolk. The chairman commented that the council has to justify the cost and that cost is not in the budget.

**Member of the Public** – If the Co-op helped would the charge be to HTC or SNC? The chairman responded that she was not sure yet but would assume through HTC.

**Cllr. Hudson** – Be interested in Durrants professional opinion for comparison purposes as Nick Durrant was involved last time.

Councillor Brownsea commented that it seemed that SNC are expecting some response from this council but does not make sense to do so until we have more clarity from Co-op. Can we be assured that we are not panicked by SNC to make a decision. The chairman mentioned that the deadline is 31<sup>st</sup> October and the council will keep an eye on what is happening generally.

Councillor Brownsea suggested contacting SNC to let them know that no offers will be considered until all information from the Co-op is received.

Councillor Marjoram suggested sending a letter to various groups and surrounding parishes to find out if we will get any funding including resident parking. We must not forget that if Co-op may come up with some money it will not include Broad Street so that element won't be covered. Misleading information was on social media and feel that the result of the poll not an accurate reflection of residents thoughts.

#### **10. To discuss continuing the publication of the official Town Guide with Falcon**

**Publications and agree any action** – This will be the third publication by Falcon Publications and is paid for by advertising income. There is no cost to the council. Everyone happy – Proposed by Councillor Brownsea and seconded by Councillor Broughton. **ALL AGREED**

**11. Reports from working groups and any agreed action** - No working groups have met since the last council meeting.

#### **12. To receive reports from Committees and note their decisions -**

**Recreation Committee** – Memorial bench for Rik Newton which was not substantial enough and will be going back to family for discussion. Partition in gym – when members of public use toilets it is quite exposed and price held from last year. Security fencing for compound agreed upon and delivered. Littering discussed, Chris (Exchange II) will try and speak to youngsters, Government Innovation Fund. Incidents on the recreation ground regarding vandalism – fence wrecked three times, drug problem in dug outs on rec. Hiring social room outside of opening hours was discussed. Risk Assessments recently done and actioned. Steve Cox is running a weekly plan for fire alarms etc. Tennis courts completed and discussed an access gate for locking procedures. Councillor Brownsea noted that the clocks changing may change the pattern of vandalism. Councillor Howard mentioned that we should approach parents regarding littering and bad habits. Councillor Rose stated that there Exchange 2 is good to promote these things and only about 13 months left for them to get a new building.

**Finance Committee** – Councillor Broughton is now chairman. Finance reports are monthly.

**Environment Committee** – Bench change of place from town to recreation grounds. There is an increase in 'A' boards in the town centre, plus chairs and tables encroaching on pavements. Lynda will be contacting NCC on this. War Memorial – 3 quotes, write to Caltofts re privacy, working with RBL

**Personnel Committee** – Update will be discussed after item 17.

#### **13. To receive reports from town councillors (for information only) –**

Councillor Howard – A lot of people communicating on social media, and feel the council needs to have a stronger presence to give information. Councillor Marjoram, agreed but under the Town Council, there is a need to be professional. This will be an item for decision at the Communications WG. CWG can provide a framework on which to work.

Councillor Brownsea asked who has placed a garden bench outside the barber's in Union Street, Outside the hairdressers. Councillor Joselyn stated that we need the rules from NCC with regard to street furniture. Councillor Brownsea asked What is designation on Union Street? Still under the responsibility of Highways? Lynda to check this out.

**14. To receive the Clerk's report (for information only) –** The Clerk read out her report which consisted of:

**Up and coming roadworks in Harleston –**

**16<sup>th</sup> September – 23<sup>rd</sup> October –** Scaffolding Delay's possible - Exchange Street Redenhall with Harleston for a Gas Utility Works in the Parish of Redenhall with Harleston

**11<sup>th</sup> September – 6<sup>th</sup> October (works expected to be around 26 days in total) –** London Road – from opposite its junction at Willow Walk to Malthouse Court junction – Norfolk County Council – Traffic using the road will be temporarily prohibited from parking, stopping and loading/unloading vehicles for the purpose of footway resurfacing and kerbing works

**18<sup>th</sup> September – 22<sup>nd</sup> September –** UK Power Networks – Some carriageway incursion

**Diss, Thetford & District CAB –** Notice of AGM 2017 – details of meeting in the office if anyone would like to attend.

**Remembrance Parade –** TMO Highways has been contacted and booked for the road closure for Remembrance Sunday. The cost is the same as last year (£265).

**Fun Fair –** Although strictly speaking a Recreation Committee item, I have received a phone call this week from Larry Gray (owner) who although is booked to bring the fun fair onto the recreation ground this coming Sunday, may have to delay for a week due to a health issue. I will hear in due course what is happening.

National Grid – The Thoroughfare virtually closed due to power outage.

**15. To approve items of expenditure invoiced since the August 2017 meeting and note balances –** Payments already made, TC £7,894.26. Cheques for signature - TC £3082.32, BACS TC £9,462.90, Recreation £3,832.96. Agreement proposed by Councillor Brownsea and seconded by Councillor Joselyn **ALL AGREED**

**16. To be informed of significant correspondence and agree any action (list as circulated) –** Sad to see that the Loddon branch of Barclays is closing

**The meeting adjourned for public participation 7.50pm and reconvened at 8pm**

John Duckworth – car parking – **no actions to follow up** – Councillor Bickley replied that we have to wait for the co-op to come back to us with their findings

**Questioned validity of poll to Councillor Marjoram –** Information went out from council and another leaflet went out informing people to vote for option 3 or you might have a car park outside your house. My opinion only. This was a group of people, two named and be up front. Can't do anything about this and will be up to the council to decide. I think that leaflet that was sent out was misleading. Bit of propaganda. Free car parking everyone wants not everyone can afford and some people get more out of it than others. Eric Bird mentioned that, If I am on SNC I would say that 85% of people didn't vote they can't care which is unfortunate.

**17. To resolve to exclude the press and public [Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, Sec 1 (2)] due to the confidential nature of the following items.**

**18. To discuss personnel items**

**19. To confirm the date of the next meeting – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at 7.00pm**

**Meeting ended at 8.15pm**

Signed: .....

Date: .....