



# Redenhall with Harleston Town Council

Clerk: Mrs. L. Ling

## Minutes

### of the meeting of the Harleston Environment Committee held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 6pm in the Council Offices at the Memorial Leisure Centre, Harleston

**Present:** Councillors; Frances Bickley (Chairman), Ian Broughton, and Adrian Brownsea.

Also present: Lynda Ling (Clerk)

1. **To elect a new chairman** – Councillor Bickley proposed Councillor Brownsea which was seconded by Councillor Broughton – Cllr. Brownsea agreed take over as caretaker until someone else would like to take over. Cllr Broughton will become Vice-Chair
2. **To receive and accept apologies from members unable to attend** – Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Joselyn
3. **To receive any declarations of pecuniary or any other interests in particular matters to be raised at this meeting** - None
4. **To approve the minutes of a meeting of the Environment Committee held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017** – Agreement proposed by Councillor Bickley and seconded by Councillor Broughton.

**ALL AGREED**

5. **Matters arising** –

- Cllr Bickley spoke to Debbie Lorimer recently and it appears that Cllrs Hudson and Gray efforts to take the car park lease issue to Scrutiny Committee has not transpired.
- A press release from the Diss Express reported the reduction of PCSO's which was reported at the last council meeting by Councillor Brownsea. Cllr Brownsea commented that it may be worth checking if the police information desk is being kept open in Harleston.

6. **Chairman's report** - None

7. **Update on the War Memorial quotes and information received to date** – The clerk read out a quote received from Tennens Landscape Gardening and informed members that two more were still to be received, it was suggested that it may be worthwhile contacting an organisation to see if there is any funding for disabled access available. Cllr. Brownsea may take this up further after Christmas, and suggested it may be possible to use artificial grass instead of stone infill.

8. **To discuss the wording on the agreed cemetery sign and agree any action** – A general discussion took place on the wording of the sign which was to include the wording of who the cemetery belongs to and treating the area with respect. It was agreed that the clerk to put a sign together as a draft (include Wortwell) and send to councillors and Robert Hadingham for approval and to get quote from Black Dog Signs.

9. **To discuss the car parks and the draft letter to businesses, parishes and residents and agree any action**

Cllr. Bickley informed members that a letter had been drafted to send to businesses, and Clive Attwood had provided a draft of the Business Forum letter which normally is included for distribution, however she feels the letter needs altering and is proposing to write to Clive and ask him to make some changes with regard

to the paragraph regarding a minimum contribution. Cllr. Brownsea commented that it was worth pointing out that without the efforts of Harleston Town Council and the Co-op, businesses would be liable to pay £300 pa and it may be worth asking for a contribution on that basis, asked for a flat rate of £70 for the last 10 years, costs gone up and feel that a donation of £100 pa is not unreasonable.

A conversation about the future rising costs on the car park took place and Cllr. Bickley suggested contacting the Co-op to ascertain their thoughts on the RPI increases on an annual basis. A discussion was held on why business rates are payable on the car park when we cannot generate an income. Cllr. Brownsea suggested that there is the potential to make money from car parks, although SNC has said the TC can't do that. The clerk was asked to contact Andrew at Calum Ward about this subject.

Cllr. Brownsea commented that the council should counter publicity that is currently out there which does not mention inflationary cost and does not say how much it will cost over 10 years. Cllr. Bickley said she would contact Debbie Lorimer regarding a possible break clause if costs rise expedientially. Cllr. Brownsea also felt that it was an impertinence to ask the council to put £13k aside in our accounts.

Cllr. Bickley to find out if resurfacing costs will be aided by the Co-op. Councillor Brownsea suggested that if we are committed to put £130k after 10 years away, this could be invested offshore, and suggested that we should decline SNC's request about putting away the money and we should be trusted to put money to one side.

**10. To discuss a request for the Paddock Road gate to be opened for the Christmas Market and switch-on event and agree any action** – Cllr. Brownsea commented that this comes up every year. Cllr. Broughton informed members that last week the barrier was down as a result of vandalism. The clerk suggested that the manager of the Co-op could be contacted and talk to him about the request and ask if they could provide someone to man the barrier – it would not impinge on the Co-op's business then.

**11. To discuss A-boards in the town, street furniture on the pavements, Union Street and its classification, NCC's response to the same and agree any action** – The clerk read out Gary Overland's email regarding Union Street which confirmed that it is still a designated highway. At the town council meeting it was agreed to write letters (in a friendly relaxed way) to businesses that are putting out A-boards and furniture which are encroaching onto the footway.

**12. To discuss a complaint about broken glass outside public houses on Friday and Saturday nights and agree any action** – Cllr. Brownsea commented that pubs should be responsible for the clearing up of broken glass and rubbish left by their patrons, a letter to that effect could be sent as a reminder to public houses in the town.

**13. To discuss requests relating to the cemetery and agree any action -**

**Mr. Walland** – The clerk informed members of a recent conversation with Mr. Walland who wanted to speak with a councillor regarding questions he had regarding the cemetery, his wife's grave and his reserved plot. One of the requests was to put a headstone in the middle of two graves.

**Kate Middleton** – Cllr. Bickley informed members that she had spoken to a concerned friend of the family who wanted to know why kerb stones were not allowed around graves in the cemetery. Cllr. Brownsea commented that he was angry that policy has been ignored previously.

**Jean Whatling** – The clerk reported that a request had been received from a lady who purchased a grave space a few years ago but no longer wanted the plot. She has asked if she is entitled to a refund. It was suggested that a refund of £130 should be agreed but retain £50 for admin charges

**Request for raised grave** – not agreed – people have to stick to the rules

**14. Councillors reports – Allotment – Mens' Sheds** – No objections by the committee but contact should be made with Mrs. Denny to ask permission. A suggested rent of £50 per year

**Cllr. Brownsea** – Signs announcing interruption down London Road (resurfacing) have been moved. Willow Walk signs have been moved onto land on corner. NCC to be contacted.

**Cllr. Broughton** – Wilderness Close sign – unreadable due to fading

**15. To be informed of significant correspondence and agree any action**

Meeting ended at 7.56pm

Signed .....

Date .....