



# Redenhall with Harleston Town Council

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

## Minutes

**of the Annual Town Meeting of Redenhall with Harleston Town Council  
held at the Harleston Leisure Centre, Social Club  
at 7.00pm on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

**Present:** Councillors Barry Woods (Chairman), Adrian Brownsea, Mark Betts, Ian Broughton, Martin Roberts, Frances Bickley, John Marjoram, Sandy Nicholson, and Town Clerk: Lynda Ling.  
**Also present were:** County Councillor Martin Wilby, District Councillor Jeremy Savage, District Councillor Brian Riches, PC Heather Fields (Police), Norman Hart (Harleston's Future), Mel Jones (Diss & District CAB), Julie Helsby (Harleston Information Plus), Margaret Griffiths (Harleston & District Historical Society), Reverend Nigel Tuffnell, Clive Attwood (Harleston and District Business Forum), Graham Reardon and Les Ferne (Waveney Foodbank), Alan Thorp (Archbishop Sancroft High School)

**1. Welcome** - Councillor Barry Woods welcomed those present to the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed Reverend Nigel Tuffnell to the floor who spoke of the recent deaths of three local teenagers who died tragically in a road accident nearby. A minute's silence then followed.

**2. Apologies** – None

**3. Minutes of last year's Annual Town Meeting** held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016 - The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting and were signed by Councillor Woods. Agreement proposed by Councillor Betts and seconded by Councillor John Marjoram (**appendix 1**)

**4. To receive a report from the Chairman**– Councillor Woods presented his report (**see appendix 2**) which highlighted the following:-

- Social Room – The room is being updated and refurbished with a view to hiring it out to the community. This follows the closure of the Apollo in January 2017.
- Free-weights area – The gym has extended into the clerk's office to create a free-weights area due to increasing demand and a continuing increase in memberships
- The council continues to work on behalf of residents to maximise the services provided, whilst maintaining a strong grip on the finances in this time of financial problems.
- Thanks to all individuals and organisations who have supported the council over the previous year and also to all the councillors who claim no expenses for their time given up for the community.
- Thanks to ex Councillors S. Marjoram and Goodswen who have recently left the council
- Thanks also to all staff who work so hard to enable the council to properly carry out its duties, including the gym staff, clerk, office administrator, maintenance team and

operations manager.

**5. To receive a report from the Vice-Chairman –** The vice-chairman welcomed those to the meeting, and presented her report (**see appendix 3**) which highlighted the following:-

- At a public meeting held in December 2016, it was decided by the public present that they wished for the council to seek to keep the car parking in Harleston free at point of use and to form a steering group made up of business owners, residents and the town council to explore avenues to help achieve this ideal.
- The steering group was formed and ably led by Councillor J. Marjoram with support from Councillors M. Roberts and M. Betts.
- A proposal was put before town council on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017 to discuss the findings of the steering group and agree any action. The proposition was to approach South Norfolk Council to discuss in principle the possibility of the council taking over the responsibility for Harleston's car parks, with no further costs to SNC; a cost neutral offer which is what SNC stated they were willing to consider at the public meeting.
- It was also proposed that the Vice-Chairman write to SNC to ask for this proposal be considered, which was duly done on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017. A response was forthcoming 13 days later stating that a response would be forthcoming after due consideration.
- This is a great opportunity for both SNC and the town council to play a crucial part in safeguarding and enhancing the economic and social quality of our town.
- The leisure facilities that we operate are a wonderful hub that bring members of our community together in so many different ways. It is a business of this town and contributes to the economy of Harleston. Our recreation grounds play host to many clubs and we are proud of our association with these organisations.
- End of year figures for the membership element of the gym is showing at approx. £101,000, proving we have a successful community facility as well as a dedicated, hardworking team running our gym and that is something of which we are all very proud of and bodes well for the future.

**6. To receive a report from the Chairman of the Finance Committee –** Councillor Woods presented his report (**see appendix 4**) which highlighted the following:

- Precept – reduction of 1% this year on top of the 2.98% last year
- Annual Internal Audit Report for 2015/2016 states that *'based on the review of records and documentation and the testing carried out on the samples selected, is that appropriate financial controls exist at the council, and have been operating effectively throughout the year'*.
- Continuing to plan a frugal budget.

**7. County Council report -** County Councillor Martin Wilby presented his report – (**see appendix 5**) which highlighted the following:

- Norfolk schools continue to improve according to the latest Ofsted figures.
- Highways across Norfolk are to benefit from an extra £5m of funding.
- NCC have decided on three major highways projects to be prioritised.
- Harleston and District Business Forum.
- Mobile Library Service.
- Volunteers.

**9. District Council report –** District Councillor Jeremy Savage presented his and Cllr Brian Riches report – (**see appendix 6**) which highlighted the following:

- Wymondham and Long Stratton Leisure Centre.
- Toilets and car parks in Harleston.
- SNC building houses a business front.
- Loss of 3 young lives.
- SNC in last 6 of best councils.
- Parish Boundary Review.
- Devolution voted against.
- Policing Harleston toilet issue.

#### 10. To receive reports from organisations receiving grant funding over the twelve months

- **Police** – PC Heather Fields is the new Beat Manager and is now covering Harleston 27 hours a week. PCSO Pete Williamson left 27<sup>th</sup> March. Jim Squires is now the new Engagement Officer.
- Diss and District Citizens Advice Bureau (**see appendix 7**)
- Waveney Food Bank (**see appendix 8**)
- Harleston and District Business Forum (**see appendix 9**)
- Harleston Information Plus (**see appendix 10**)
- Harleston Primary School (**see appendix 11**)
- Archbishop Sancroft High School – The school is supported by Diocese in Norwich it is the only Church of England school in Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. The school is losing funding, under pressure to concentrate on Maths and English. The schools is continuing to share swimming facilities and costs.
- Borderhoppa Report (**see appendix 12**)
- Harleston and District Historical Society (**see appendix 13**)
- Senior Section – Girl Guides – Harleston Guides celebrate 100 years on 6<sup>th</sup> March. The Senior section would like to thank the Town Council for the grant of £400. Found a place to meet at Jays Green and the Catholic Church has been really helpful in giving us storage as well as a place to meet with a fully stocked kitchen and an outside place to do some cooking. Without the council a lot of this would not be possible.
- Harleston's Future .....

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed:

Date: