



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 17th January 2018

Present: Councillors – Frances Bickley (Chairman), Ian Broughton, Adrian Brownsea, Richard Joselyn, Sue Kuzmic, John Marjoram, Martin Roberts and Greg Rose

Also Present: 1 member of the public, District Councillors Jeremy Savage and Brian Riches, County Councillor Martin Wilby and Lynda Ling (Clerk)

- 1. To receive and accept apologies from members unable to attend** – Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Betts.
- 2. Declarations of pecuniary and other interests** – Cllrs Kuzmic and Rose – Item 7
- 3. Approval Minutes** – Approval of the draft minutes of the town council meeting held on Wednesday 20th December 2017 and note the minutes from the Recreation Committee held on Wednesday 13th December 2017, minutes of the Finance Committee, Monday 18th December 2017, minutes of the Environment Committee, Monday 18th December 2017. Agreement proposed by Councillor Brownsea and seconded by Councillor Joselyn. **ALL AGREED**
- 4. Matters arising from previous minutes** – None
- 5. Police, District and County Councillor's reports** –

Police Report – The chairman read out the police report which included crime statistics for the Harleston, Earsham and Beck Vale area.

District Councillor reports – Councillor Savage reported that there is an initiative in place for sanitary products which is available in libraries.

County Cllr. Wilby read out his report as follows:-

- 47 gritting runs have been done by NCC so far
- Currently there is a public consultation on the emerging Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) which started on Monday 8th January 2018 and runs until March 15th 2018. The consultation will include a Growth Options document, setting out the broad housing numbers required to 2036, six main distribution options, and a significant number of questions on various policy areas (such as air quality, landscape and affordable housing). A Site Proposals document listing sites submitted for consideration and a Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment has also been published.
- Work has been started to improve the safety of A146 Hales junction, with the addition of a new roundabout among the changes at the cost of £1.6m.
- Almost £3m of funding has been allocated to rural businesses in Norfolk and North Suffolk though an initiative managed by NCC and there is still time
- In a recent National independent survey, NCC was ranked 7th out of 31 similar councils for satisfaction with highways and transport services.
- A draft of the feasibility study will be sent to the town council shortly.

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Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Friday 9.30am to 1pm and Wednesdays 1pm to 5pm

6. Chairman's report –

- The chairman thanked the clerk for arranging the councillor training, which everyone who attended learned something from.

7. Presentation regarding a consultation for the federation of Archbishop Sancroft High School and Harleston CofE VAT Primary School – A presentation was given by Steve Potter, Chair of Governors and the cluster of schools in this area, on what the federation of the two schools would mean and the advantages of it. There is a consultation at the moment, and the closing date is 2nd February 2018. Advantages include:-

- Improving the operational effectiveness of both schools
- Avoiding duplication of effort and resources to allow more time to devote to the core business of teaching and learning.
- Continuing to improve standards in teaching and learning across both schools
- Improved opportunities for staff, children and governors at each school to interact, learn from each other and share best practice
- A joint curriculum and sharing of existing good practice.

Steve informed councillors that there are two drop-in's arranged at the church for 23rd January, in the afternoon and evening and if the federation goes ahead, the schools will be federated by the end of March.

The chairman thanked Steve for the information and left the meeting.

8. To receive an update on monthly finances – These were noted.

9. Committee membership and any agreed action – The following was proposed for agreement by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Broughton.

Recreation Committee – Councillor Kuzmic to join

Personnel Committee – Councillor Kuzmic to join

Communications Working Group – Councillor Joselyn to join

10. To ratify recommendations made by the Finance Committee (which may include grant applications) – The chairman read out the list of grant applications received and the following was agreed:-

- Harleston Information Plus – Amount requested £6,000 recommended agreement
- Harleston & Waveney Festival – Amount requested £1000. This was recommended for refusal as the town council already provides free use of the recreation grounds, two members of staff for litter picking and free electricity which was considered a sizeable contribution to the event.
- Waveney Foodbank – Amount requested £500 recommended agreement
- Harleston & District Historical Society – Amount requested £520 recommended agreement
- W. V. Community Archaeology Group – Amount requested £650. This was recommended for refusal as the finance committee felt that a downloadable version of the spigot motor dig on the recreation grounds would be more suitable than a colour booklet.
- Harleston Senior Section Girl Guiding UK - £650 requested recommended agreement.
- Harleston Future - £500 requested. To be decided

Agreement to the above was proposed by Councillor Marjoram and seconded by Councillor Kuzmic.

**4 AGREED
1 ABSTAINED**

Members were informed that an application had been received from Exchange II as a new porta-cabin is needed because the current one has been condemned. The Finance Committee agreed to treat this separately and not as a grant once further information has been ascertained.

11. To discuss and agree the council budget (including reserves) and precept request for 2018/19 – The chairman informed members that this income and expenditure had been looked at by

the Finance Committee and the recommendation was to increase the precept by 13.2% (or £23.81) for the forthcoming year. Members were informed of the forthcoming increases which are expected including the car park lease (still £20k to find after the Co-op's contribution taken into account), taking on the public toilets (around £10 - £12k per annu, GDPR, salary increases, insurance and utilities. Further lengthy discussion took place with suggestions being put forward on no increase being implemented at all and to use the CCTV budget to top up any shortfall, as it was felt that was unnecessary by some members and another suggestion was to take a substantial amount of money out of reserves to top up the difference.

After discussion, Councillor Broughton proposed increasing the precept by 13.2% which was seconded by Councillor Kuzmic, however there was no support for this proposal. Councillor Marjoram counter-proposed with a suggestion of leaving the precept where it is which was seconded by Councillor Joselyn and gained 1 vote of support (Cllr. Roberts) A further counter proposal was put forward by Councillor Rose to increase the precept by 8.2% which was seconded by Councillor Kuzmic and gained the support of two councillors (Cllrs. Broughton and Brownsea) so the proposal was carried.

It was also discussed that there would still be time to change the precept request if necessary as the council has the option to change its mind before a designated date.

12. To agree a date for the Annual Town Meeting – Members agreed on Wednesday 11th April. Agreement proposed by Councillor Rose and seconded by Councillor Marjoram. **ALL AGREED**

13. Consideration on whether the town council wishes to enter into a lease or take the freehold of the old toilet block with SNC and any agreed action – The chairman read out an email from Helen Sibley – Community Assets Lead SNC in which the offer to the council was either a 35 or 99 year lease or the freehold for the toilet block. Members asked for this item to be deferred to the next meeting.

14. Discussion on an email received regarding the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP), its consultation and any agreed action - Noted

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

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

Environment Committee –

- Councillor Brownsea informed members that due to discussion on the precept and the council's financial position, it was decided to put the refurbishment of the memorial gardens on the back burner for the present time.
- A meeting had taken place between members of the environment committee and churchwardens recently to discuss concerns raised regarding security through an access from the field to the council owned cemetery.

Finance Committee – The Finance Committee's last meeting was a discussion on the budget and precept only. Thanks were extended to the clerk for the work put into producing the figures and reports.

17. To receive reports from town councillors (for information only) – None

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

Planned roadworks in the town –

The Thoroughfare – Scaffolding NCC from 17th January 2018 to 14th March 2018

Bullock Fair Close – Gas works from 15th – 17th January 2018

Station Road – Gas works from 17th – 19th January 2018

Exchange Street – Anglian Water from 18th January to 22nd January 2018

Church View – BT – 1st to 2nd February 2018

Henry Ward Road – Anglian Water – 23rd to 25th January 2018

Croft Close – BT - 1st to 2nd February 2018

Paddock Road – BT – 1st – 2nd February 2018

19. To approve items of expenditure invoiced since the December 2017 meeting and note balances – Payments already made, TC £7,775.03, Cheques for signature - TC £135.80, BACS TC £3,118.20, Recreation £12,407.81. Agreement proposed by Councillor Marjoram and seconded by Councillor Joselyn
ALL AGREED

20. To be informed of significant correspondence and agree any action (list as circulated) –
The closure of Straight Lane was discussed briefly

The meeting will be adjourned for public participation (maximum 10 minutes)

District Councillor Savage informed members that the bad acoustics in the room made listening to councillors speaking very difficult and asked if something could be done about it.

A request was also made for a copy of the payments list be made available to the district councillors.

21. To confirm the date of the next meeting – Wednesday 21st February 2018 at 7.00pm

Meeting ended at 9.12 pm

Signed:

Date: