



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF REEPHAM TOWN COUNCIL

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10th FEBRUARY 2021 AT 8.00pm.

The meeting was held under The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 via Zoom.

Present: Cllr P. Mitchell (Chair), R. Comer (Vice Chair), M. Lester, M. Steel, G. Kular, A. Hazelwood, B. Douglas, and J. Harding

Town Clerk - Jo Boxall

District Councillor S. Beadle & County Councillor G. Peck

7 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from Cllr S. Fisher were received and noted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None received.

3. MINUTES

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 13th January 2021 had previously been circulated. The minutes were confirmed as proposed by Cllr Mitchell and seconded by Cllr Lester and will be signed by the chairman.

4. INFORMATION ON MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A response was received from Highways confirming that it was not Broadland District Council's responsibility for allocation of a zebra crossing and that there needs to be a crossing assessment prior to further action. It was confirmed that Norfolk County Council are not currently funding new crossings so the cost (approx. £75000) would need to be funded by Town Council. It was felt that such expenditure was beyond the Town Council's resources and, as the crossing was featured on the plan that formed the basis of planning approval, the developers should fund this, especially as the plans are for a retirement complex. Once restrictions are lifted it was agreed a site visit would be arranged to review this and other highway matters. Norfolk Highways have stated that the request for a handrail between Bircham / Ollands Road could not be considered whilst social distancing measures are in place due to narrowing of the footpath but that this could be considered at a later date. Highways confirmed that they would be cleaning out the drainage system near the bridge on Norwich Road in the hope of solving the problem of standing water. No response has been received in respect of the concerns over the safety of children walking to school along the Norwich Road.

5. REPORTS FROM POLICE, DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Police – The monthly report was circulated electronically.

County Councillor – G. Peck confirmed that the Government have agreed to introduce legislation for future windfarms to use an offshore ring main and that there is a push for it to apply to existing windfarm projects. Primary concern remains the traffic management plan for Cawston. It was confirmed that the existing route would not be altered. Updates were received on NCC budget, flooding concerns and free school meals / laptops for children.

District Councillor – S. Beadle gave an update on matters at Broadland and confirmed that a consultation regarding parking in Station Road car park was still scheduled to be carried out.

6. TO ADJOURN THE MEETING TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS

It was confirmed that residents had written in with comments regarding the sports hall planning application which had been circulated to Councillors for consideration. No additional comments were received.

7. TO APPROVE FURTHER ACTION FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF TREE INSPECTION REPORT

The Tree inspection report was circulated to Council for consideration. Cllr Mitchell gave a brief overview and proposed the Council obtain quotes for tree work required within next 6/9 months and circulate for approval via email for ratification at the March meeting. Cllr Comer to liaise with Whitwell Common Trustees regarding trees requiring work which may be the responsibility of the Trustees. It was confirmed that Norwich Road cemetery is maintained as a wildlife area, having received advice from Norfolk Wildlife Trust. It was confirmed no terms of management were in place.

8. TO REVIEW & APPROVE STANDING ORDERS

Following review, with minor amendment, it was unanimously agreed to approve the standing orders as proposed by Cllr Harding and seconded by Cllr Lester.

9. FINANCE –

To receive the income & expenditure report to 31st January 2021 and approve list of payments

The Income & Expenditure report was received. The list of payments was unanimously approved, as proposed by Cllr Mitchell and seconded by Cllr Steel.

Confirm mandate change for new signatories

The RFO reported that the new signatories had been confirmed by the bank.

To record Council decision re Business support grant in respect of Market Place

The Council agreed that they would not seek the Local Restrictions Support Grants and Closed Business Lockdown Payment in respect of the Market Place as no financial loss had been suffered in respect of the Market Place during the Covid restrictions.

10. ALLOTMENTS

TO RECEIVE UPDATE AND REVIEW AND APPROVE THE ALLOTMENT AGREEMENT

It was unanimously agreed to approve the revised allotment tenancy agreement as proposed by Cllr Harding and seconded by Cllr Steel. It was agreed that in light of current restrictions the annual rent letter and revised allotment agreement would need to be sent to tenants via Royal Mail.

11. TOWN HALL

TO RECORD RECEIPT OF CLOSED BUSINESS LOCKDOWN PAYMENT OF £4,000.00 FOR REEPHAM TOWN HALL

The Local Restrictions Support Grants and Closed Business Lockdown Payment have been claimed in respect of the Town Hall. It was confirmed that £17811.43 has been received to date. Several water meter readings had been taken following receipt of a large bill. There was not believed to be a water leak. The Clerk offered to update the Council on matters relating to the Town Hall.

12. MARKET PLACE

Permission was granted for a street food vendor to visit the Market Place on a weekly basis.

13. CEMETERIES

Two burials were carried out this month. It was confirmed that no trees in Whitwell Road cemetery required work.

14. STIMPSON'S PIECE –

It was reported that Stimpson's Piece Trustee will request money for CCTV from earmarked reserves. It was agreed to ratify decision at next meeting.

15. PLANNING

a) APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

20210071 Proposed first floor extension to side of existing cottage
1 Beck Cottages, Norwich Road, Reepham, NR10 4NR

The Council agreed that they had no comment or objection to this application.

20201183 Provision of a New Sports Hall with associated Changing Facilities, Studio, Sports Classrooms and Parking.

Reepham High School and College, Whitwell Road, Reepham, NR10 4JT

Comments from residents were circulated. Following discussion it was unanimously agreed to continue to object strongly to this planning application as amended plans did not address the Town Council's previous concerns which included the contravention of Broadland site allocation plan, the loss of school land to accommodate the Sports Hall and failure of the Sports Hall to comply with Sports England guidelines. As the amended winter pitches plan showed the rugby pitch on land already allocated for houses on planning application 20200847, this demonstrated the potential impact of application 20200847 on school land and the need for Broadland District Council to consider all applications for Broomhill Lane development as a whole. Residents were invited to comment on the Council's decision and the Council were thanked for their detailed consideration of this matter.

b) APPLICATIONS DETERMINED

Decisions regarding applications, as detailed in the minutes, were noted.

c) TO CONSIDER LATE PLANNING APPLICATIONS

No late planning applications were received.

16. TO NOTE CORRESPONDENCE, ITEMS OF INFORMATION & REFER TO FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A letter was received from Countrystyle Recycling, who are responsible for emptying the glass recycling bins, as they have taken over from the current contractor, Indigo, and a new contract is expected.

As the current right of Councils to hold virtual meetings ends on the 7th May 2021, the need to hold the Town Council annual meeting prior to that date, possibly on the 5th May, was raised for consideration by the April meeting at the latest. Future agenda items to include approving tree quotes and approving CCTV expenditure for Stimpson's Piece.

17. CONFIRM THE DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETING

The Chairman confirmed the date of the next full council meeting as Wednesday 10th March 2021 at 8pm.

18. TO CLOSE THE MEETING

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.57pm. Thanks were extended to members of the public for their attendance.

Minutes Agreed..... 10th March 2021