



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF REEPHAM TOWN COUNCIL

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12TH JANUARY 2022 AT 7:30pm AT THE TOWN HALL

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

Town Clerk – Kirsty Cotgrove

County Councillor G. Peck

Police Representative PC Bailey (from 8pm)

2 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Morgan, Cllr Fisher and Cllr Steel.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

3. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8TH DECEMBER 2021

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 8th December had previously been circulated. The minutes were unanimously **AGREED** and signed.

4. INFORMATION ON MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A Councillor had drafted a response to Jerome Mayhew MP's letter to the Council, relating to the climate emergency. Following discussion, it was agreed not to respond to Mr Mayhew's letter.

5. REPORTS FROM POLICE, DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

District Councillor – District Cllr Beadle had sent his apologies. He reported that Broadland are unlikely to increase their precept. The District Council are carrying out a market town review, and will be surveying the car parking in Reepham in the Spring.

County Councillor - County Cllr G. Peck reported that a council tax consultation is taking place, and advised of financial pressure in future years.

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

Geoff Fisher reported that he had received some comments and suggestions from members of the public following his Reepham Life article regarding speeding in Reepham. Suggestions included a one-way system, pedestrianisation of the Market Place, and a zebra crossing at the Co-Op.

7. FINANCE –

(a) To approve list of payments made / to be made

The list of payments was circulated prior to the meeting. It was unanimously **APPROVED**.

(b) To receive the income & expenditure report to 31st December 2021

The Income & Expenditure report was received.

(c) To approve and sign the Norfolk Pension Fund Employer Policy

This policy was **AGREED** and signed.

(d) To consider investment for Town Council reserves

Following discussion, it was **AGREED** to increase the funds in the Nationwide account, when the account matures in May, and for the RFO to investigate CCLA investment options further.

8. ALLOTMENTS – TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE ALLOTMENT WORKING GROUP

Nothing to report.

9. CEMETERIES –

(a) To receive an update on driveway repairs from working group

Repairs to the driveway have been carried out.

(b) To update on churchyard footpath repairs

The Clerk is investigating responsibilities for the path.

10. CHURCHYARD WALL – TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM WORKING GROUP

Cllr Lester is putting together a specification to request tenders for work to the wall. It covers three areas; where it has been hit in the past, where the buddleia is damaging the brickwork, and the Ollands Road wall. Responsibility for the church wall was discussed.

11. MARKET PLACE – TO RECEIVE ANY UPDATES

The toilets were vandalised over the Christmas period, and repairs have been carried out. The hand sanitiser in the Market Place is empty. The Clerk will contact Broadland District Council to let them know.

12. OVERTON WAY PLAY AREA

Nothing to report.

13. TOWN HALL – TO RECEIVE ANY UPDATES

The Clerk is obtaining quotes for a new fire alarm system, as the one currently installed is no longer compliant.

14. WHITWELL COMMON – TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON DRAINAGE AND TREE MATTERS

A resident of Whitwell Common contacted the Council some years ago to discuss drainage issues, but it is considered that it was not a Town Council issue. The Clerk is to investigate tree responsibilities.

15. STIMPSON'S PIECE – TO RECEIVE A REPORT AND REQUESTS FROM THE TRUSTEES

The Working Group are to meet via Zoom soon.

(PC Bailey arr. 8pm)

16. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(a) Update on Bircham Rd/Ollands Rd handrail

The agreed work has not taken place. A new Highways Engineer should be in post in February. The possible issues around installing posts around the church wall were discussed, and it was **AGREED** that a meeting will be requested with the new Engineer, to raise concerns and discuss options.

(b) To discuss traffic issues in Reepham, and to approve any further actions necessary

Following concerns raised in the December meeting, residents were invited to contact the Council with concerns and suggestions. Speeding and the size of vehicles are the main concerns, with suggestions of a one-way system or banning HGVs given. The speed monitoring box has been placed at three locations in and around the town, and it was noted that there is good compliance with the speed limit generally. Most recently, the box was placed on Norwich Road, close to the Moor. In the 5 days it was there, out of 7729 vehicles, 32 were logged at travelling over 35mph (vehicles under this speed would not be issued with a ticket). This represents 0.41% non-compliance. It was noted that speed is a perceived issue, although this is not supported by the data. The volume of traffic on roads with no footpaths is a major issue. As damage to walls and houses is mainly due to large vehicles, Highways will be approached to see if it is possible to get HGV restrictions in town. A resident expressed concern that the Broomhill Lane development, if it goes ahead, will exacerbate traffic issues. It was noted that a farmer had offered to sell land to the developers, to allow access from the development directly on to the Dereham Road, bypassing the town and reducing congestion on School Road.

17. PLANNING

(a) APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

(i) 20212187. 8 Bircham Road, Reepham. Proposed double garage. It was **AGREED** that the Council object to this application, as it will alter the visual appearance of the street scene detrimentally, and impact the visibility splay on the junction. It was also noted that the application appears to cover amenity land which is not thought to be owned by the applicant.

(b) APPLICATIONS DETERMINED

None.

(c) TO CONSIDER LATE PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(i) 20212279. Shrublands, 21 Station Road, Reepham. One & half storey side extension and single storey rear extension and modification works. It was **AGREED** that the Council has no objection to this application, but noted the lack of information for the application on the website, with no useful location plan.

18. TO UPDATE ON WIND FARM CABLING CORRIDORS AND APPLICATIONS

The Vattenfall application has been accepted. Orsted have confirmed that their Hornsea HGV traffic will travel down Station Road, and right onto the Dereham Road. Concern was raised at this, but it was noted that Orsted will still have to make an application to Broadland District Council and Norfolk County Council for a traffic management plan.

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

(a) Norfolk Citizens Advice – request for support. Although the CAB support Reepham residents, the Council’s Grant Awarding Policy does not allow for non-Reepham based groups to access grant funding, unless it is for a specific project in the Town. IT was therefore **AGREED** that this request cannot be supported.

(b) Broadland District Council – free oak tree offer. A free tree is available, but must be planted to public land. It was **AGREED** to accept the offer, and the tree can be planted at Stimpson’s Piece. Reepham Rotary are planning to plant 500-1000 trees within the area, and have asked the Town Council for their support. The grant funding that the Council can access is for planting on publicly accessible land, so would not be suitable for their project. County Cllr Peck can help to provide trees, so his email will be passed to Reepham Rotary.

PC Bailey left 8:50pm

(c) Broadland District Council – To consider road name for care home. The Town Council has no comment.

20. TO CONFIRM THE DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – 9TH FEBRUARY 2022

It was agreed that the next meeting should be held on Wednesday 9th February 2022 at 8pm at the Town Hall.

21. TO CLOSE THE MEETING

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:53pm.

Minutes Agreed..... 9th February 2022