

MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING HELD BY ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

In accordance with (The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020)

Present: Councillors;

Ben Chadwell, Tony Allen, Annette Dunning, Peter Dutton, Anne Fleming, Rosemary Lewis, Karen Prime, Jill Reece, David Thomas, Maureen Took, David Wollweber (Chair), Jackie Wagner.

In Attendance: Nick Rees (Town Clerk) District Cllr Alison Cackett, County & District Cllr Tony Goldson, 1 member of the public.

Minutes

1. Apologies: None
2. Declarations of interest: Non-pecuniary interests: Cllr Fleming for item 7
3. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on the 18th May and the extraordinary meeting on the 1st June were accepted as a true record with the amendment that under 13a (18th May) clarification was needed that the list of businesses mentioned related to the Covid-19 Lockdown.
4. Matters arising from the Minutes: Cllr Dutton requested a more comprehensive report on the meeting that took place between Stephanie Baxter and the Chair and Vice Chair of the Council regarding housing needs. Cllr Prime requested an update on the Miles Ward application. The Clerk reported that the last update was that the planning officer was still awaiting an acoustic assessment before it was decided whether it would go to a planning committee.
5. Chair's Report: To receive a report for June. The Chair reported that he and Cllr Peter Dutton had been in correspondence with the District Cllrs regarding the Chediston Street application, the recent variations and East Suffolk Council's handling of the application. The Chair reported that June had been a particularly challenging time due to the uncertainty about the future and dealing with the high volume of emails over this period. He was hopeful that common ground could be found as all councillors wanted to make the town a better place to live and work.
6. Public Session: [15 minutes on matters relating to the town] this item was not considered as there was only one member of the public attending specifically for the next item.
7. Anti-social behaviour in the Town Park: To review the recent complaints and to consider what actions can be taken. The Council heard from a resident of the George Maltings who attended the meeting and described the disruption to the resident's lives over a long period of time, particularly late at night due to disturbances in and around the teen shelter. This disruption began after the Council had decided to relocate the Teen Shelter from the previous location near Blyth Mews, after similar incidents had been reported. It was noted that the

resident did not think the problem was being caused by teens for which the shelter was intended but rather older youths. There was apparently evidence of larger gatherings, drinking and drugs taking place and the residents had, over a period of time, reported to the Police, disturbances late at night between 20- 30 times. They had followed the Council's protocol but now required the Council to take action. According to residents the Police had suggested that the shelter was rotated 90 degrees which was contrary to the advice given when the shelter was re-erected. The residents were also requesting that the picnic bench was removed or placed elsewhere and that the lighting was turned off in that area earlier in the evening. The Chair reported that he and the Clerk had met with the George Malting's residents earlier in July to hear their concerns and he had subsequently contacted the Environmental Health officer at East Suffolk Council. Cllr Alison Cackett advised that the Town Council should contact Rachel Tucker at East Suffolk Council for advice on anti-social behaviour. The possibility of a Public Space Protection Order was suggested as another consideration but after some debate it was RESOLVED that the Council would take the next step in the 'Ten Shelter Protocol' and arrange a meeting with the residents, the Police, East Suffolk Council officers and young people and in the meantime it was agreed to look at whether lighting in the Park could be altered and options for relocating the bench. It was noted that it would be difficult to ascertain whether anyone attending on behalf of younger members of the town did actually represent the views of the majority of users of the shelter and those that were causing the problems were unlikely to attend. The Chair thanked the resident for attending the meeting and explaining the issues

8. Reports on meetings and events attended by Council representatives: Following on from the meeting on the 9th July, 2020 with Ben Woolnough regarding CIL projects in the town, Cllr Peter Dutton put forward the proposal (previously circulated) 'that HTC agrees to the formation of a small Work Group to continue to investigate the construction on the Dairy Farm site of a new Community Centre and Town Council Offices in conjunction with ESC'. After some debate and realising that there were several differences of opinion, the Chair put forward an amendment that the whole Council meets in August to determine whether there is a consensus of opinion on the use of the Dairy Farm site and to determine the methods of consultation. Cllr Dutton accepted the amendment but urged that the Council meets quickly and keeps East Suffolk Council informed that it was interested in pursuing options on the site. It was then RESOLVED that the meeting would be held in August (see item 18).
9. District & County Reports: Cllr Cackett reported on East Suffolk Council's various responses to the current Covid-19 emergency and the Community Partnerships. Cllr Goldson reported that there were some technical issues with the handling of the Chediston Street application, particularly with the variation to remove the roundabout and that he was happy to talk to residents about this if required. Cllr Goldson also reported on the befriending scheme and that SCC now had a Covid-19 control group, (Cllr Goldson was a member of the group) which had emergency powers to enable a local lockdown if required. Cllr Prime, picking up from a previous comment by Cllr Cackett, asked whether the free Wi-Fi scheme was now being implemented by ESC rather than by local groups. Cllr Cackett confirmed that the intention was to enable free Wi-Fi for all the market towns and Halesworth was on the list and that ESC would be managing the project.
10. Financial Matters:
 1. The Council received and accepted the report of the meeting held on the 15th June, 2020.
 2. It was RESOLVED that the Council approved the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group's proposals; points 1 to 5 as noted in the Finance report.
11. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group: The Council received and noted the reports on the meetings held on the 17th June, 1st of July 2020, Cllr Dunning asked why the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group were looking into ownership of garages in the town, Cllr Allen explained that the group's remit was to investigate potential development areas.

12. CCTV Working Group: The Clerk confirmed that all the planning applications for the first phase of the CCTV (Thoroughfare & Market Place) were now lodged with East Suffolk Council.
13. Planning Committee:
 1. The Council received and noted the report on the meeting held on Monday 16th June, 2020
 2. It was RESOLVED that the Council referred the response to the application for Sizewell C (required by the 30th September) to the Environment Committee.
14. Road Closure: Update on SCC Highways response to the proposed Thoroughfare road closure. The Clerk confirmed that the closure was now in operation, Mondays – Saturdays, 10am – 2pm. This was a 21 day temporary closure and it was important to obtain feedback from all the residents and businesses in the Thoroughfare before considering whether to extend the closure for a further 21 days.
15. Communications Committee: It was RESOLVED that the Communications Committee would have responsibility for marketing the town during the road closure period and for the future when normality would resume. It was also RESOLVED that the Committee would be responsible for upgrading the website and would be allocated sufficient reserves by the Finance Committee for this purpose.
16. London Rd Building and assets: To receive a report on the meeting with ESC and to report any further updates. There had not been any response so far from ESC but the Council expected that there would be a revised offer forthcoming soon. In the meantime, Cllr Goldson and the Clerk would chase up Mr Kerry Blair (Head of Operations – ESC)
17. Environment Committee:
 1. The Council received and noted the minutes of the meeting held on the 8th June.
 2. It was RESOLVED that the Council approved the proposal for a 'Green Wall' as noted in the minutes. This Green Wall would be placed in the London Rd Building (exact location to be determined) and would provide information on heritage trees, wild areas etc. It should prove useful particularly for Planning and Environment Committee meetings when it was possible to meet in person again.

It was agreed that the Environment Committee would bring back to the Council its plans for the replanting an area of the Swan Lane play area and proposals for safely removing the goalposts.

It was RESOLVED to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.
18. Future meetings to be scheduled: It was RESOLVED that the meeting to consider Cllr Allen's discussion paper would be on August 3rd in the evening, the Dairy Farm site discussion would be on August 17th in the evening and future Finance & Monthly meetings, after August, would revert to their normal time and date slots. August was traditionally a holiday period for the Council and the staff so it was kept free of meetings. The Chair proposed to suspend Standing Orders temporarily so these meetings could be held during the month of August.
19. Maintenance: The Clerk's office would try to establish the ownership of the land where a tree had fallen and partially blocked the river (off Rectory Lane).
20. Correspondence: None that had not already been considered.
21. Items for the Website/Noticeboard/Newsletters/Library. The Clerk reported that the relief scheme was not being used very much now; 15 households in Halesworth had benefitted from the scheme so far and £700 had been spent in local shops. However only three or four

households were still using the scheme. The Council needed to consider whether to top up funds for the shops as one of them was very low and also whether to extend the scheme. It was agreed that this would be dealt with at the next Finance Committee meeting and any payments required would be agreed then. The parishes' scheme had also dropped off in recent weeks but £340 had been spent in local shops so far.

22. Accounts for Payment: The following accounts for approved for payment.

<u>4497.</u>	Viking – LRB disposables soap, toilet rolls, bleach etc. (LGA 1972 s111)	15.17 + vat
<u>4498.</u>	Sharprint – Annual charge (photocopier printing) (LGA 1972 s111)	285.94 + vat
<u>4499.</u>	N J Rees – Paypal (Monthly subscription) Zoom Pro version (LGA 1972 s111)	11.99 + vat

DD/Standing Orders:

<u>4500.</u>	Monthly salaries (LGA 1972 s112)	2623.39
<u>4501.</u>	CF Corporate Finance (Photocopier Lease) quarterly (LGA 1972 s111)	140.05 + v
<u>4502.</u>	EDF Electricity – Market Place no 1 (Food Act 1984 s50)	9.00
<u>4503.</u>	LGPS Pension Scheme (LGA 1972 s112)	997.73
<u>4504.</u>	Land Registry searches (N Plan) Localism Act 2014	42.00

Bank & Cash Balances at 17th June, 2020

Current 728	£131,518.71
Unity Trust	£92,595.34
Community A/c	£5,293.92
Business Reserves 017	£92,684.80
Petty Cash	£114.49

The meeting was closed at 9.15pm