

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, Maureen Took, David Wollweber (Chair), Jackie Wagner.

In Attendance: Nick Rees (Town Clerk) County & District Cllr Tony Goldson, 0 members of the public.

Minutes

1. Apologies: Cllr David Thomas
2. Declarations of interest: To receive declarations for pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests: None
3. Minutes: The minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 20th July and the extraordinary meeting on the 24th August were accepted as a true record.
4. Matters arising from the Minutes: None
5. Chair's Report: This item was brought forward and taken before item 2. The Chair read out a statement expressing his dissatisfaction with the last extraordinary meeting. There were many important and difficult subjects to discuss and he had found that the current format of Zoom meetings had made this almost impossible to manage. The Chair wished to try a different method for controlling this meeting and asked the Clerk to mute all councillors, and they would then be unmuted in turn, at the Chair's direction. This would enable everyone to have their say but would avoid the previous problems of talking over each other. The Chair also reminded all councillors to respect each other in accordance with the Suffolk Code of Conduct.

There were two items that had resurfaced after the agenda had been sent and needed dealing with at this meeting; Miles Ward Court Planning Application would be dealt with under item 12 Planning Committee and Anti-social behaviour in the Park would be dealt with under 16 Correspondence.
6. Public Session: [15 minutes on matters relating to the town]. There were no members of public present.
7. To receive written reports on meetings and events attended by Council representatives: The Council received reports from councillors who had attended meetings; Halesworth & Blyth Valley Partnership, Covid-19 Group, Cycling (N.Plan Steering Group) & Chair's meeting with Stephanie Baxter (ESC)

8. HCSL: Council appointed trustee – deferred from the last meeting: The Council members had received the link to the guidance for trustees from the Charities Commission website. There were no volunteers for the vacant position of HCSL Trustee.
9. District & County Reports: To receive any reports. Cllr Goldson reported on some increase in Covid-19 cases at a school in Haverhill and a chicken processing plant at Banham. Cllr Goldson also reported on the possibility of new speed cameras being introduced
10. Financial Matters:
 1. The Council received and approved the report of the meeting held on the 27th July, 2020.
 2. It was RESOLVED that the Council approved the External Audit report from PKF Littlejohn.
11. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group: The Council received and noted the report on the meetings held on the 10th August, 2020
12. Planning Committee:
 1. The Council received and noted the minutes of the meeting held on the 11th August, 2020
 2. White Paper on the Government's new planning regulations. It was noted that this was a substantial and complex document to digest. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk would contact East Suffolk Council and SALC to see if a presentation to the Council/Planning Committee could be organised.
13. Communications Committee: The Council received and noted the minutes of the meeting held on the 5th August, 2020.
14. London Rd Building and assets: There were no further updates. It was agreed that the Chair would send a strong letter to Stephen Baker CEO, East Suffolk Council, expressing the Council's dissatisfaction with the delay.
15. Environment Committee: The Council received and noted minutes of the meetings held on the 10th August, 2020 and the 3rd September, 2020. Cllr Dunning asked about the questionnaire that the Committee intended to conduct. It was agreed that before the survey was to be conducted, the Clerk would circulate the questionnaire and a letter of introduction from the Council for the committee members to use when calling on residents.
16. Correspondence: Cycle dismount signs; it was RESOLVED that the Council approved the purchase of 4 additional A3 signs to be placed at the entrance to the Thoroughfare (from the central car park), on the lamp adjacent to the former Book Shop and adjacent to the Angel Hotel. The Council was unanimously against approving the Slimming World banner on Saxon's Bridge, the Clerk would inform the applicant. The Clerk reported that he had contacted ESC and they would be starting to cut back overgrown footpaths starting this week.

The Chair reported that he had received correspondence from a resident of George Maltings regarding further disturbances in the park at night. It had been hoped that this problem had moved on but unfortunately this was not the case. The Clerk had pointed out that the resident had stated that the Council had agreed to move the picnic bench and turn off the lights at night but the Council had not made a decision but only agreed to look at these options. The picnic bench was concreted in place, this was obviously not insurmountable but the decision to remove it completely or move it had not been made, furthermore the bench was in that location before the Teen Shelter was re-located. As regards to the lighting the Clerk had previously reported that it was possible to covert the lighting, which was currently controlled by a light sensor, to clock timing, just in the area South of the main bridge, for an estimated cost of £500. There were some differences of opinion as to whether there were safety concerns or liabilities regarding turning the lighting off so this was not concluded at

the meeting. The Council debated how to solve the general problem of disturbances in that location, late at night. The Council were sympathetic to the resident's plight but simply moving the shelter would surely move the problem elsewhere, as had been proven before. Some members felt the answer was to try and establish why these gatherings were taking place and others felt it was simply a Police matter, particularly as it had been suggested that there could be drugs involved. There was also a suggestion that some councillors would be willing to visit the site in the evening. It was noted that the residents had now stopped reporting the disturbances but the Council agreed that the residents should be urged to keep reporting the incidents to the police either by phone or email. The Chair had previously spoken to Environmental Health and again their advice was that the residents should report all the incidents which would then establish a record of problems and action would more likely be taken. It was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with the Chair and reply to the residents email. The Chair offered to speak to Simon Halsey again and the Clerk would contact PC Simon Green for further advice. The Council would in future defer this matter to the ABP Committee and follow up on Cllr Dunning suggestion of visiting the site.

At a request from Cllr Dunning, the Council agreed that the Clerk would write to the Royal British Legion and thank them for organising the VJ Day and also to enquire into the health of the flag bearer, who had been taken ill on the day and thank him for his service over the years.

17. Items for the Website/Noticeboard/Newsletters/Library.

18. Accounts for Payment: The following accounts for payment were approved:-

<u>4523.</u>	N J Rees – Google drive space (backup for office computers) annual cost (LGA 1972 s111)	15.99
<u>4524.</u>	N J Rees – Union Flag (Amazon) (LGA 1972 s111)	20.99
<u>4525.</u>	C A Palmers – Voucher Relief Scheme top up	250.00
<u>4526.</u>	Annette Dunning – Remnants (Black Table Cloth and Ribbon) (Preparation for death of Monarch)	118.18
<u>4527.</u>	Citrus Shredding – Data destruction (LGA 1972 s111)	42.00 + vat

Bank & Cash Balances at 2nd September, 2020

Current 728	£130,788.20
Unity Trust	£88,971.31
Community A/c	£5,293.92
Business Reserves 017	£92,684.80
Petty Cash	£107.09

The meeting was closed at 8.34pm