

Present: Councillors;

P Dutton, A Fleming, S Leverett, R Lewis, A Payne, D Thomas (Chair), M Took, D Wollweber

In Attendance: N Rees (Town Clerk), Colin Grogan Sports Manager for Suffolk County Council and Sarah Shinnie Active Communities Officer of SCC, County Councillor Tony Goldson and one member of the public

Minutes

7.00pm – 7.15pm: Presentation by Colin Grogan, Sports Manager & Sarah Shinnie of Suffolk County Council on the Aviva Women's Cycle Tour.

The Committee saw a promotional video and received some leaflets and posters on the event. In Summary: On June 15th 2016 at approximately 10.32am the Cyclists would be entering the town via Bramfield Rd, London Rd, turning left at the roundabout to continue on London Rd past the Angel Hotel and Angel Car Park and then joining Saxon Way. They would then turn right at the next roundabout into Quay Street continuing along Holton Rd, turning left into Holton and then up the hill past the Church to carry on to Brampton/Beccles at approximately 10.37am. It was likely therefore the cyclists would be in the town for only approximately 5 minutes however there would be 56 Police outriders and support vehicles which all added to the spectacle. There would be a rolling road closure in force which would be policed by the outriders as it travelled through the town.

It was noted that there was a small SCC budget for decorating the town with bunting etc and the SCC team advised that unusual and eye catching signs would help attract the media.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr A Baldwin, Cllr I Winton
2. **Declarations of interest:** Non-pecuniary interests: Cllr Fleming for 7,8 & 9, Cllr Took for 9 & 13, Cllr Dutton for 7, 8 & 9, Cllr Wollweber for 7 & 9, Cllr Leverett for 7, 8 & 9, Cllr Thomas for 7, 8 & 9
3. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on the 21st March 2016 had been approved at the monthly meeting on the 4th April, 2016.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes:** Cllr Payne confirmed that under item 5 of the last minutes, permission had been given to display on the Notice Board, the letter from the Tourism Group to WDC and WDC'S subsequent reply to questions regarding the Old Bistro.
5. **Cycle Strategy:** To review the response to WDC's Cycle Strategy and the advice given to HTC from Halesworth Cycle Group. The Chair explained that the Council had collectively responded to the consultation and some points were similar to the Cycle Groups and some were not. It was noted that the Cycle Group had also responded to the consultation with their own ideas on the strategy. The meeting was opened, Mr Malcolm Smith expressed his disappointment with the Council's response which he believed had not been thought through properly. The Chair accepted Mr Smith's difference of opinion on this matter but now Cllr Wollweber would attend the Cycle Group's meetings the Committee looked forward to better communication in the future. Cllr Wollweber did not consider that there was any major controversy but explained that he was a cyclist, a car user and often walked and to some degree the comments from the Council reflected all these viewpoints. The meeting was resumed.

6. **Communication:** To consider any updates. Cllr Wollweber was congratulated for his work on the website. Cllr Wollweber requested that the Clerk asked the Edgar Sewter School for use of their projector as he intended to make a presentation at the Annual Parish meeting on Thursday 14th April. Cllr Payne updated the Committee on progress with the brief version of the Town Plan. The text had been virtually finalised with the addition of the Wildlife section from Richard Woolnough. All that was needed now was to finish off the document with the appropriate pictures, some of which had been supplied by the Tourism Group. Cllr Payne asked the committee whether it would like to have some leaflets made, it was then RESOLVED that Cllr Payne would cost up the production of these Town Plan leaflets and would take this to the Finance Committee for consideration.
7. **Parking:** To consider any updates. The Chair updated the committee on the recent meeting with Stephen Baker CEO for SCDC & WDC and Andrew Jarvis, Strategic Director for WDC. It was a little more positive news in so far as the negotiations were still open on the 1 hour free parking. The Chair confirmed that using WDCs last three month figures for the car park, HTC's proposal would have meant that HTC only needed to find approximately £7,600 which was half the amount WDC were asking for originally. It was noted at the meeting that Mr Jarvis had confirmed that repairs to the car park were planned shortly. It was also noted that WDC were trying to take back the policing of parking in the Market Place from SCC.

The meeting was opened. Mrs Irene Thomas reported that she had written to WDC expressing her dissatisfaction with how WDC had handled the car park matter and how their actions had not shown any sensitivity or understanding of Halesworth. Mrs Thomas had not received a reply but wanted to know whether it was worth writing again. The Chair stated that it was Mrs Thomas' right to request a reply from the District Council on these issues. The Chair explained that HTC had made every effort to explain the uniqueness of Halesworth and how this reintroduction of the charging would be very damaging to the traders. The meeting was resumed.

Cllr Dutton said that it was a shame that there was not a town centre traders group as Halesworth Business Connections were not necessarily representing the town centre businesses effectively. It was noted that there had been a town centre group at one time in the past but this group had evolved into Halesworth Events Management. It was noted that HBC were currently looking for a new Chair and Vice Chair and it was hoped that a change would improve communications with the Council so the two could work together more effectively.

8. **London Road Building:** To consider any updates. The Chair reported on the recent meeting with Hannah Reid of Community Action Suffolk. It was noted that the Day Centre had supplied a copy of their lease which indicated obligations on the Council that it had not been aware of previously. The document would be sent off for further advice and a report would be produced for the next meeting.
9. **Pedestrian crossing at the Railway Station:** To consider any updates. There had been no reply as yet from Mr Hooker of Network Rail.
10. **Public Amenities:** To consider any matters relating to public amenities within the town. It was noted that the negotiations with Campus and the HPFA were progressing but the Chair confirmed that the HPFA would not sell the land until suitable facilities were available. Rifle Hall: Some Councillors were not entirely convinced by the explanations given by Mr Weeks at the monthly meeting. It was noted that HTC would have to decide at some point how it wished to be involved. It was agreed that HTC needed to concentrate on the London Rd Building for the time being.
11. **Maintenance:** To receive a report on any maintenance issues. The Clerk reported that the flint wall at the back of the Arboretum was in need of repair. The Church had referred to their deeds and indicated that it was jointly responsible with the Council to maintain it. The meeting was opened to hear from Janet Huckle who confirmed that her understanding was that the Arboretum belonged to the Council. The meeting was resumed. The Chair also

agreed that was his understanding. It was agreed that the Clerk would get some costs on the repair work and report back.

12. **Vehicle activated speed signs:** To receive a monthly report. The Clerk had supplied some data from the VAS signs that showed some very high speeding figures in isolated instances. There was several different types of report that the Clerk could produce including traffic volume as well as speeds. The Committee needed to consider what to do with the information. It was agreed that this information would be presented to Supt. Jen Powell when she visited the Council at the June monthly meeting.
13. **Queen's birthday:** To consider any updates. The plans were to have a Tea Party in the park with a Pimms Tent, Band, Ice Cream van. Cllr Fleming and Cllr Took would also consult with Halesworth Events Management. There was also a brass band arriving at the station which would be met by Halesworth in Bloom and guests.
14. **Correspondence:** The Committee received a letter from Mr Tim Perkins who had suggested that some trees could be planted in the entrance to Bedingfield Crescent/Durban Close, Mr Perkins was willing to plant the trees but was asking if the Council would agree to pay for them. It was agreed to ask Mr Perkins for an estimate and planting plan and the Clerk would also inform Halesworth in Bloom.

The meeting was closed at 8.55pm