

Gorleston Area Committee

Minutes

Tuesday, 20 September 2016 at 18:30

PRESENT:

Councillor Wainwright (in the Chair); Councillors Borg, Flaxman-Taylor, Fairhead, A Grey, K Grey, Pratt, Walker, Williamson & Wright.

County Councillors Plant & Walker.

Mrs C Webb (Member Services Officer) & Mrs J Woods (Community Development Officer)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Rodwell.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that there were no Declarations of Interest declared at the meeting.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2016 were confirmed.

4 MATTERS ARISING

With reference to minute number 5, the Chairman reported that Council had considered the report on Devolution at its meeting on 30 June 2016. The Council had resolved not to take any further part in the Devolution process, as had Norwich City Council, Breckland District Council and North Norfolk District Council. As a result, the residents of the Borough would not have a vote in the election of the Elected Mayor.

With reference to minute number 5, Councillor C Walker reported that she had contacted Highways England in regard to the two unkempt roundabouts on the A12. Highways England had subsequently contacted the Director of Customer Services and informed her that the present maintenance contract had been withdrawn.

Councillor Plant reported that the Council was bidding for the maintenance contract from Highways England to take responsibility for the two roundabouts. However, as there were in such poor condition, budget provision of £20k in the first year would be required, followed by £4k yearly maintenance budget, however, this would ensure an improved entrance to the Town. Maintenance of the bypass would also be included as part of this contract.

With reference to minute number 6, Councillor Plant reported that following consultation with traders, the proposed roundabout at the bottom of the High Street had been removed from the scheme but had been replaced with a roundabout at the top of the High Street, opposite Wilkinson's, whereby the traffic speed would be reduced from 30 mph to 20 mph to slow the traffic down over the crest of the hill. Councillor Plant reported that the traders would be consulted on this latest proposal.

Action: To provide an update at the next meeting on the maintenance of the two roundabouts on the A12.

5 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME FOR NORFOLK CONSTABULARY

The Chairman apologised on behalf of Norfolk Constabulary who had not attended the meeting and reported that they would be asked to attend the next meeting in December.

A resident from Palmer Road asked that the Council contact the Police to flag up the problem of drug dealing in the car park at the rear of Iceland. The Police were aware of this and the area was covered by CCTV but the Police

appeared to be taking no action.

Councillor Fairhead reported that the Police were aware of this as a similar problem existed at Bells Marsh Road/Pier Plain but the Police needed to be contacted when these events were in progress.

Action: To pass this information onto Norfolk Constabulary.

6 UPDATE ON WADHAM ROAD/KENNEDY AVENUE PARKING PROPOSALS

Councillor C Walker reported that she had been approached by some residents in Wadham Road and had informed them that she was unable to get involved until the consultation process had finished on 30 September 2016. However, she did advise them to contact Phil Reilly at Norfolk County Council in writing to inform him of their concerns.

Councillor C Walker reported that if this Traffic Regulation Order was implemented, the parking problems would just be pushed back further on the housing estate, as the residents were in effect, just moving their parking problems elsewhere. Following the consultation period with residents, if the proposals were not approved, there was no funding provision in the County budget for any such future schemes from 2017 onward. Councillor Plant reported that this Traffic Regulation Order would cost £60k.

Councillor Plant reported that residents at Lawyer Cory's had received letters from the County Council including them in the Kennedy Avenue parking scheme. This area should have never been included and he apologised to the residents on behalf of the County Council for the anguish this had caused and assured them that letters to confirm this would be sent by the County Council as a matter of urgency.

Councillor Plant reported that residents at The Boulters would have yellow lines painted on the road opposite the nine identified garages identified in the scheme and would shortly receive written confirmation from County Council. The hammerhead turning area would not be affected.

Councillor Plant reported that he was investigating the possibility of having wooden posts erected on the grass verges at Kennedy Avenue to prevent illegal off-road parking in the area.

A resident from Jenner Road reported that the Traffic Regulation Order in operation in her road had proved to be a great success and had improved the quality of life of local residents.

7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

(i) Brush Quay

A resident reported that the life-belt at Brush Quay was missing. He was concerned regarding the derelict appearance of Brush Quay and the Riverside area in general and asked what the Council planned to do to improve the area for the benefit of local residents.

Councillor Fairhead reported that this issue had been discussed recently at Environment Committee but it was unclear who owned Brush Quay and Councillors were informed that it was not in the ownership of the Council. It had been hoped that as this area had been included in the Coastal Walks programme that this would have driven environmental improvements in the area.

Councillor Plant reported that the ownership of Brush Quay had changed at least three times in the last sixteen years and that different parts of the river walls were owned by different authorities ranging from the Crown Estates, Peel Ports, the Council and the Environment Agency and therefore, identifying ownership was a complex exercise.

Action: (i) To identify the owners of Brush Quay to report to the next meeting.

(ii) To investigate the missing lifebelt and replacement.

(ii) Public Space Protection Order

A resident asked for clarification as to the new Dog Public Space Protection Order which was out for consultation at the present time. The Chairman reported that the fines were £80, rising to £120 if not paid within the stated timescale, then up to a £1000 fine could be awarded at the Magistrates Court.

The Chairman reported that the new PSPO would encompass other areas, apart from dog fouling, for example, dogs on leads and unruly dogs. He reported that this proposal had caused quite a stir on social media, as most dog owners were responsible and were unhappy with the proposed PSPO.

Councillor K Grey urged all residents to complete the on-line consultation document to ensure that their views were fed into the process. It was also imperative for residents to report issues of dog fouling to the Environmental Rangers to enable them to take appropriate action.

(iii) Unruly Motorbikes

A resident reported that a motorcyclist was riding his motorbike at great speed down the passageway at the back of properties on Veronica Green, this usually occurred at 3 pm on a Sunday afternoon. The Police were aware of this but had taken no action and this anti-social behaviour was affecting the

quality of life of local residents.

Councillor A Grey reported that the residents should keep a log of these incidents and telephone the Police each time an incident occurred.

Councillor Williamson suggested that the residents should attend the Community Steering Group meetings which were held at the MESH offices on the Shrublands. These meetings were facilitated by Julie Woods and met on the third Monday of every month. The Police attended these meetings to hear first hand local policing issues which were affecting residents.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Julie Woods reported that as a result of the community grants made available as part of the Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations, that Gorleston based events had been awarded 28 grants totalling £22,846.

Julie Woods reported that Shrublands Youth & Adult Centre would be holding an Open Day on 25 October 2016 from 10 am to 2 pm and invited all those present at the meeting to attend.

Councillor K Grey reported that the Nelson Museum as in urgent need of volunteers to undertake various duties in the museum. Any interested parties should contact the Curator, in the first instance.

A resident reported that the majority of the ornate lights on Haven Bridge were not working. Councillor Plant agreed to look into this matter.

The Chairman reported that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday, 13 December 2016 at 6.30 pm, in the Lecture Theatre, Gorleston Library.

9 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

The meeting ended at: 19:30