

Gorleston Area Committee

Minutes

Thursday, 24 March 2016 at 18:00

PRESENT:

Councillor T Wainwright (in the Chair); Councillors Fairhead, Grey, Pratt, B Walker, Williamson and Wright.

County Councillors Grey & C Walker.

Mrs C Webb (Senior Member Services Officer)

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Blyth, Collins, Plant and Rodwell.

The Chairman apologised that, unfortunately, the meeting was poorly attended. This was due to a clerical oversight due to absence in the Member Services team which resulted in the meeting details not being publicised in the local press and the meeting date being changed from a Tuesday to a Thursday.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 December were confirmed.

4 MATTERS ARISING

It was noted that there were no matters arising from the above minutes which were not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

5 TRAFFIC REGULATIONS - WADHAM ROAD AND KENNEDY AVENUE

The Chairman gave a verbal update regarding the traffic regulation work to be undertaken at Wadham Road and Kennedy Avenue, Gorleston. He also circulated copies of maps which detailed these proposals.

Councillor Grey reported that with regard to Kennedy Avenue, statutory consultation had been undertaken and the exercise had now reached the Public Consultation stage.

Local residents had been frustrated over people parking on the grass verges of the two roads and double yellow lines would be introduced to prevent this.

A member of the public suggested that buses should be refused access to Kennedy Avenue which would ease congestion and that bollards should be erected as a deterrent.

County Councillor Walker reported that Emmanuel Avenue was now at the Public Consultation Stage which would entail the Borough Council leafleting local residents for their comments on the scheme. She reported that it had been a long, long time coming but that this would result in a knock on effect for parking issues for other residents on other nearby local roads.

RESOLVED:-

That the Committee noted the report.

6 GORLESTON CONSERVATION AREA COMMITTEE

The Chairman reported that efforts to rekindle the Gorleston Conservation Area Sub-Committee had been unsuccessful so far due to lack of interest from local residents.

A member of the public suggested that this should be stated in the minutes and this might result in interested local residents coming forward to re-start the Committee.

RESOLVED:-

That the Committee put the Gorleston Conservation Area Sub-Committee on hold until such time that a new Sub-Committee can be formed.

7 CHANGE OF TIME AND VENUE

The Chairman reported that it had been suggested that the meeting start time be moved forward to 7.00 pm to allow more time for residents who worked to attend these meetings. However, the Committee had to vacate the Library premises by 7.45 pm and this would not be practicable. The Chairman therefore proposed that the next meeting should commence at 6.30 pm. As there were no other suitable venues nearby which were on a bus route and offered accessible parking nearby, he suggested that future meetings remain at the Library.

RESOLVED:-

That the next Gorleston Area Committee to start at 6.30 pm in Gorleston Library,

Lowestoft Road, Great Yarmouth.

8 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

(i) A member of the public asked for clarification regarding the Council's plans to re-route savings made from the closure of public toilets in rural villages to St. Georges Theatre. The Chairman reported that this had not taken place and the Council had taken the money from Reserves.

(ii) A member of the public raised a road-related issue regarding the lack of signage on the A12/A143 link road which connected the A12 in Gorleston to the A143 in Bradwell. The Chairman expressed his frustration that due to the lack of signage promoting the new road, holiday makers and motorists used local housing estates as rat-runs. He reported that he had been informed that the A12 Beaufort Way roundabout would be signalised before any signs would be erected. The Chairman had asked Council if some sort of signage could be installed directing people to the new link road before the start of the Easter holiday period when motorists would be going to holiday camps at Belton, Burgh Castle and Belton. If there was no signage to the link road then the usual queues of caravans would be snaking through local housing estates.

The Chairman reported that he had offered to put up a sign himself but that Council had opposed this. Unfortunately, until the roundabout was signalised there would be no signage which could take several months and this summer season could be over.

(iii) Mr Taylor, a resident of Clarence Road, asked why the two major roundabouts on the A12, were so neglected, which gave visitors a very poor first impression of Gorleston. The Chairman reported that the Council had tried hard to secure some funding from Highways England to undertake the upkeep of these two roundabouts but that this was proving to be extremely hard to achieve. However, the new Interim Chief Executive Officer had taken this issue on board and was pressing for a resolution. County Councillor Walker agreed to take this issue up at a County level via the Anglia LEP.

(iv) A member of the public voiced his concerns regarding the latest Government initiative that all new schools would become Academies/Free Schools. County Councillor Grey reported that this was a form of asset stripping as any assets had to be signed over to the Academy on a 125 year lease.

(v) A member of the public voiced his concerns regarding Devolution and he felt that there had been no local consultation on this matter which was unacceptable.

(vi) A member of the public asked for clarification as to whether the Planning Department considered local infrastructure requirements when considering large planning applications. The Chairman reported that all major infrastructure providers are consulted in all such applications and reported to Committee.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman apologised that meeting details had not been advertised in the local press as per usual. Unfortunately, due to staff sickness in the Member Services department it had been overlooked and was reflected in the poor turnout for the meeting.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman reported that the next meeting would revert to a Tuesday and the next meeting would therefore take place on Tuesday, 21 June 2016 at 6.30 pm in the Gorleston Library, Lowestoft Road, Gorleston.

11 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

The meeting ended at: 19:15