

DISS TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the **Infrastructure Committee** held in the **Council Chamber** at **Diss Corn Hall** on **Wednesday 24th April 2024** at **7.15pm**.

Present: Members: A. Goulder
S. Kiddie
A. Kitchen
K. Murphy (ex-officio)
S. Olander (Chair / ex-officio)
R. Peaty
L. Sinfield
E. Taylor (ex-officio)
J. Welch

In attendance: Sarah Villafuerte Richards (Town Clerk/Chief Executive Officer)
No members of the public

INF0424/01 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted from councillor Collins.

INF0424/02 **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

Members considered a new Vice-Chair for the Infrastructure committee. It was

RESOLVED: to elect councillor Taylor as Vice-Chair of the Infrastructure committee.

INF0424/03 **NOMINATION OF SUBSTITUTE REPRESENTATIVES**

There were none.

INF0424/04 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST¹ AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

Minute No.	Councillors Name	Personal/Other Interest	Pecuniary Interest	Reason
INF0424/08 INF0424/10	S. Kiddie	X		This councillor lives on one of the roads being considered under the Residents Parking Scheme and is a trader in Mere St reference Post Office consultation
INF0424/09	A. Kitchen	X		This councillor lives on one of the roads being considered under the Residents Parking Scheme and will be affected by the pylons relating to the National Grid's consultation.
INF0424/10	S. Olander	X		This councillor works for the organisation who owns the Post Office building.

INF0424/05 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

It was

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Infrastructure Committee held on 24th January 2024 were a true record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

INF0424/06 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

INF0424/07 **ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

There was none.

INF0424/08 **RESIDENTS PARKING SCHEME**

Members received an update on the last Parking Stakeholder group meeting. Members were frustrated with some of the outcomes. It was agreed that the Chair would send photos of the current situation to the Project lead and the situation would continue to be monitored. It was noted that enforcement of illegal parking along Mere St is being undertaken. Members were supportive of the proposals for the Heritage Triangle and Mere St and it was agreed that any changes would be well communicated to members of the public including via a consultation process. Bollards will be installed on Market Place to prevent parking on the brick weaved area. It was noted that a reminder would be sent to the Highways Engineer regarding the relining of the disabled bay on St Nicholas St. It was

RESOLVED: to demonstrate support for the proposals for the Heritage Triangle and Mere St with photos to be sent regarding other areas and further monitoring.
(Action: SO/Clerk; immediately)

INF0424/09 **NATIONAL GRID'S NORWICH TO TILBURY CONSULTATION**

Councillors considered submitting a response to the National Grid's Norwich to Tilbury Consultation and for a representative to attend the consultation on 15th May at Diss Football Club. Several councillors will attend the consultation between 1 & 6pm. Members discussed the submission of a unified response from the Town Council together with the Diss & District Neighbourhood Plan and higher tier authorities to the consultation and county councillor Kiddie would be contacted (18th June is deadline). It was noted that cables are going underground in other areas of the country and the National Grid is not short of funds. It was

RESOLVED: That cllrs Welch, Sinfield, Goulder, Kitchen attend the consultation on 15th May at Diss Football Club and County Councillor Kiddie will be asked for key points to put forward collectively in response to the National Grid's Norwich to Tilbury consultation.
(Action: JW / LS / AG / AK / KK; by 18.06.24)

Post meeting note – the consultation deadline has been extended until 26.07.24 post General Election.

INF0424/10 **POST OFFICE CONSULTATION**

Members noted the decision by the Diss Post Office to move to 35E Mere St. There was discussion regarding the challenge local traders will have with paying in cash given the existing long queues and that Harleston has a banking hub but that another bank would have to close in Diss to justify such according to LINK's assessment of Diss' banking requirements. It was noted that it is positive to continue to retain a Post Office in Diss. It was

RESOLVED: to send an email to Richard Bacon MP requesting his support of the concerns Diss Town Council has with the Diss Post Office move to 35E Mere St.
(Action: Clerk; immediately)

INF0424/11 **DENMARK LANE DEVELOPMENT STREET NAMING**

Members considered the street naming proposals for the Denmark Lane development. Streets are traditionally named after historic events in Diss or Roydon. Members didn't consider the proposals appropriate given there is already a King George Mews and Market Drive could be confused with Market Hill and Market Place. Bombard Way was suggested given the discovery of the blacker bombard (a form of Home-Guard defence) uncovered on the neighbouring land.

Approximate streetlighting costs (replacement and maintenance costs) have been provided to the Roydon Parish Council which is considering taking on up to four streetlights. It was

RESOLVED: to put forward Bombard Way as a suggested street name for the Denmark Lane development.
(Action: Clerk; by 16.02.24)

INF0424/12 **DISS & DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Councillors received an update on the Diss & District Neighbourhood Plan (DDNP) following a recent Steering Group meeting. Now that the Plan has been developed, the Steering Group will be wound down and a management group set up in its place to ensure policies are followed, liaison with relevant Councils and periodic reviews of the plan (every 4-5 years). It is expected that individual SG members will start in the new group and representatives for the Council will be re-appointed at the May meeting

of Council. A new constitution will be drawn up and the DDNP website will be closed in place of a more cost-effective online solution possibly via the Town Council website. Their current SG Chair will resign on 20th May and there are signs that the District Council is closely considering the DDNP in its deliberations albeit there are examples where policies have not been adhered to. Hopefully, this will be addressed via the District's new Assistant Director for Planning.

(Action: DDNP / Clerk; by Sept 2024)

INF0424/13 **PROGRESS REPORT**

Members noted progress on decisions made at the last meeting. Two updates were provided on Public Realm Project & land on Denmark Lane. It was noted that the designer is keen to progress the wall art project but still needs to secure building owner consent and prefers to do another wider wall owner call out to get interested parties to come forward.

Quaker Wood representatives / Diss Community Woodland Project are considering the management of the green space at the new development on the opposite side of Denmark Lane, Roydon, which would make the acquisition of the smaller triangular piece of land opposite more appealing.

INF0424/14 **MEMBERS FORUM**

Councillors considered information or issues relevant to this committee for brief discussion, action or inclusion on a future agenda. There was discussion regarding the removal of picnic benches on Mere's Mouth due to anti-social behaviour. Another CCTV sign will be installed in the area. Further anti-social behaviour in vehicles is evident in the Chapel St car park, which should be reported to the Police and can be dealt with via the Public Space Protection Order.

(Action: Clerk; immediately)

There was discussion regarding the water-logged and potholed track adjacent to the Mere and from the Kings Head Yard car park. It was noted that the owners were looking to fill in the potholes once the water level has reduced.

It was noted that the Aldi development wouldn't be allowed to start until they had consulted on the full Traffic Management Plan.

There was a suggestion for a new bus shelter by Albert Terrace opposite the fish and chip shop. The Chair recalled that this was previously requested and rejected by the County Council.

INF0424/15 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Members noted that the next meeting of the Infrastructure committee is scheduled for 3rd July 2024.

Meeting Closed at: 9.30pm.

Chairman: Councillor Olander