

DISS TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the **Infrastructure Committee** held in the **Council Chamber** at **Diss Corn Hall** on **Wednesday 5th April 2023** at **7.15pm.**

Present: Members: D. Collins
S. Kiddie
A. Kitchen
S. Olander (Chair / ex-officio)
L. Sinfield
E. Taylor (ex-officio)
G. Waterman
J. Welch
J. Wooddissee (Vice-Chair)

In attendance: Sarah Villafuerte Richards, Town Clerk
Cllr R. Peaty

INF0423/01 **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

INF0423/02 **NOMINATION OF SUBSTITUTE REPRESENTATIVES**

There were none.

INF0423/03 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST¹ AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

Minute No.	Councillors Name	Personal/Other Interest	Pecuniary Interest	Reason
INF0423/08	D. Collins			This councillor is leading on the wildflower project

INF0432/04 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

It was

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Infrastructure Committee held on 25th January 2023 were a true record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

INF0423/05 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

INF0423/06 **ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

There were none.

INF0423/07 **STRATEGIC PLAN**

a) Members considered report (reference 63/2223 referred) regarding a revised strategic action plan relevant to the objective of improving cleanliness in the town centre. It was

RESOLVED: To approve the revised strategic action plan relevant to the town cleanliness objective.

(Action: Clerk; immediately)

b) Committee noted the update regarding the strategic objective relevant to the Diss & District Neighbourhood Plan (DDNP). The meeting with the health centre has been postponed to 12th April. South Norfolk District Council (SNDC) approached the examiner regarding changes to DDNP relating to leisure provision. Given the consultations have closed and SNDC has had plenty of opportunities to comment, the DDNP Steering Group has met and replied stating they are not prepared to change it and will continue with it revising at a later date if required. This will likely delay the examination period by up to three weeks and a referendum wouldn't be held until after the elections anyway.

It was noted that the developer of DIS 2 and 7 is keen to provide leisure provision but that Norfolk County Council Highways has rejected the plans due to access issues and that the Aldi planning application will not be considered until May.

INF0423/08 WILDFLOWER PLANTING

Members considered report (reference 65/2223 referred) regarding a proposal to plant wildflowers in three areas of the town. Cllr Collins commented that SNDC will leave the area on Victoria Road next to the tyre shop to see what grows. Regarding the two options, cllr Waterman helped to manage the wildflower meadow at Quaker Wood established in 2010 and recommended option B for expedience as the areas demarcated are unlikely to have much wildflower in the ground. Once the area has been established, chemicals can't be used so weeding is required by hand. It was

RESOLVED: To trial wildflower seeding and management on three areas of the town namely the verge at the Diss Youth & Community Centre and the area of land at the end of Mere St subject to using method b and the area of land along Victoria Road subject to landowner consent and as per the corresponding Appendices.

(Action: DC / Clerk / FBM / SNDC; by 31.10.23)

INF0423/09 PROGRESS REPORT

Members noted the progress on decisions made at the last meeting. Norfolk County Council is busy with other projects at present but the Residents Parking Scheme for Diss is on the list and they will be able to consider how the existing restrictions in the Heritage Triangle operate. This should help with the issue of vehicles parking on the corner of St Nicholas St and Market Place outside the butchers restricting the movement of large vehicles and damage to the building whilst considering the requirements of businesses for deliveries. The positioning of another 7.5T restriction sign at the top of St Nicholas St is being reviewed.

It was noted that the new road markings in the spaces outside the butchers give the impression blue badge holders can park in all the spaces so this should be checked. An update regarding the additional enforcement support has been requested from South Norfolk Council.

Cllr Collins advised that a new Diss map has been produced & is circulating. The Welcome to Diss leaflet content has been updated but funds are not available to cover the costs.

INF0423/10 MEMBER FORUM

There were several items raised relevant to this committee. It was noted that the sign to the boardwalk & gardens on Mere St has been removed with the damaged pole, Poundland will be changing to a restaurant, and the trees on the Harrier Way development have died. The Clerk agreed to forward a contact for Persimmon Homes to cllr Waterman to follow this up.

(Action: Clerk / GW; by 31.08.23)

It was noted that the empty shops & condition of them lies within the remit of the building owners. There was also a discussion regarding free parking in neighbouring towns, which is funded by local businesses and its impact on footfall.

Cllr Olander has received correspondence regarding a proposal for a hotel in Diss form Travelodge, which would be circulated to all members.

(Action: Clerk; immediately)

It was agreed that councillors Kiddie, Olander, Sinfield and Wooddissee would consider the strategic objectives for the Infrastructure committee for the forthcoming electoral term for consideration at the next meeting.

(Action: SK / SO / LS / JWo; by 20.07.23)

INF0423/11 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Members noted that the next meeting of the Infrastructure Committee is scheduled for 26th July 2023.

INF0423/12 PUBLIC BODIES

Members considered a resolution under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960

and Standing Orders 3d to exclude members of the public and press in order to discuss the following item which is properly considered to be of a confidential nature.

INF0423/13 **TELEPHONE & BROADBAND CONTRACT**

Members considered the Council's telephone & broadband provision (confidential report reference 66/2223 referred). It was

RESOLVED:

1. To recommend to Full Council that the Council's telephone and broadband contract with the existing supplier etc... (EAST ANGLIA) LTD & Red5 Networks is extended for another year.
2. To review the Council's requirements in six-nine months' time during the budgeting process.
(Action: Clerk; immediately)

Meeting Closed at: 9.05pm.

Chairman: Councillor Olander