

DISS TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the **Infrastructure Committee** held in the **Council Chamber** at **Diss Corn Hall** on **Wednesday 25th January 2023** at **7.15pm**.

Present: Members: A. Kitchen
D. Collins
S. Kiddie
S. Olander (Chair)
R. Peaty
L. Sinfield
G. Waterman
J. Welch
J. Wooddissee (Vice-Chair)

In attendance: Cllr Robertson
Sarah Richards, Town Clerk
1 member of the public

INF0123/01 APOLOGIES

There were none.

INF0123/02 NOMINATION OF SUBSTITUTE REPRESENTATIVES

There were none.

INF0123/03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST¹ AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Minute No.	Councillors Name	Personal/Other Interest	Pecuniary Interest	Reason
INF0123/10	G. Waterman			This councillor has put forward the proposal regarding the land on Denmark Lane.
INF0123/11	D. Collins			This councillor is a member of the Beacon / King's Coronation organising committee
INF0123/11	S, Kiddie			As above
INF0123/11	L. Sinfield			As above
INF0123/11	J. Welch			As above

INF0132/04 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Infrastructure Committee held on 25th November 2022 were a true record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

INF0123/05 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was one member who wished to speak on item 11 at the appropriate time on the agenda.

INF0123/06 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair provided an update regarding the roadworks in Diss. It was noted that the Vinces Road water burst main repairs should be completed on Monday & re-opened on Tuesday once the bespoke kerb stones have been delivered and installed. Good progress is being made on the drainage replacement scheme at the Desira junction should be completed ahead of schedule. Frenze Hall Lane will be reinstated & resurfaced tomorrow. There is considerable damage to Walcot Green due to the diversion and the gas main along Roydon Road is soon to be replaced.

INF0123/07 STRATEGIC PLAN

Members considered appointing members of this committee to support the strategic objective of improving cleanliness in the town centre. It was agreed that an update from the Facilities and

Buildings team regarding the current cleaning schedule and their presence at the initial meeting would be helpful. It was

RESOLVED: to appoint cllrs Collins, Kiddie, Olander & Wooddissee to work alongside the Clerk and Facilities & Buildings Manager / Supervisor to review the town cleanliness strategic objective.
(Action: DC / SK / SO / JW / Clerk / F&BM; by 30.03.23)

INF0123/08 **STREETLIGHTING**

Members considered report reference 48/2223 regarding streetlighting upgrades and part-night lighting proposals. It was noted that the recommendations support the retention of night-lighting on connecting footways and highways and that Norfolk County Council will be contacted regarding the possibility of aligning the switching times. It was

RESOLVED: To switch off 119 streetlights owned by Diss Town Council as per Appendix A between 1am and 5.30am with immediate effect and publicise the cost and carbon savings made.
(Action: Clerk; immediately)

INF0123/09 **PUBLIC REALM ART PROJECT**

Members considered a project to install a large-scale artwork in Diss from the founder of Bud Studio. It was noted that this fits in the mission of the Town Council to support the community and promote Diss as the heart of East Anglia for Business, Leisure and the Arts. The designer has links to Diss, has had an overwhelmingly positive public response via the Diss Community Noticeboard already, intends to consult further regarding the design, will bid for Arts Council funding to pay for the project and appears to deliver good standard artwork on his website.

Members discussed potential sites in and around the town for consideration such as covering up the artwork on the Lowes, the Park Pavilion, sides of garages on Taylor Road, wall at the Diss Youth & Community Centre and shutters or windows of temporarily unused buildings. It was noted that the artwork would probably last up to a year and protection from vandalism of easy to reach locations should be considered. It was

RESOLVED: to support in principle the large-scale artwork and appoint councillors Collins, Sinfield, and Waterman to work alongside the Clerk and the designer to consider possible locations and design ideas.
(Action: DC / LS / GW / Clerk; by 30.03.23)

INF0123/10 **LAND ON DENMARK LANE**

Members considered the purchase of a small triangle of land on Denmark Lane for use as a community green space (report reference 49/2223 referred). It was noted that Historic England had no record of it, nor is it reference in the Diss & District Neighbourhood Plan. The area is currently an eyesore, which may worsen with further development to the west. Future maintenance is proposed to be minimal with a similar set up to the way Quaker Wood is managed via a Steering Group. It was noted that the land would be unsuitable for development given the size, topography, proximity to neighbouring properties and mature trees but it could provide a community open space to the west of the town amongst a large residential area.

Members were advised that Financial Regulations 14.4 state that no real property (interests in land) shall be purchased or acquired without the authority of Full Council and a report in respect of valuation and surveyed condition of the property (including matters such as planning permissions and covenants) together with a proper business case (including an adequate level of consultation with the electorate). There was discussion regarding community engagement, available funds, the level of initial works and ongoing maintenance, allocating it as a non-designated heritage asset with the DDNP and the different community groups including schools who may also benefit from the space. It was

RESOLVED: 1. To appoint a working group of councillors Sinfield, Waterman and Welch to work with the Clerk to further consider the requirements and proposal regarding the purchase of the small triangle of land on Denmark Lane (marked by a cross on Appendix A) for eventual presentation to Full Council.

2. That Councillor Waterman and the Clerk will update the landowner accordingly.
(Action: LS / GW / JW / Clerk; by 30.03.23)

INF0123/11 **DISS PARK BEACON**

Members considered appointing a contractor carry out landscaping and foundation works in Diss Park to support the Beacon extension project (report reference 50/2223 referred). There was discussion regarding a change of date of the King's Coronation event from Saturday 6th to Sunday 7th May. It was noted that beacon lighting ceremonies are not being encouraged by Buckingham Palace, potentially impacting on the firework display and that a budget request will be considered by the Facilities committee. There was a discussion regarding starting the event earlier, which would also enable those attending to watch the concert being organised for that evening. The content submitted regarding the event for the monthly column in the Diss Express would be updated accordingly. It was

RESOLVED: 1. To appoint Anglia Stone Ltd to carry out the landscaping and foundation works as per quotation received to support the Beacon extension project.

2. To agree a date of Sunday 7th May 2023 for the King's Coronation celebration event.

(Action: Clerk; immediately)

INF0123/12 **PROGRESS REPORT**

Members noted progress on decisions made.

INF0123/13 **MEMBER FORUM**

There was no information or issues raised relevant to this committee.

INF0123/14 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Members noted that the next meeting of the Infrastructure Committee is scheduled for 5th April 2023 subject to the confirmation regarding whether committee meetings would be held during the pre-election period.

Meeting Closed at: 8.45pm.

Chairman: Councillor Olander