

DISS TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held in the Council Chamber at Diss Corn Hall on Wednesday 18th May 2022 at 7.15pm.

Present: Councillors S. Browne
D. Collins
M. Gingell
S. Kiddie
A. Kitchen
K. Murphy
S. Olander (ex-officio)
R. Peaty
J. Robertson
E. Taylor (ex-officio)
J. Welch
J. Wooddissee

In attendance: S. Richards (Town Clerk)
A. Jamieson (Responsible Finance Officer)
County / District councillor Kiddie
District councillor Minshull

FC0522/01 ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2022/23

Members considered the election of a Town Mayor for 2022/23. Two nominations were received for councillor Taylor. Members voted and it was

RESOLVED: to elect councillor Taylor as Town Mayor for 2022/23 who duly signed a declaration of acceptance of office.

FC0522/02 TO CONSIDER APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from councillors Valori and Warren.

FC0522/03 ELECTION OF COUNCIL LEADER

Members considered the election of a Council Leader for 2022/23. One nomination was received for councillor Olander. Members voted and it was

RESOLVED: to elect councillor Olander as Council Leader for 2022/23.

FC0522/04 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

FC0522/05 MINUTES

It was

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 13th April 2022 were approved as a true record and signed by the Town Mayor.

FC0522/06 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were two members of the public in attendance. Apologies were given from District councillor Wilby. After congratulating cllrs Taylor and Olander on their elections, County / District councillor Kiddie provided a verbal update. The Vines Road project is scheduled to start in September, the Sawmills Road flooding mitigation works should be completed late summer and resurfacing of the A1066 in Roydon will impact on Diss traffic late summer dependent on possible diversion routes from the A14 works. He has funded Jubilee trees for local organisations including Parish Fields Friends. Cllr Kiddie also commented on agenda item 15 regarding the East Anglia Green Energy Enablement consultation. He attended an open meeting in Palgrave, brought a map of what is being proposed by way of pylons highlighted in purple surrounding Diss and has had lengthy discussions with Roydon Parish Council and Richard Bacon MP regarding the proposal.

Both councillors congratulated both councillors Taylor and Olander on their elections. District councillor Minshull explained that the Green Energy Enablement project is likely to take 8 years and

their proposal does include an underground solution for an Area of Outstanding Beauty. He reported that at a recent extraordinary meeting of South Norfolk Council, it was agreed to purchase new office buildings at the Horizon centre on the outskirts of Norwich. They plan to have a satellite office in Diss for general questions / specific officer appointments if necessary. The District Council will make £1.5m in savings in the first year and more in future years, which will enable them to keep their council tax low and it is good for staff and the environment as they will have less commuting. Their satellite office will have the full technological suite to take representation from anywhere and the move is scheduled for September.

FC0522/07 **ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business.

FC0522/08 **FINANCE**

- a) Members noted bank outgoings for April 2022. There was a query regarding payment of £162.00 reference relocation of Kuk Sool Won in March 2022 (Bacs 1313). It was explained that this was when the main hall was being used as a vaccination centre and groups relocated to other venues.
- b) Members noted that the Income & Expenditure reports for April & May will be presented to the June meeting of Council. Year-end will take place on Friday so reports will be available thereafter.
- c) Members received the fourth quarterly report up to 31st March 2022 and considered the transfer of funds from the General Reserves to Earmarked Reserves (report ref 01/2223 referred). It was noted that there has been a slight amendment with £1,600 for streetlighting being deducted from the Cemetery Chapel roof allocation but not affected the total transfer amount. There was a query regarding the funding allocated to the Corn Hall. It was noted that the value of the building is £4.5m and that putting aside funds for capital works over several years is a sensible way of budgeting for such a valuable asset. It was proposed that during the budgeting process, members could consider dispersing some of these funds to other projects if deemed appropriate for Council approval. It was

RESOLVED: To approve the year end transfer of £43,724 from General Reserves to Earmarked Reserves subject to minor adjustments with the RFO confirming the figure to Council in advance.

(Action: RFO; immediately)

FC0522/09 **MEETING ADMINISTRATION**

- a) Members reviewed and approved committee membership for 2022/23. It was

RESOLVED: to approve the committee membership for 2022/23.

(Action: Clerk; immediately)

- b) Members considered the election of committee Chairmen. It was noted that this was an item on the previous year's May agenda, that Standing Orders 4dvi states that the Council shall permit committees to appoint their own Chairman at their first meetings and that election of chairs is included under the committee's terms of references. The item was also included on the Council agenda to ensure there were acting Chairs until the first meetings of committees in June and July. There was discussion regarding whether the process of committee Chair election should be reviewed by the Executive committee but it was

RESOLVED: to elect committee Chairman at the first committee meetings with the existing Chairs continuing in their roles until then.

(Action: Clerk; immediately)

FC0522/10 **DISS & DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Members considered the appointment of councillors Olander and Taylor as Diss Town Council's representatives on the Diss & District Neighbourhood Plan as it nears completion. It was

RESOLVED: To appoint councillors Olander and Taylor as Diss Town Council's representatives on the Diss & District Neighbourhood Plan as it nears completion.

(Action: Clerk; immediately)

FC0522/11 **REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Members considered the re-election of John Maskell & Ann Hughes as the Diss Town Council representatives on Diss Parochial Charities. It was

RESOLVED: to re-elect John Maskell & Ann Hughes as the Diss Town Council representatives on Diss Parochial Charities.

(Action: Clerk; immediately)

FC0522/12 TOWN MAYOR'S HANDBOOK

Members noted the minor amendments to the Town Mayor's handbook following councillor Taylor's year as Chairman.

(Action: Clerk; immediately)

FC0522/13 PARK LIGHTING

Members considered report (reference 02/2223) regarding upgrades to the lighting columns in the Park. It was noted that the quotation excludes an allowance for light shields, are based on correct G39 clearances (given there are no overhead cables, this is not required) and assumes that the existing columns and control base gear is up to a serviceable condition and adequate to accept the new parts. It was

RESOLVED: 1. To approve the remaining Park lighting upgrades including the additional mounting posts and power supplies for the CCTV at an additional cost of £5,398.36 allocated to General Reserves.

2. To approve the CCTV works at the Park for a total of £3,950 allocated to Earmarked Reserves – Infrastructure CCTV.

(Action: MM / Clerk / RFO; immediately)

FC0522/14 CEMETERY BUNGALOW

Members considered report (reference 03/2223) regarding the end of the Cemetery bungalow tenancy. It was noted that vehicular access would be prevented in adherence to the Council's authorised vehicle access policy. District councillor Minshull explained that the rental fee was set low to reflect the fact that the late husband of the current tenant worked for the Council for many years, and they open and closed the Cemetery gates each day as a condition of the tenancy. There was brief discussion regarding future letting or sale potential, which would be further investigated. It was

RESOLVED: That members agree to the gates at both ends of the Cemetery being left unlocked for pedestrian access only on a short to medium term basis until a decision regarding the cemetery bungalow is considered.

(Action: Clerk; immediately)

FC0522/15 THE EAST ANGLIA GREEN ENERGY ENABLEMENT

Members considered a response from Diss Town Council to the East Anglia Green Energy Enablement initial consultation, which closes on 16th June. The proposal to build a new high voltage network reinforcement between Norwich, Bromford and Tilbury will provide the capability needed to reliably and securely transport all the energy that will be connected by 2030 while working to the required standards. The new reinforcement is expected to be around 180 km in length and made up mostly of new pylons, with some underground cables where the route crosses an area designated for its outstanding natural beauty.

The project will support the UK's net zero target through the connection in East Anglia of new low carbon energy generation, and by reinforcing the local transmission network. The route passes the northern outskirts of Diss and to the west of Diss, between Roydon and Bressingham and through the Diss & District Neighbourhood Plan area.

Objectors to the proposal have contacted the Town Council requesting it refuse the proposal, which is made up mostly of overground pylons, in support of protecting the landscape and burying the cables. It was noted that there are issues with heating underground cables, which results in more energy losses than overground. -As a large proportion of the additional energy is coming from offshore windfarms it was felt that more consideration should be given to offshore cabling. In addition, it was felt that we were using 1940's technology with pylons when we should be looking to protect and enhance the landscape.

The increased cost of burying the -cable is significant according to a company bidding for the contract - although this was being done in some areas. There was concern that there were not any in-person consultation events planned for Diss and it was noted that the full statutory public consultation is

scheduled for April 2023. A South Norfolk Council Officer has requested a full presentation to the District on the proposals and members were advised that the Planning Inspector will decide the result. It was

RESOLVED: That councillor Peaty would draft a response with delegated authority to the Clerk to send a response by the deadline.

(Action: RP / Clerk; by 16.06.22)

FC0522/16 **PROGRESS REPORT**

Members noted the progress on decisions made at the last meeting of Council.

FC0522/17 **MEMBER FORUM**

Members considered information and issues relevant to Council for brief discussion, action or inclusion on a future agenda. Cllr Browne encouraged members to take part and help with both the Glow in the Park and Carnival events. There was also a request to liaise with Upp regarding the impact of their vehicles forcing pedestrians include children to walk in the road.

(Action: All / Clerk; immediately)

FC0522/18 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Members noted that the next meeting of Full Council is scheduled for Wednesday 15th June 2022.

FC0522/19 **PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS)**

To consider 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.

FC0522/20 **CEMETERY CHAPEL**

Members considered recommendations regarding the Cemetery Chapel roof contract (report ref 04/2223 referred). It was noted that the first of three surveys is due to take place this evening. The others are scheduled for June with the ecologist's report and recommendations provided two weeks post the final survey. There was discussion regarding the quote received for the scaffolding from 1st May till the works restart, which is considerably higher than anticipated given that the scaffolding is already in situ and the Council will be paying for the removal as part of the original quote. It was agreed that another quote would be sourced. It was

RESOLVED: 1. To give delegated authority to the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk to negotiate the scaffolding quotation to a maximum of 25% of the £600 weekly charge.
2. Following agreement of 1 above to pay the part-invoice totalling £34,138.66 for works undertaken on the Cemetery Chapel roof to date allocated to Earmarked Reserves Cemetery Chapel.

(Action: DepTC/Clerk; immediately)

Meeting Closed: 9pm.

Councillor Taylor
TOWN MAYOR