

Present: Councillors;

Tony Allen, Peter Dutton (Chair), Anne Fleming, Keith Forster, Rosemary Lewis, Karen Prime, Jill Reece, David Thomas, David Wollweber (Vice Chair), Paul Widdowson.

In Attendance: Nick Rees (Clerk), Cllr Tony Goldson (WDC & SCC), Louise Thomas (WDC), 18 members of the public.

## Minutes

1. Apologies: Cllr Karen Prime, Cllr Maureen Took
2. Declarations of interest: Non-pecuniary interests: Cllr Widdowson for 8,9 & 18, Cllr Lewis for 10 & 18, Cllr Thomas for 7b, 10 & 18, Cllr Wollweber for 8, Cllr Greenberg for 8, Cllr Fleming for 7b, 8, 10 & 18, Cllr Dutton for 7b.
3. Minutes: The minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2019 was accepted as a true record.
4. Matters arising from the Minutes: The Clerk explained that he always recorded the arrival and leaving times of councillors in the minutes if the meeting was in progress. This was to record which councillors were present when decisions were made.
5. Chair's Report: The Chair, along with several Councillors, was present at the funeral of former Cllr Ezra Leverett and reported that over 400 people had attended.
6. Public Session: [15 minutes on agenda items] Mrs Janet Huckle asked whether the pedestrian access from the Carpet shop to the Memorial gardens could be returned to normal, i.e following the path of the dropped kerbs. This was noted and would be raised at the next Fire Recovery meeting. Mr Malcom Ballantine noted comments made by Konnect Bus on their website regarding competition from First Bus being one of the reasons for their withdrawal of the service. A resident raised questions about the planning application on Dairy Hill, namely was this piece of land intended for sports facilities and did the proposed building overlook the properties on Orchid Close at a certain angle.

The Chair, Cllr Dutton, explained that there were two council nominated trustees for the HCSL and one other HCSL trustee on the Council. None of the trustees had a personal pecuniary interest and were able to take part in the discussion and vote on item 7b. However as the presiding Chair had a privileged position, in that he had a deciding vote, he would step down and let the Vice Chair, Cllr Wollweber, take the next item.

Cllr Wollweber took the chair.

7. Planning:
  - a) The Council accepted the report of the Planning Committee meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> February
  - b) To consider the application DC/19/0143/FUL Halesworth Community Sport & Leisure – 4 no two bedroom apartments with garage facilities, Dairy Hill.

There had been objections made on WDC's Planning Portal over the height of the building, the design, the extent of the zinc cladding, overshadowing, outlook and privacy. Cllr Wollweber invited the Architect to comment on the points raised in the public session and objections made on WDC's planning portal.

The Architect, Brian Haward, explained in detail about how the application complied with current planning policies regarding use of the land, design, density, parking, minimum space between properties and sight lines. Mr Haward also wished to point out that the balconies were recessed and would not compromise the privacy of the properties in Orchid Close. The location of the proposed building and the position (East of Orchid Close) would mean that there would not be any overshadowing of neighbouring properties. Mr Haward also confirmed that all the existing trees adjacent to the Tennis courts would be retained.

Cllr Thomas, in answer to questions about the land, assured the Council that the carpark was designated for development and that the intention was to provide alternative parking for the clubs between the bowls club and the tennis court. HCSL's intention was to sell the land with the planning permission to provide much needed revenue to improve facilities for the clubs. The Council should also be aware that the three storey section was located on the downward slope of the site.

The Architect assured the Council that the proposed design of building greatly exceeded current building regulations on insulation and sustainable energy.

It was then RESOLVED that the Council recommended approval of the application DC/19/0143/FUL.

On the matter of the proposed 200 dwellings to land South of Chediston Street, the Council had discovered that this was being presented again to WDC's Planning Committee. It was understood that the planning permission had to be withdrawn due to a European Court of Justice ruling. There were concerns that the Town Council had not been consulted and had not been given the evidence that the application would now comply and furthermore the Council were of the opinion that it should receive a new application. WDC's Planning Committee would be on the 12<sup>th</sup> March and it was agreed that HTC's Planning Committee would consider how to respond at the next meeting on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

8. Reports on meetings and events attended by Council representatives: Cllr Lewis reported on the recent ESTA meeting and had circulated the new bus timetables. Cllr Greenberg reported on the recent meeting of the Museum Trustees and progress was being made to switch to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Cllr Greenberg had circulated a summary to the Council. The only significant changes to the original Deed of Trust would be the reduction of the maximum Council appointed Trustees, from four to two, as previously agreed by the Council.
9. District & County Reports: To receive any reports. Cllr Goldson would comment some of the following items by way of a report.
10. Bus Services: To receive information on the proposed replacement bus services. County Cllr Goldson reported that alternative operators had now been found and timetables would be issued. The changes meant a reduction in the number of scheduled journeys and passengers would need to change at Bungay to go on to Norwich. However an improvement had been made to the Southwold timetable which would hopefully enable more commuters to use the bus service. At the present time First Bus would not use the three point turn at the North side of the Station, passengers would therefore need to walk to the Norwich Rd bridge bus stop.

11. Mansion House roof repairs: To receive any updates. Cllr Greenberg attended the last meeting and had asked SCC to consider alternative forms of traffic control as some drivers were disregarding the one way system. It was hoped that the Town Council would receive an outline of the future programme of works so it could advise residents and businesses accordingly. However, there was some reluctance to confirm any dates at this stage.
12. Sizewell Consultation: To consider the draft response to the consultation and the attached recommendations. Cllr Forster had presented a draft document which concentrated on the increased number of vehicles and HGVs that would potentially travel through the Town during the construction of a new power station at Sizewell. One of the key points in the Cllr Forster's document was that the A144 was not a primary route. Cllr Thomas and County Councillor Goldson were of the opinion that the A144 was a primary route. The Clerk would investigate further. It was noted that there was a meeting scheduled for Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March with EDF and Cllrs would have the opportunity to raise further questions. The Working Group would then finalise the response and circulate the document to the Council.
13. Communications Committee: The Council received and noted the report on the meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2019. The Committee had received some quotations for a replacement notice board in the Thoroughfare. The Clerk's office was currently awaiting a refurbishment estimate for the notice board.
14. HCN Policy: To review the proposed policy. It was RESOLVED that the Council approved the document with two amendments, remove the words 'as far as possible' and 'whole'. Also, it was RESOLVED that the monthly press release for the Halesworth Community News would not have a signature or name of the author.
15. Community Centre Working Group: There were no updates to report.
16. Community Infrastructure Working Group: There were no updates to report, a meeting would be scheduled for the following week.
17. CCTV Working Group: The Council received and noted the report on the meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2019

Cllr Forster asked the Council to consider the nine point proposal contained within the report. There followed a debate about the consultation and whether this was conclusive, ongoing maintenance costs, police support and other factors.

It was the RESOLVED that:

1. That the consultation period has been completed and that the correspondence received against the proposal is minimal and does not conclude that the majority of residents and businesses are against CCTV.
2. Further consultation is not necessary in order to proceed with the project.
3. Agreement that the Council approves payment of a 30% deposit (£6,600 TBC) to the preferred supplier once the final specification is agreed.
4. The Working Group will have responsibility to contact and obtain the necessary permissions from property owners and authorities for the cameras and recording equipment to be located in the town.
5. The Working Group will have devolved powers to negotiate arrangements, including recompense, for electricity\*, broadband or any other connections required to enable the positioning of the cameras in the preferred locations.
6. The Working Group will have responsibility to obtain advice and arrange, if required, planning permissions for the locations of the cameras. Currently it is likely to involve one Grade 2 listed building and one locally listed building.
7. The Working Group will have the authority to amend or alter the locations of any part of the equipment if permissions cannot reasonably be obtained or if changes will make improvements to the system.

8. The Community Infrastructure Levy would be used to fund the project, wholly if possible, and currently the Council has the required CIL funds in place.

9. The Working Group will have devolved powers to finalise the specification without referring back to the Council provided the total revisions do not exceed more than 10% of the original quotation or if the changes do not significantly alter the approved proposal.

In addition to this proposal it was RESOLVED that the Working Group would report back to the Council on progress on a monthly basis.

18. Free Parking: To review if there has been confirmation of the agreement of HTC's proposal and how it will be funded for 2019-2020. District Councillor Tony Goldson had met with WDC and put forward the proposal for the Council to consider so that an agreement could be taken forward. It was then RESOLVED that the Council approved, subject to written confirmation being received from WDC, the amendment to HTC's proposal as follows; that the Angel Link South, Angel Link North, Post Office and Station Rd car parks would have one hour free parking to be implemented as soon as the traffic regulation order was in place, for the sum of £15,000 per annum fixed for a four year period, subject only to increases based on the RPI (Retail Price Index). If at a later stage East Suffolk Council's policy on free parking was extended to the whole district the contract would be ended. The Thoroughfare car park would return to normal parking charges and the half hour free parking slots would be removed. The Station Rd car park tariffs would be changed to suit overnight parking to facilitate train travellers. These changes would be implemented as soon as possible after April 2019.
19. Financial Matters: The Council received and noted the report on the Finance and Personnel meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2019.
20. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group: The Council received and noted the report on the meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2019.
21. Maintenance: None
22. Correspondence: None
23. Items for the Website/Noticeboard/Newsletters/Library. Details of the free parking agreement would be circulated once WDC had confirmed the offer in writing.
24. Accounts for Payment: The following accounts for payment were approved:

<u>4282.</u>	Mencap – Rent repayment (GPofC)	76.98
<u>4283.</u>	Community Action Suffolk – HTC Insurance (LGA1972 s111)	1608.23
<u>4284.</u>	Community Action Suffolk – Day Centre Insurance (LGA1972 s111)	279.54
<u>4285.</u>	P Welby – Land Registry – driveway adjacent to LRB	3.00

DD/Standing Orders:

<u>4286.</u>	Barclays Bank charges (LGA1972 s111)	16.75
<u>4287.</u>	Salaries - (LGA1972 s112)	2,382.35
<u>4288.</u>	Nest – Pension - (LGA1972 s112)	130.96
<u>4289.</u>	BT Phone and Broadband services (LGA1972 s111)	207.07

Bank & Cash Balances at 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2019

Current 728	£138,702.91
Community A/c	£5,281.52
Business Reserves 017	£92,442.93
Petty Cash	£100.43

25. Staff Matters: To review the Personnel Working groups recommendations for pensions and salaries. This item was deferred until the Personnel Working Group had received further advice.

The meeting was closed at 9pm.