

**Present:** Councillors;

A Fleming, P Dutton, S Leverett, R Lewis, A Payne, D Thomas (Chair), M Took, D Wollweber

**In Attendance:** N Rees (Town Clerk), 2 members of the public

## **MINUTES**

1. **Apologies:** Cllr K Greenberg, Cllr T Gardner
2. **Declarations of interest:** Non-pecuniary interests; Cllr Took for 6, 8 & 11, Cllr Wollweber for 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11, Cllr Dutton for 5, 6, 8, 9, & 11, Cllr Leverett for 6, 7, 8, 9 & 11, Cllr Fleming for 5, 6, 8, 9 & 11, Cllr Payne for 6, 7 & 11, Cllr Thomas for 6, 7, 8 & 11
3. **Matters arising from the minutes.** Under item 7, Bridge Street; a question was raised as to when the applicants would be able to install the planters and had they been informed. The Clerk confirmed that he had informed Suffolk County Council and the applicant at the same time that the licence had been agreed and had then asked SCC to advise the applicant when they would be able to proceed. A member of the public asked what the size of the proposed planters would be and who would maintain them. The Clerk confirmed the planters were the same size as the ones currently in Bridge Street and that Foliar and ASD would purchase and maintain them.
4. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 were accepted as a true record.
5. **Communications:** To consider any items for the next Communications meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2017. It was noted that there were some matters that needed to be discussed before Christmas and that a meeting would be arranged as soon as possible. The Committee would be discussing the plan and management of the Thoroughfare street furniture (in conjunction with SCC Highways Department), an Emergency Plan, management of the posters on the Saxon Way Bridge, Barrow Crossing safety information and other items.
6. **Parking:** To consider any updates The Clerk confirmed that the target had been reached and a report would be presented at the next Finance Meeting. It was noted that consideration should be given to how to recognise the businesses that had contributed. It had been discussed that a plaque could be placed in or near the pedestrian entrance to the car park (by the White Hart). The only problem might be gaining permission to fix the plaque or notice to a wall. Another idea was window stickers but this might not be suitable for businesses on the industrial estates. It was also suggested that a list could be displayed on the information screen in the Library. It was agreed that this should be discussed further at the Finance Committee meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2016.
7. **Health:** Update on Health matters. Cllr Thomas gave a brief update. Cllr Wollweber then raised the question of how to respond to District Cllr Tony Goldson's allegation at the last monthly meeting regarding the Patrick Stead Hospital Outpatient services. The statement made by Cllr Goldson was completely baffling to the Council and it seemed, to many of the members of public present. Cllr Wollweber felt that an apology was needed from Cllr Goldson at the next monthly meeting. The Chair felt that the Committee could not agree to ask for a public apology as the decision would need to go to the full Council. However, it was agreed that Cllr Wollweber could take up this issue in a number of ways, if he felt inclined to do so. The Committee left the decision to Cllr Wollweber.

8. **Barrow Crossing:** At a suggestion from Mrs Gagg, Abellio Anglia (now Greater Anglia) had agreed that the conductors would make a safety announcement when the trains approached Halesworth station. It was RESOLVED that the letter and the agreed announcement, which stated 'Customers alighting here are advised not to use the foot crossing until the train has departed the station' would be put on the website.  
The Committee also considered two poster options, these were both versions of a humorous 1920's cartoon. The point of the poster was to relay safety information but in a way that drew immediate attention. After debate as to which poster was more suitable it was RESOLVED that the poster 'Don't be an Ass' would be used instead of the alternative 'Don't be a Donkey'.
9. **Planning Committee:**
- a. To consider Cllr Dutton's 'Strategic Evaluation' for submission to WDC's Strategic Planners. It was noted that some very minor amendments were needed to correct spellings and a further addition regarding the Skills Centre but subject to those amendments it was RESOLVED that the document was approved for forwarding to WDC.
  - b. Verbal report on the meeting held at 6pm, 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2016. The Chair of the Planning Committee, Cllr Dutton reported on the three applications that were considered earlier in the evening.
10. **Website:** It was agreed that the following items should be added to the website:-
1. Information about the Sizewell consultation at the Rifle Hall on the 15<sup>th</sup> December.
  2. Barrow Crossing update (as noted under item 8)
  3. Parking: Notification and thanks to the businesses that the target had been reached.
11. **London Road Building:** To review any updates. The Chair, Cllr Thomas, asked that the minutes detailing the offer from WDC should be circulated again. It was noted that WDC's Cabinet had either not ratified the offer or had not considered it yet. Disappointingly, Mr Jarvis had not so far responded to confirm either way. The Committee felt that it was possible that the Cabinet was not aware of the offer. It was then RESOLVED that the Clerk should contact Cllr Law to ask if WDC could verify the offer, and to ensure copies of the correspondence were sent to Cllr Stephen Ardley, Cllr Frank Mortimer and Cllr Mike Barnard. It was also noted that the Business Plan had been side-lined while this offer was being considered by HTC. The Clerk explained that effectively there could be two options, one to buy the building and one to acquire the building by agreeing to take on maintenance in the town. The Committee felt that either way the business plan should be completed as it was not certain whether the offer from WDC would be accepted. It was then RESOLVED that the Clerk should contact Hannah Reid to ask that the Business Plan be completed as originally intended.
12. **Maintenance:** There were no maintenance issues to report.
13. **Correspondence:** The Clerk reported that a member of the public had noted that the sign restricting access (Pedestrian Zone) sign opposite the Library had been turned round three times recently. The Committee came to the conclusion that the sign might have been hit by lorries reversing.  
The Committee also noted the concerns of a resident about articulated vehicles attempting to turn in Queens Drive after missing the turning to the A12. The resident had provided several photos showing the problem and indicating damage to the verges. The Clerk confirmed that the matter had been reported to the Highways Dept.  
Cllr Fleming drew attention to the Sizewell Consultation again and suggested that the Council should submit a response. It was then agreed that Cllr Fleming and Cllr Leverett would get together to draft a response. The Clerk in the meantime would try and locate the previous submission, thought to be in 2013. Cllr Thomas requested a hard copy of the Consultation documents.

The meeting was closed at 7.45pm