

WYMONDHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 6th February 2024
in the Council Offices at 7.00 pm.

Councillors Present

S Nuri-Nixon	P Barrett	L Nixon
A Perry	D Roberts	A Holden
L Doheny	R Frosdick	M Batley
M Rosen	J Fulcher	A James
J Barrett		

Member(s) of the Public: 14

Cllrs Hurn & McConnell (SNC)

Councillor Nuri-Nixon in the Chair

013/24	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> – Cllr. Baker.
014/24	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> : None.
015/24	<u>MINUTES OF MEETINGS</u> Upon the proposition of Cllr. Fulcher and seconded by Cllr. Roberts the minutes of the meeting held on 9 th January 2024 were unanimously approved as a correct record.
016/24	<u>PROGRESS UPDATES</u> : <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Min 010/24 Risk Assessments</u> Meeting of Council Buildings, Health & Safety and Personnel Working Group scheduled for 16th February 2024.
017/24	<u>LEISURE ENVIRONMENT ENTERPRISE & TOURISM COMMITTEE</u> minutes of meeting held on 16 th January 2024 were noted.
018/24	<u>SUNDRY CREDITORS</u> Upon the proposition of Cllr. Fulcher and seconded by Cllr. J Barrett it was resolved to pay accounts for January 2024, as per the submitted list in the sum of £18,145.40 In compliance with financial regulations the Clerk tabled a list of salaries paid from the wages account to the sum of £10,740.13
019/24	<u>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Representative of Greening Wymondham spoke in favour of Agenda item 8 (Rothbury Road Project) and the appointment the acceptance of the quotation from applicant No 1.• Cllr. C McConnell (SNC) Spoke in support of agenda item 14 (Emergency Plan) following recent flooding issues at Spinks Lane. She advised that there are flooding advice leaflets available.
020/24	<u>ROTHBURY ROAD PARK</u> Paper submitted by Greening Wymondham to appoint a project manager with an initial spend was discussed. Upon the proposition of Cllr. P Barrett and seconded by Cllr. James it was resolved to appoint the Norwich

	<p>Fringe Project as Project managers at a cost of £12,675.00 and to authorise a drawdown of up to £3,500 for preliminary work.</p>
021/24	<p><u>PUBLIC REALM PROJECT</u> Joel Pailes (SNC) gave a presentation on work undertaken to date in respect of the proposed Public Realm scheme which included some illustrative slides showing some possible scenarios in respect of the centre of the Town. Included in this was tree planting and work on the alleyway by the side of the Co-op store. There was also an illustration of a roundabout outside the Heritage Museum although it was acknowledged that this would be expensive. A wide-ranging discussion then took place as to the merits of pursuing a scheme with various views as to the social and economic benefits.</p> <p>Upon the resolution of Cllr. Holden and seconded by Cllr. Rosen standing orders were suspended to allow public participation.</p> <p>Questions were then raised as to how much it cost to prepare the slides and could they be available to the public, also time frames. Response from Mr Pailes was they he did not know the cost and that the slides could be made available although it was stressed that these were only ideas. Once a steering group has been established it was anticipated that work could start in the 2025/2026 financial year.</p> <p>Further discussion then took place on the funding of the project in terms of the sale proceeds from the previous Council offices at 14 Middleton Street being committed and matched funding from SNC. It was highlighted that pavement/Road works are the responsibility of SNC & NCC and that areas outside the Town Centre needed looking at and that play areas need work. Value for money is key and there should be tangible benefits not just a vanity project. Mr Pailes advised that SNC would require a decision to be made by the Town Council at its March in respect of a funding commitment.</p>
022/24	<p><u>PESTICIDES</u> Cllr. Perry outlined his paper in respect of the use of pesticides. Debate took place on the definition of pesticide as opposed to herbicide and Clerk explained that there had previously been very limited use primarily on the paths at the cemetery. It was pointed out that the Council had recently approved a bio-diversity policy which covered this and is due to be reviewed together with Greening Wymondham by the Leisure Environment Enterprise and Tourism Committee. Upon the proposal of Cllr. Perry and seconded by Cllr. Rosen it was proposed that, where there are viable alternatives to herbicides available, that we choose them instead.</p> <p>For: 3 Against 8 Abstentions 2 The motion was lost.</p>
023/24	<p><u>REPORTS FROM COUNTY / DISTRICT COUNCILLORS</u> <u>Norfolk County Council</u> – None.</p>

	<p><u>South Norfolk Council</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr. Roberts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Residents Associations being set up in The Alders and Birch Gate developments. ○ North Wymondham (Spinks Lane) ditches poorly looked after, and enforcement being undertaken re flooding issues.
024/24	<p><u>REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr. P Barrett – Greening Wymondham <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rothbury Road Grant applications discussions. ○ Great Big Green Week – 8th – 16th June. ○ Discussions continue re grass verges. ○ Litter pick 23rd March 2024. • Cllr. P Barrett – Sustainable Wymondham <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Report written and being reviewed before being shared. <p>Cllr. Holden began to read out a statement in which he resigned from the Council with immediate effect. Chair, Cllr. Nuri -Nixon, asked him to stop as this was not a report as a representative on outside bodies and not an agenda item. The meeting was temporarily adjourned and Cllr. Holden left the room.</p> <p>Cllr. J Barrett requested the following addition to minute 024/24</p> <p>In the spirit of openness, as per the Nolan Principles, I must seek a correction to the minutes. After experiencing Cllr Holden’s behaviour, I suffered from a serious dissociative flashback, which necessitated me to temporarily withdraw from the meeting while Cllr Roberts presented his work on the Emergency Plan. This was a psychiatric emergency, and the record should reflect the reality facing disabled Councillors when their health conditions are aggravated by the improper actions of others.</p>
025/24	<p><u>EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS & PUBLIC</u> On the proposition of Cllr. James and seconded by Cllr. P Barrett resolution by the Council under the provisions of Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admissions to meetings) Act 1960 to exclude Press and the Public from the meeting of Wymondham Town Council in order to discuss matters where publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.</p>
026/24	<p><u>EMERGENCY PLAN</u> Cllr. Roberts outlined the Draft Emergency plan that had been formulated with SNC and the rationale for its requirement. Further work needed to be undertaken before its acceptance by the Council following which a redacted version will be placed on the Councils website. Discussion took place with concerns raised that the Council should only commit to participate within its capabilities, the length of the plan and the need to carry out a practice drill. It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged by Cllr. Roberts with the Emergency Co-ordinator at SNC and Cllr. Rosen to review progress to date and take on board Councillors comments.</p>

027/24	<u>WYMONDHAM RAILWAY STATION</u> Cllr. Roberts outlined discussions following a recent meeting in respect of the platform disability access issues. Grants have been applied for and if successful a bridge and lifts could be installed to resolve the problem.
--------	--

[The meeting closed at 20.56 pm]

DATED thisday of2024

SIGNED(Chairman)