

DOWNHAM MARKET TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD TUESDAY 10th MARCH 2015 AT 7.00PM

Present:	The Mayor	Cllr J W Doyle
	The Deputy Mayor	Cllr R A Pegg
	Councillors	Mrs P D Damper
		F E Daymond
		J K Fox
		J Groom
		M Howland
		R L Judge
		C Pyatt
		J J Reed
		M Ross
		P R Sayers
		D J Sharman
		Mrs P B Sharp
		A D Stacey
		M D Starreveld
	County Councillor	A White
	Borough Councillors	Mrs K A Mellish
		A M Lovett
	Town Clerk	Mrs J M Markwell
	Members of the public	8

Those in attendance at the meeting were notified of the emergency evacuation procedure from the Town Council offices.

Those in attendance at the meeting were notified that mobile telephones should be turned off or switched to silent mode for the duration of the meeting.

The Mayor advised members that Mr D Sutton had resigned from the Council.

2818. To receive Members' Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs M P Ford (business commitment).
The apology was accepted.

Cllrs P W Neate did not attend the meeting.

2819. To receive Members' Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Adjourn meeting for public participation and reports

The Mayor, Cllr J Doyle, adjourned the meeting.

Police Representative

There was no Police representative at this meeting.

County Councillor report

County Cllr White asked how the paperwork for the new bus stop was proceeding. Cllr Fox advised that the licence had now been given to the Town Council's solicitor and once he had agreed the content it would be returned to Norfolk County Council.

Cllr Pegg asked if County Cllr White would investigate the current problems with education within the area. There is an online application which can compare schools and it showed that those, particularly in Norfolk, were not achieving the high standards of schools in other parts of the country. Cllr White advised that he would look into this.

Borough Councillor report

Borough Councillor Lovett had nothing to report to this meeting.

Borough Councillor Mrs Mellish gave an update on the Willows Nature Reserve. The eastern path (next to the reed bed) is now open, but other fencing will remain until the heavy machinery is off site.

Public Participation

Members of the public attended in relation to item 9 on the agenda, planning application 15/00135/OM (land to the east and south of Denver Hill, 170 dwellings).

The following comments were made:

No further accesses should be allowed on the A1122 bypass

Any new access would be too close to the current roundabout on the A10/A1122

The study relating to wildlife was inaccurate, as many rarer species of birds had been seen in the area

Parents were already struggling to gain places in nurseries for pre-school children

There would be a shortage of primary and secondary school places

The Mayor, Cllr Doyle, resumed the meeting.

2820. To approve the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 10th February, 2015 (pages 4919 - 4925).

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 10th February, 2015 (pages 4919 – 4925) were approved.

2821. To receive correspondence

A list of correspondence had been circulated (Appendix 1).

2822. To receive Councillors' Questions

There were no Councillors' questions.

2823. To adopt the Standing Committee Minutes of:

Finance Committee

Proposed – Cllr C Pyatt

Seconded – Cllr A D Stacey

‘That the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of Tuesday 24th February, 2015 (pages 4936-4939) are adopted’

All in favour

Town Hall Committee

Proposed – Cllr D J Sharman

Seconded – Cllr A D Stacey

‘That the minutes of the Town Hall Committee meeting of Wednesday 25th February, 2015 (pages 4940-4943) are adopted’

All in favour

Property Committee

Proposed – Cllr J K Fox

Seconded – Cllr D J Sharman

‘That the minutes of the Property Committee meeting of Tuesday, 17th February 2015 (pages 4926 – 4931) are adopted’

All in favour

Planning & Environmental Committee

Proposed – Cllr M D Starreveld

Seconded – Cllr J J Reed

‘That the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting Tuesday 3rd February, 2015 (pages 4912 – 4915) are adopted’

All in favour

Community Development Committee

Proposed – Cllr J Groom

Seconded – Cllr M C Ross

‘That the minutes of the Community Development Committee meeting of Wednesday 4th February, 2015 (pages 4916 - 4918) are adopted’

All in favour

2824. To receive the Clerk’s report

There was no Clerk’s report.

2825. Payment of Bills

There were no bills for payment.

2826. To ratify the decision made by the Planning and Environmental Committee on Wednesday 18th February, 2015 that recommended refusal of plan 15/00135/OM (land to the east and south of Denver Hill, 170 dwellings)

The members had listened to the comments from the members of the public and from the Councillors on the Planning and Environmental Committee. This was a significant new development for the town and needed very careful consideration. Within the proposed site allocation from the BCKL&WN it was stated that there could be up to 140 properties in this area, this plan was for 170 dwellings, so even at this early stage the site was over the proposed allocation.

Proposed – Cllr F E Daymond

Seconded – Cllr J Groom

‘That this Council upholds the decision of the Planning and Environmental Committee to refuse planning application 15/00135/OM (land to the east and south of Denver Hill, 170 dwellings)

For – 14 Abstention – 1

2827. To agree Internal Auditor (Price Bailey) for the financial year 2015/16 as recommended by the Finance Committee

The Finance Committee had recently discussed the position of Internal Auditor for the financial year 2015/16. It was felt that for continuity, particularly as there would be a new Council on the 7th May 2015, the Council should appoint Price Bailey for 2015/16.

Proposed – Cllr Pyatt

Seconded – Cllr R A Pegg

That Price Bailey is appointed to be the Internal Auditor for the Council for the financial year 2015/16

All in favour

2828. To discuss proposal from the Finance Committee meeting of the 24th February, 2015 regarding Norfolk Constabulary PCSO partnership scheme:

‘That this (Finance) Committee recommends that due to future budgetary constraints funding is not available for the PCSO Partnership Scheme’

Representatives from Norfolk Constabulary had made presentations to both the Full Council and the Finance Committee with regard to the new partnership scheme for PCSOs’.

There had been a full discussion at the Finance Committee and it had been agreed that the cost of this scheme was prohibitive as the cost to the ratepayer of town could increase the Council Tax payment by approximately 8.5%. There was also concern that payment would be made in arrears (that is during the financial year 2016/17) and at this time the Council did not know if the grant, which it currently receives, is to be continued for the financial year 2016/17. If the grant was not to be given and payment for the PCSO Scheme was in arrears this could result in significant budget cuts.

Some members felt that this should be discussed at the Annual Town meeting as the rate payers of the town may be happy to pay an additional sum in order to have a designated PCSO.

It was also felt that a strong letter should be sent to the Norfolk Constabulary stating the Council would not want to see any reduction in police numbers in this predominantly rural area. Concern was also raised that with the increase in housing and consequently increase in population Norfolk Police should, in fact, be increasing staff levels.

Proposed – Cllr C Pyatt

Seconded – Cll J K Fox

‘That due to budgetary constraints the Town Council will not proceed with Norfolk Constabulary PCSO Partnership Scheme.’

For – 10

Against – 4

Abstention – 1

2829. To approve updates of Downham Market Town Council Standing Orders

All members had received a copy of the revised Standing Orders and to date the working party had received no comments on the amendments it was therefore proposed that these stay on the table to the next meeting of the Full Council on Tuesday 14th April, 2015.

Proposed – Cllr A D Stacey

Seconded – Cllr J K Fox

That the revised Standing Order will remain on the table until the Full Council meeting of Tuesday 14th April, 2015.’

All in favour

It was noted that the Financial Regulation would need to be revised and it was felt that Finance Committee should do this.

2830. To receive update concerning the Lease for the Old Fire Station – Cllr Fox

There was no update on the Old Fire Station

2831. To receive update on the Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Starreveld

There was nothing to report to this meeting as it was felt that once the new Council is in place then the Neighbourhood Plan could then move forward again.

2832. To receive report on the Downham Market Festival

The arrangements for the 2015 Festival were going well and the next meeting of the committee would be on the 18th March, 2015 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall.

2833. To receive report on the Joint Burial Board

There was no report for this meeting.

2834. To receive report on the Twinning Club

The Twinning Club are having the following events:

29th March, 2015 Nature Walk in the morning

21st April, 2015 Stories from East Anglia

VE Celebrations, the Twinning Club will be holding a coffee morning

A letter had been given to all students of Downham Market Academy asking if any family would be willing to host the French visitors in August, 2015.

2835. To receive report on the Jubilee Community Centre

Cllr Pyatt reported that there had been an internal audit on the Jubilee Community Centre.

Chaplain Farrant are continuing their consultations with user groups and also with Norfolk County Council Highways with respect to access to the site for vehicles.

2836. Update on future Town events

The Mayor, Cllr Doyle advised members of the following forthcoming events:

Mayor and Mayoress Coffee morning	Friday 13 th March
St Winnold's Parade & Breakfast	Friday 20 th March
Mayor's Charity Quiz Night	Friday 20 th March
New Councillor open session at the Town Hall	Saturday 21 st March
Big Clean up	Saturday 21 st March
Civic Service	Sunday 19 th April
St George's Day celebrations on the Town Square	Thursday 23 rd April
VE Celebrations	Friday 9 th May
Water Festival	Sunday 9 th August

2837. To discuss the Civic Regalia

This is an ongoing project.

2838. To receive verbal report from the Human Resources Committee

Cllr Sharman reported that the 'Return to work scheme' had been investigated and it was felt that this Council could not accommodate an employee on this scheme. It was agreed that the HR Committee should further investigate the 'Apprenticeship Scheme' and report back to the next meeting of the Full Council.

2839. To discuss any urgent items as agreed by the Mayor.

There were no such urgent items as agreed by the Mayor.

2840. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor reported that the Mayoress and he had attended 8 events since the last meeting.

2841. To receive confidential Human Resources Report

There was no confidential report.

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8:00pm.

Chairman

Date