

Bungay Town Council

Minutes of the February meeting of this Council held at the Council Chamber, Broad Street on Monday 19th February 2018 starting at 7.45pm.

Present : Cll Lincoln, Adams, Barnes, Bradley, Collins, Groom, Harnden, O'Neill, Prior and Woods.

Also present were 2 members of the public.

1. To accept apologies

Apologies were received from Clls Matthews due to a family emergency and Ritchie (SCC) who was attending a WDC meeting.

2. Interests

Cll O'Neill declared a non-pecuniary interest in plan DC/18/0505/TPO.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 15th January 2018

The above minutes were approved.

4. To approve the minutes of an extraordinary meeting of the Council held on the 8th February 2018

These were approved subject to the following amendments:-

page 2191, item 5. Cll Prior was happy that the notice had been incorporated in the Town Mayor's piece in the newsletter but had not seen the text.

page 2191, item 6. Cll O'Neill rather than Cll Prior was to join the LCAS working party.

page 2191, item 6. LCAS would also review the consultation processes, past and future.

page 2191, item 6. Cll Lincoln had prepared a draft press release which would be distributed to members.

5. To receive public representations

Mrs J Green asked who wrote and who approved the consultation documentation and how many councillors were involved in its preparation. She proceeded to make remarks critical of the Clerk's actions in relation to the consultation document's subject matter, composition and distribution; she also questioned the accuracy of the information shown in the leaflet about which she reported that she had heard different things from different people.

Mr A Riley said that he was against the suggested increases in Council expenditure; these were above inflation and far in excess of that proposed by other local public bodies.

Signed.....

Date.....

5. (cont)

He did not think that the Council should consider taking on long-term debt to fund part of these proposals because of possible future interest rate rises. He also expressed concern about the future shifting of responsibilities and therefore costs to the Town Council from other local authorities. While thanking the Town Mayor, Deputy and Town Clerk for the information they had given him at the surgery he remained firmly of the view that the Council should not embark on additional expenditure at this time. Cll Lincoln noted that these matters related to agenda items to be considered later in the meeting.

6. To receive correspondence

The following correspondence was reported:-

Mr J Doylend thanking the Council for their help in getting the hedgerow cut at Hillside Road West.

Mr D Abbey confirming that the Konnect evening and Sunday 87 bus service will continue following securing a subsidy from NCC. He also advised that there were no plans to reduce the off-peak 88 service.

Beccles TC re proposed closure of Lowestoft Record Office and removal of records to Ipswich. Following a suggestion from Cll Adams it was agreed that the Lowestoft Record Office should remain open but if closure did take place records relating to north Suffolk locations should be moved to the Norfolk Record Office to allow better access for residents from this area.

Aldeburgh Parish Council objecting to proposals by Norfolk County Council to sell riverside land at Homersfield.

SCC, legal notice relating to stopping up land at St John's Hill.

Friends of St Mary's Church advising that the Bowerbank Room would after all be available to the Council for a surgery on the first Saturday in May. The room would not however be available on the first Saturday in July.

BEBA and the Waveney Foodbank seeking donations. These were referred to the F&GPC.

SCC about the possibly of the Council undertaking local minor highway works because of SCC budget reductions.

7. To consider plan received, receive planning decisions received from WDC and the Broads Authority and receive a report of a meeting of the Planning & Environment Committee held on Monday 5th February 2018

The following plans were considered:-

Cll O'Neill was absent during consideration of the first named plan.

DC/18/0505/TPO, Mr S Giller (as agent), fell remaining stem of Cedar following near total tree failure in high winds - owner plans to replant with similar species, Waveney Court, 23 Trinity St. The Clerk advised that WDC had already granted consent for this work; it was not therefore considered further.

Signed.....
Date.....

7. (cont)

DC/18/0336/FUL, G Odgear, construction of summerhouse, 7 Wharton St. Approval recommended.

DC/18/0431/OUT, Mr J Davey, outline application, construction of a single dwelling with all matters reserved save for access, land at the rear of 120 Beccles Rd. Approval recommended.

The Clerk reported the following planning decisions from WDC:-

DC/18/0505/TPO, Mr S Giller (as agent), fell remaining stem of Cedar following near total tree failure in high winds. Approved.

DC/17/5365/FUL, Mrs A Robertson, construction of a single storey rear extension, 10 Scales St. Approved.

DC/17/5232/FUL, Mr & Mrs Nicholson, construction of a single storey side and rear extension, 16 Hillside Rd East. Approved.

A report of the meeting held on 5th February 2018 was received and approved.

8. To receive a report of a meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Monday 5th February 2018

A report of the meeting held on the 5th February 2018 was received and the recommendations approved.

Cll Adams advised that councillors were invited to a Bungay Royal British Legion meeting to be held on the 20 February to consider events to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the WWI.

9. To receive a report on the results of the budget consultation exercise

The Clerk advised that he had discussed the results with Clls Barnes & Bradley in place of Cll Matthews and Lincoln who were unavailable at the appointed time.

The Clerk reported that a small majority of respondents supported the CCTV (116/97) and staff (112/97) proposals while a substantial majority did not support the proposal to acquire additional office space (69/136). A total of 221 individuals had responded to the consultation document; this represented a good level of response for an exercise of this sort and the outcome was statistically valid. In response to member's questions the Clerk explained how he had collated the results with the aim of fairly reflecting the views of those who had participated.

Members commented further on the distribution failures. The Clerk responded that there was no evidence that these were other than minor or that this factor materially influenced the outcome because any distribution failures were random. The Clerk said that matters raised by Mrs Green had been the subject of the Extraordinary Meeting and did not relate to this agenda item. Notwithstanding this Cll O'Neill sought to answer points raised by Mrs Green.

Signed.....

Date.....

9. (cont)

Members raised questions about the weight that should be given to the consultation outcome.

Cll Lincoln reflected on support given to 2 of the proposals but the marked lack of support for the third. He said that members would need to consider these outcomes when setting the budget.

10. To consider the budget for 18/19 excluding matters relating to office provision

It was noted that the Clerk had provided an updated budget and precept schedule and a narrative report.

After an extensive discussion members agreed not to include expenditure on water fountains, bollards, highway safety rails, public seats or a further bus shelter in the budget for 18/19. It was noted that consideration could be given to this expenditure in future years.

By a majority of 5 votes to 4 it was decided to proceed with the CCTV scheme. There was general agreement that the Council proceed with plans to employ an assistant.

Other expenditure, save that relating to office acquisition, was approved in accordance with the budget and precept schedule.

11. To consider budget matters relating to office provision

It was decided not to budget for office acquisition in 18/19. It was noted that office provision could be made without the need for this. Notwithstanding this the Council would continue to consider all options. The Clerk noted that depending on the outcome of this consideration the Council could consult further with the public during the course of 18/19 if this was necessary.

12. To agree a budget for 18/19 and determine the precept

With the budget set as in 10 and 11 above it was determined that the Clerk advise WDC of the Council's precept requirement taking note of these factors and otherwise in accordance with the budget and precept schedule.

Due to time constraints consideration of agenda items 13, 14, 15 and 16 below was deferred and the balances were not reported.

13. To receive a report on the proposed use by Suffolk County Council of the former middle school buildings in Hillside Road East as a Pupil Referral Unit and to consider the Council's response to this proposal. Deferred.

14. To receive a financial update from the BNDP group and to agree group expenditure for the next quarter. Deferred.

15. To consider having meetings of the Council in alternate months at the Riverside Centre rather than the Community Centre. Deferred.

16. Town Mayor's Report. Deferred.

Signed.....
Date.....

17. To receive balance details and approve cheques for payment

Balances - see note above.

The following cheques were approved for payment but the Clerk was directed to engage with IRS to seek a reduction in the distribution costs to reflect the reported distribution difficulties.

Bungay Honeypot Centre, food bank (S137), £50.00, hall hire £30.00, total £80.00; IRS Recruitment, litter-pick £531.36, leaflet distribution £494.84, total £1026.20; Worker Bee Publishing Ltd, report publishing, £568.80; Small Fish, BNDP costs, £1194.00.

Signed
Date.....