



Needham Market Town Council
Community & Assets Committee
Minutes – 16th August 2023

Present: Cllr S Phillips, Deputy Chairperson; Cllrs Annis, Darnell, Lea, Mason, O’Shea and Stansfield.

The Town Clerk was in attendance.

CA031/23 Chairperson’s Welcome and Apologies for Absence.

Apologies: Cllrs Cave, Farrow, Goodchild, Lawrence, Norris, A Reardon and J Reardon.

CA032/23 To receive and confirm the Minutes of the Community & Assets Committee held 14th June 2023.

Cllr Lea proposed the Minutes of the Community & Assets Committee held 14th June 2023, be adopted. Cllr Stansfield seconded the proposal. The Committee agreed the proposal.

CA033/23 To witness new Councillors Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

There were none.

CA034/23 To receive Councillors Declarations of Interest for items on the agenda.

There were none.

CA035/23 To consider outstanding projects including those in course of delivery.

Cllr Phillips reported on:

- Three Speed Indicator Devices are now sited and in operation on the main access routes into the town. Cllr Cave has offered to collect data from the devices once the process for this is known.
- Mid Suffolk District Council has confirmed the s.106 grant funding towards the cost of replacing the existing Scout Hut is now available. A decision on the CIL funding grant application is expected early September.

The Clerk reported on:

- A CCTV camera has been situated at Needham Market Community Centre which oversees the newly reinstated play area off School Street. The camera operates within scope of the overall CCTV system at the Community Centre.

CA036/23 To consider new projects, their prioritisation and funding, including allocation of CIL funds.

Cllr Phillips read out a letter received from a local resident that referred to weed growth in the High Street. The Committee agreed a future edition of the Town Council Newsletter should include an article relating to weed growth across the town and encouraging residents/businesses to tidy in and around their properties where possible. Cllr Annis referred to a District Council initiative that encourages communities to maintain their locality in good order.

CA037/23 To consider the Council's Communications functions.

Cllr Phillips reported training is to be delivered to enable the Town Council Office staff to independently update the Council's website.

CA038/23 To receive a report from Council's Civic Events Working Group

Cllr Lea reported she has contacted the Headteacher at Bosmere Community Primary School regarding the activity the school children normally become involved in on Remembrance Day, the 11th November this year falling on a non-school day.

Cllr Lea confirmed no date has yet been agreed for the town's Civic Service 2023/24.

CA039/23 To consider Crime Prevention and Community Health and Wellbeing issues.

Cllr Phillips reported he has recently rejoined Needham Market Neighbourhood Watch.

Cllr Lea said she has been encouraged by comments appearing on local social media that indicated an improving position relating to the services delivered by Needham Market Country Practice.

CA040/23 To receive an update from the Council's Climate Awareness Group (CAG).

Cllr Phillips referred the Committee to the report provided by Cllr A Reardon to the meeting.

The report included a recommendation from the CAG, to add to the wording of the Town Council's Climate Emergency Declaration: (additions in bold)

*Needham Market Town Council declare a Climate Emergency for our town and pledge to develop a plan which sets out actions for the Council to take and guidance for individual **local residents and businesses** in order that, as a community, we can contribute to achieving the national goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2050.*

Cllr O'Shea proposed the Town Council's Climate Emergency Declaration be amended, as recommended by the CAG. Cllr Stansfield seconded the proposal. The Committee agreed the proposal.

The report also included a recommendation that the following submission be made by the Town Council to the current consultation on the Norwich to Tilbury Pylons proposal:

Needham Market Town Council recognises the importance of strategic energy infrastructure in order that we can meet net zero targets and decarbonisation of the industry. It recognises that Suffolk is well placed to locate additional resources to generate energy and that the grid needs to be strengthened in order that it can be transmitted across the national network.

Whilst the current plan for new pylons from Norwich to Tilbury would deliver these aims, it would have a significant and negative impact on the onshore environment and habitats and misses an opportunity. There is an opportunity here to coordinate an integrated approach to several projects and existing offshore wind farms which, we believe, in the long run would deliver best outcomes and value for money.

The Town Council therefore, objects to the current proposal of pylons from Norwich to Tilbury and calls for a strategic, integrated, offshore solution.

Cllr Stansfield proposed the submission be made as recommended by the CAG. Cllr Lea seconded the proposal. The Committee agreed the proposal.

The Meeting closed at 7.55pm.

Signed..... Committee Chairperson

Date.....