



Needham Market Town Council
Community & Assets Committee
Minutes – 17th August 2022

Present: Cllr A Reardon, Chairperson; Cllrs Annis, Lea, Mason, Phillips and J Reardon.

The Town Clerk was in attendance.

CA044/22 Chairperson's Welcome and Apologies for Absence.

Apologies: Cllr Norris

CA045/22 To receive and confirm the Minutes of the Community & Assets Committee held 15th June 2022.

Cllr Lea proposed the Minutes of the Community & Assets Committee held 15th June 2022, be adopted. Cllr J Reardon seconded the proposal. The Committee agreed the proposal.

CA046/22 To receive Councillors Declarations of Interest for items on the agenda.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

CA047/22 To consider outstanding projects including those in course of delivery.

Cllr A Reardon provided updates on:

- Crowley Park Pavilion and Former Clubhouse Building Improvement Project – progressing well and on track with the construction schedule. Meetings held on site with representatives from The Mix to discuss and agree detailed specifications.
- Multi-Use Games Area – construction delayed as a result of supply of materials but still progressing within acceptable timescales.

- Crowley Park Skatepark – there had been an exchange of emails between the Town Council and the Skatepark Committee and the Council’s position on the requirement for funding to be in place, has not changed.

CA048/22 To consider new projects, their prioritisation and funding, including allocation of CIL funds.

Cllr A Reardon reported, with the Council’s prioritising CIL funding towards the provision of a replacement younger children’s play area on Crowley Park, suppliers of play equipment will be contacted and provision taken forward.

Cllr Annis reported on progress with the installation of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) in the town. He has received the necessary information from County Councillor Kay Oakes regarding suitable street lighting columns on which the devices can be installed.

Councillors A and J Reardon reported they are pursuing options for this year’s High Street Christmas Lights.

Councillors raised issues regarding the very poor condition of the pond area off Barretts Lane, which is owned by Mid Suffolk District Council. Not only is the site extremely neglected but there is a growing problem with vermin. The Clerk added he has sent Mid Suffolk District Council photographs of the unkempt state of the front of their former office headquarters in the High Street, with a request they tidy the frontage up as soon as is practicable.

The Clerk confirmed a new clothes bank has been installed on the Barretts Lane car park. It will raise funds for the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

Cllr Lea reported the CIL funds allocated to refurbish/replace street furniture, including grit bins around the town, will be used as soon as the Council’s contractor is free of his responsibility attached to the Crowley Park Pavilion Project.

CA049/22 To consider the Council’s Communications functions including reviewing Councillor interaction with members of the public.

Cllr J Reardon reported his engagement with a local IT support company has produced costs related to their future hosting of a new Town Council website.

Cllr A Reardon referred the Committee to her report on a ‘Proposed Public Awareness Campaign’ which was tabled and a copy of which will be appended to the Committee meeting minutes. The report included recommendations relating to the Town Council website, the Town Council website and Council’s social media presence.

Following discussion, the Clerk confirmed the Council’s protocol on Councillors interaction with members of the public. Whilst Councillors can engage in general

terms with members of the public, all specific enquiries or matters raised should be referred to the Town Council Office.

CA050/22 To receive a report from Council's Civic Events Working Group

Cllr Lea reported it has been agreed with St John's Church PCC the town's 2022 Remembrance Service should be held at Needham Market Community Centre. A meeting of representatives from relevant organisations/groups in the town is to be arranged shortly.

CA051/22 To consider Crime Prevention and Community Health and Wellbeing issues.

The Clerk reported anti-social behaviour in the town is a concern both in terms of number of incidents and their nature.

Cllr Annis referred to his own recent experience as Chairman of Needham Market Community Centre. The Community centre has been the victim of anti-social behaviour. Good evidence identifying the perpetrators was provided to local Police but there has yet to be any tangible action taken.

CA052/22 To receive an update from the Council's Climate Emergency Sub-Committee.

Cllr A Reardon reported the first meeting of a new Climate Action Group (CAG) will take place on 13th September. 9 members have been recruited to the CAG so far inclusive of 4 Town Councillors.

Cllr A Reardon added she had, along with Cllr Lea, attended a Climate Emergency meeting held at Hadleigh and, they had gained ideas that could be replicated in Needham Market.

Cllr A Reardon said the initial approach in Needham Market would be to try and encourage everyone in the community to commit to a few small things that would support the aims of the Council on Climate Emergency.

Cllr Annis commented he was looking to have an energy efficiency survey carried out for Needham Market Community Centre but costs to do so were relatively high.

The Meeting closed at 8:25pm.

Signed..... Committee Chairperson

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