

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF CROMER TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT NORTH LODGE ON 09 DECEMBER 2013**

PRESENT

Mayor Cllr. D. Pritchard, Deputy Mayor Cllr. D. Airs,
Cllr. T. Adams, Cllr. T. Bartlett, Cllr. J. Bond, Cllr. J. Frosdick, Cllr. J. Hamilton-Emery,
Cllr. P. Harris, Cllr. G. Hayman, Cllr. A. Nash, Cllr. Y. Nolan, Cllr. M. Saunders,
Cllr. G. Smith, Cllr. A. Yiasimi (from item 3)
Mrs. J. Chance (Town Clerk), Mrs. J. Warner (Deputy Town Clerk)
1 member of the public for item 4 only

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr. Bartlett declared an interest in respect of Cromer Preservation Society.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received, considered and accepted from Cllr. Plewman (has a visitor who cannot be left) and Cllr. Cox (prior engagement).

It was AGREED to move the agenda item in respect of CCTV into the public part of the meeting.

3. **CCTV**

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Clerk reported on the meetings held with representatives from Fakenham, North Walsham, Sheringham and Wells to discuss the offer from NNDC to hand over the CCTV to the towns. It was noted that Wells Town Council has already decided not to progress this. Members were asked to consider a proposal to invest £500 towards an independent report into CCTV. It was noted that the current CCTV system in Cromer costs £39,000pa to run. It was noted that the camera in North Lodge Park could be retained as a stand-alone camera.

Following discussion it was reluctantly **AGREED** that the cost of pursuing CCTV is too great and Cromer Town Council will not proceed to fund £500 towards the independent report. The Clerk was asked to issue a press release explaining why the taking over of CCTV in Cromer will not be progressed by Cromer Town Council.

A member of the public arrived

4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The member of the public asked what the proposals are which will be discussed at tonight's meeting. The Mayor advised that this cannot be disclosed at present as it is to be discussed under the exclusion of the public and press. Any decision will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

5. **RESOLUTION UNDER THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS ACT 1960) TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

*The member of the public left the meeting
Cllr. Yiasimi declared an interest in the following item.*

6. **NORTH LODGE PARK**

Members were in receipt of a report drafted by Cllr. Harris and also a sheet answering questions raised as a result of the report. Concern was raised in respect of possible legal constraints concerning North Lodge Park.

Following discussion, it was **AGREED IN PRINCIPLE** to taking on North Lodge Park, subject to the completion by Cromer Town Council's own specialist lawyers, through due diligence, covering matters of all titles relating to the land; legal covenants on the land; any other matters that may emerge through searches and subject to the provision of procuring any necessary indemnities relating to title, chancery and other liabilities.

It was **AGREED** that subject to the successful outcome of the previous resolution:

- a) Cromer Town Council agrees to consider taking on the ownership of North Lodge Park to be transferred from North Norfolk District Council to Cromer Town Council, subject to North Norfolk District Council agreeing to pay Cromer Town Council a dowry of £50K for the first year and reducing by £10K per year subject to the successful completion of due diligence.
- b) Cromer Town Council agrees to increase the precept for 2014/15 equivalent to £3 per household to make a contribution towards the running of the park.
- c) Cromer Town Council agrees to hold a public meeting early in 2014 to explain how it has made its decision relating to North Lodge Park and how Cromer residents will be involved in its future.
- d) Cromer Town Council agrees to establish a transitional working party to oversee the transition leading up to the transfer of the park to Cromer Town Council prior to the start of the financial year beginning April 2015.
- e) Cromer Town Council agrees for the Strategy & Finance Committee to look into committee structure so a North Lodge Park management Committee and a Friends of North Lodge Park group can be established for the start of the financial year beginning April 2015.

Cllr. Nolan asked that it be recorded that she voted against this resolution.

It was asked that it be noted that thanks were given to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Harris and Officers for their hard work on this.

The Clerk and Deputy Clerk left the meeting. Minutes of the next item were recorded by the Deputy Mayor.

7. **PERSONNEL MATTERS**

Cllr Nash proposed the adoption of the Personnel Sub-Committee Minutes held on 19th November 2013, with the addition of 'from 1st January 2014' for the Deputy Clerk's hours. After a long discussion two amendments were proposed, but both failed. However it was agreed the changes should be reviewed annually and there should be efforts made to attribute costs to functions for budgetary purposes. Changes in working hours for staff were agreed. Business Continuity – these proposals were agreed although these should be reviewed annually as are cheque signatories.

There being no further business, the Mayor closed the meeting.

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Signed

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Dated