

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF CROMER TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, NORTH LODGE PARK ON 18 DECEMBER 2015**

PRESENT

Mayor Cllr. T. Adams, Deputy Mayor Cllr. T. Bartlett,
Cllr. J. Bond, Cllr. D. Conisbee, Cllr. J. Frosdick, Cllr. J. Hamilton-Emery, Cllr. R. Leeds,
Cllr. Y. Nolan, Cllr. C. Plewman (from item 3), Cllr. D. Pritchard, Cllr. D. Russell,
Cllr. G. Smith, Cllr. B. Stibbons, Cllr. A. Yiasimi (from item 3)

Mrs. J. Chance MILCM (Town Clerk), Mrs. J. Warner MILCM (Deputy Town Clerk)
County & District Cllr. H. Cox
EDP Reporter M. Jermy
19 members of the public

It was **AGREED** that two urgent items of business be added to the agenda.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were accepted from Cllr. Harris due to work commitments and from Cllr. Plewman who would be late.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

Members declared interests as follows:

Cllr. Bartlett – Cromer Preservation Society

Cllr. Conisbee – Family members buried at cemetery and application to purchase rights of burial

It was noted that declaration forms would be completed by all members declaring an interest.

3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Cllr. Plewman & Cllr. Yiasimi arrived at the meeting during this item.

A member of the public representing the AONB Action Group provided details of the two proposals and asked that Cromer Town Council allow the developers to make these changes which are at no cost to the tax payer but of benefit to all. Members were advised that if permission is granted, the AONB group will not proceed with the appeal.

A representative from Felbrigg Parish Council stressed the need for a roundabout and one way in and one way out of the cemetery. He also raised concern that incorrect information was given at the last meeting.

A member of the public raised concern that members were using a laptop at the last Town Council meeting and that members were dismayed at the request. She asked that members use gut feeling and common sense when considering the proposals.

A member of the public asked that any signage for the crematorium is kept to a minimum and also raised concern in respect of the speed limit on Davey Hill. County Cllr. Cox will speak to the member of the public about this.

4. **CREMATORIUM**

The Mayor recapped on the decision made at the last meeting and confirmed that a planning application would be required for the proposed changes. He advised that he had also been in discussion with Westerleigh.

Cllr. Pritchard, speaking as Chairman of the Works & General Purposes Committee, raised concern in respect of the height and width of the proposed berm and laurel hedge and questioned why the crematorium needs to be hidden. He stressed that Westerleigh do not have enough room on the land that they will be leasing to erect the proposed berm. Thus it will be on cemetery land and the Town Council will also have the cost of maintaining it.

It was noted that it has always been the intention to widen the main entrance to allow two-way traffic and to liaise with Westerleigh to ensure that burials and cremations do not take place at the same time. If a one-way system is implemented, all vehicles using the cemetery will have to drive round the crematorium car park to exit the site. The area of land for the proposed re-siting of the Davey Hill exit is already set aside for burials of other faiths.

Cllr. Pritchard also raised concern at the number of inaccuracies spoken about the crematorium and advised that the Town Council have worked very hard to get to where we are today. Westerleigh have planning permission and can commence building when they wish. Local Funeral Directors have advised that they are already receiving approaches from families who wish to be cremated in Cromer and are including this in their funeral plans.

A response from Cllr. Harris who could not attend the meeting due to work commitments was read out.

Other members raised concern at the proposed re-siting of the exit on Davey Hill. The dwellings opposite have no hedges and there is a blind bend which could be quite dangerous. It was felt that the current laurel hedging provides good screening of the allotment area and it was suggested that the section which will have to be removed could be replanted to provide screening without the need for an embankment. This could be interspersed with younger plants as necessary. It was noted that the original request was for a stone wall with space for memorial plaques but NNDC Planning agreed to hedging.

It was stressed that whilst the views of people who have other opinions are respected, there is a need to first and foremost consider the people of Cromer. Members reported that they have spoken to many people in the town all of whom were in support of the crematorium. There is a need to support the wishes of the majority whilst respecting the views of the minority. The income from the crematorium could go a long way to making the cemetery the pride of Norfolk.

It was **AGREED** to refuse both requests.

17 members of the public left the meeting.

5. **PEDESTRIAN CROSSING OUTSIDE CROMER ACADEMY**

It was noted that a meeting had been held with Dr. Baker (Head teacher at Cromer Academy) and Steve White (NCC Highways Engineer) to discuss the options for a safe crossing for students. It was **AGREED** to support Cromer Academy's proposal for the installation of flashing 20mph wigwag signs.

6. **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:** 7pm, 18 January 2016

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

Members of press and public left the meeting.

8. **PERSONNEL MATTERS**

The Mayor updated members in respect of an issue which has arisen and read out the correspondence to date to which there were no comments from members. The legal advice is that all correspondence from the complainant sent is via the solicitor. It was noted that the personnel committee are to meet in the New Year and it is not felt that anything has been done to bring the council in to disrepute.

A conversation about the use of social media and security followed. It was stressed that trolling and social media abuse is on the increase and is a very serious matter and also that the Town Council are responsible for the security of staff and the costs incurred. Thus, there should be a review of the security of officers when away from the building.

There being no further business, the Mayor closed the meeting at 3pm

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Signed

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Dated