

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CROMER TOWN COUNCIL
HELD REMOTELY AT 19:00 ON 15 MARCH 2021**

PRESENT

Mayor Cllr. R. Leeds, Deputy Mayor Cllr. M. Bossingham,
Cllr. T. Adams, Cllr. T. Bartlett, Cllr. D. Baksh, Cllr. P. Bennett,
Cllr. P. Harris, Cllr. M. Hayhurst, Cllr. D. Pritchard, Cllr. D. Roberts,
Cllr. D. Russell, Cllr. M. Russell, Cllr. E. Spagnola, Cllr. P. West

Mrs. J. Chance FSLCC (Town Clerk)
Mrs. J. Warner PSLCC AICCM (Deputy Town Clerk)

1 member of the public
EDP Reporter Sabrina Johnson

1. **MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 01 FEBRUARY 2021**

It was **AGREED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 01 February 2021 be **APPROVED**. The minutes will be signed by the Mayor at the next appropriate opportunity.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were accepted from Cllr. Yiasimi due to illness.

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

Members declared interests as follows:

Cllr. Harris – Norfolk ALC Executive Committee & Cromer Artspace

Cllr. Bossingham – Cromer Royal British Legion

Cllr. Pritchard – Cromer Royal British Legion and local Poppy Appeal Organiser

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

4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr. Richard Parker introduced himself as the Conservative Candidate for the upcoming County Council elections. It was noted that other candidates were also present: Cllr. Adams (Lib Dems), Cllr. Bossingham (Green), Cllr. D. Russell (Labour)

5. **REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Cllr. Adams provided an update in respect of his works for Norfolk County Council which included highway matters and obstructions, dog fouling, tenancy agreements for disabled people. The biggest concern currently is pedestrian safety outside the schools in particular on Mill Road where a child was recently involved in an accident. A request has also been received for a controlled crossing outside Cromer Academy. This will be discussed by the Planning Committee.

In respect of NNDC, Cllrs. Adams and Spagnola both raised concern in respect of some of the discussion re the funding of Cromer Pier. Cllr. Adams advised that

Cromer is not subsidised by the rest of North Norfolk. The town brings in a great deal of revenue for NNDC eg. car parks. It was noted that a challenge has been set to NNDC to fill its vacant properties and it was noted that there has been interest in The Old Station House.

Cllr. Harris raised concern in respect of the No Fishing signs on the pier and asked whether the local shops which sell crab lines are aware. Cllr. Adams advised that the no fishing restriction is due to be lifted on 29 March in line with covid regulations. Cllr. Adams was thanked for all his work and members were pleased to note that a scheme is being progressed for enforcement of the bus gate at the junction of Norwich Road and Overstrand Road.

It was reported that many of the lights along the promenade are not working. Cllr. Adams will ask for an update.

Cllr. Spagnola advised that she is now getting busy again following her time off due to Covid. She is due to attend a Webinar with Chris Whitty and is very involved with the applications to the Sustainable Community Fund and with upcoming projects in North Lodge Park.

6. **POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

6.1 **Minutes of the meetings held on 23 February 2021**

Cllr. Hayhurst presented the minutes of the meetings held on 23 February 2021 which were **APPROVED**.

Members were pleased to see that the precept portion of the Council Tax bill has reduced this year and that the NNDC portion remains unchanged.

Members were in receipt of information circulated by Cllr. Harris in respect of the Vision for Rural Norfolk. Cllr. Harris will draft and circulate a response for consideration.

It was noted that BBC Look East are looking for nominations for Covid related work and suggested that Cromer Cares is nominated.

It was noted that Cromer Cares is being nominated for a National Association of Local Councils Star Council Award.

6.2 **Cashless Society**

It was **AGREED** to instruct the Clerk to write to Duncan Baker MP to raise concern at the fact that some people still rely on cash and do not have bank accounts. It was noted that there are numerous coin meters still in use in properties.

7. **PLANNING TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

7.1 **Minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2021**

Cllr. Adams presented the minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2021 which were **APPROVED**.

It was noted that NCC are reducing the urban verge cutting budget which will have an impact on the Town Council's expenditure. This will be discussed by the Planning Committee. It was suggested that some verges could be sown

with wildflower seeds but noted that for this to be successful the soil needs to be poor quality.

7.2 **Environmental Action Plan**

It was noted that a meeting had been held with NNDC to discuss working together to progress some of the suggestions within the action plan.

8. **WORKS & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

8.1 **Minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2021**

Cllr. Pritchard presented the minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2021 which were **APPROVED**.

The minutes of the meeting of the Commemorations & Events Committee held on 04 March 2021 were **APPROVED**. The Clerk stressed that the Officers will not be able to arrange the 4 days of events without the full help and participation of all members of the Council.

9. **PROMOTIONS & EVENTS COMMITTEE**

9.1 **Minutes of the meeting held on 09 March 2021**

Cllr. Leeds presented the minutes of the meeting held on 09 March 2021 which were **APPROVED**.

Weddings - It was noted that the Admin. Assistant is very busy with enquiries and there are now 16 confirmed bookings for 2021/22. However, the Registrars have very limited availability on the most popular dates to come out to conduct ceremonies. It was suggested that people are made aware that they could have a simple registry office wedding followed by a ceremony conducted by a celebrant at North Lodge. It was noted that arrangements for weddings will possibly change in the future to allow ceremonies in a wider range of places but no decision has yet been made.

NYD Fireworks – It was noted that the committee will meet again with the Safety Advisory Group at the end of July. It is hoped that a final decision regarding whether it is possible to hold the event will be made by early October.

Christmas Events – As with the NYD Fireworks, the event will be regularly reviewed and a final decision made later in the year.

Annual Town Meeting – It was noted that Cllr. Harris will be making the necessary arrangements to broadcast the meeting on youtube.

10. **COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

10.1 **Minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2021**

Cllr. Harris presented the minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2021 which were **APPROVED**.

Wildflower Seeds – It was **AGREED** to budget £100 for the purchase of native wildflower seeds to distribute to school pupils to sow.

Art Space – It was noted that arrangements to use the Art Deco building on the West Prom are proceeding and a meeting is being arranged with NNDC. If all goes to plan it is hoped to open in Summer 2022.

It was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to continue the meeting beyond 9pm

Experience – A remote meeting has been held with a representative from Experience and talks are on-going with Norfolk Wheelers to set up a cycling hub in Cromer. It was suggested that all stakeholders are brought on board at an early stage in the various projects.

Runtun Road Toilets –It was suggested that the revamp of the toilets and installation of a Changing Places facility needs to be pushed forward. Cllr. Spagnola advised that NNDC have had a plan in place for some time. She will contact NCC re the possibility of some funding for the project.

11. **OTHER REPORTS**

11.1 **Reports from Councillors**

Bittern Line – It was noted that the task & finish group are arranging to litter pick the station and there are plans for new planters, better cycle storage and a large Welcome to Cromer sign on the gable end of The Old Station House.

Skatepark – Arrangements are being made to re-open the skatepark on 29 March.

Community Centre - It was noted that the record fairs will restart when non-essential shops are allowed to reopen. It is hoped to also hold some art exhibitions during the summer.

12. **CORRESPONDENCE** (for information only)

Norfolk ALC Newsletters
Norwich Western Link update
Norfolk ALC board member vacancy

13. **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:** 26 April 2021 at 7pm

There being no further business, the Mayor closed the meeting at 09:25pm

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Signed

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Dated