



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF REEPHAM TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2023 AT 7:30PM AT STIMPSON'S PIECE**

**Present: P. Mitchell (Chair), J. Harding, M. Lester, S. James, M. Steel, G. Kular, S. Morgan.
Town Clerk – Kirsty Cotgrove
5 members of the public**

23/206. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were accepted for Alice Hazelwood and Andy Herbert.

23/207. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Cllr Harding declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning application 2023/3201.

23/208. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 11TH OCTOBER 2023

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 11th October 2023 had previously been circulated. The minutes were unanimously **AGREED** and signed.

23/209. INFORMATION ON MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Notice has been given to Broadland District Council and Reepham Parochial Church Council to decline maintenance of the churchyard and church wall. After 27th December, maintenance will be passed to Broadland District Council, who have indicated they will recharge the residents of Reepham via the precept. The Chairman asked Broadland District Councillor Beadle, who was present at the meeting, whether Broadland recharged any other towns or parishes in the district where Broadland was responsible for a disused churchyard and was informed that there were no other arrangements of this kind in Broadland.

23/210. REPORTS FROM POLICE, DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

PC Colin Bailey – Not in attendance.

County Councillor – County Cllr Greg Peck sent his apologies in advance of the meeting. Funding has been agreed for the Western Link by the Government.

District Councillor – District Cllr Beadle spoke regarding the church wall, and advised that it may be possible to arrange delegated authority for the grass cutting in the Churchyard once Broadland take over responsibility. This is likely to be more cost effective than Broadland District Council doing it. The Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) was discussed, and it was confirmed that the 100 properties referred to in REP1 are part of the 141 that have received permission, not in addition to. The sports hall is removed, as it has received permission.

23/211. TO CONSIDER CO-OPTION TO FILL VACANCIES CREATED AT THE ELECTION

No-one has come forward yet. This will remain as a standing item.

23/212. TO ADJOURN THE MEETING TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS

Three members of the public indicated that they would like to speak regarding the GNLP consultation. It was **AGREED** to bring this item forward, and that they could speak during discussion of the agenda item.

23/213. GNLP consultation (from Correspondence (a))

A member of the public spoke regarding proposed increase of 155 – 203 properties, and the REP1 allocation. He is requesting that BDC review the allocations.

Another member of the public agreed with this, and queried whether the 141 houses will be built, if

Nutrient Neutrality conditions are met. He asked if the Council can ask the District Council to reconsider the application. This cannot be done, as planning permission has already been resolved. This was disputed by a member of the public. The Clerk will ask for clarification in the response to the consultation, to see if permission for the houses has legally been granted. A 25% increase in allocation for Reepham is also concerning. There is concern that the Plan is not sound, as it doesn't match with the Broadland Local Plan. It will also be queried that there will be an additional 60 houses allowed for in the 203 in the Plan, without any land allocated. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk and Cllr Mitchell will draft a response, to be circulated, to respond that the Reepham allocations are unsound as based on outdated data, and to express concern that the additional allocation of houses has no land associated.

Three members of the public left at 8:02pm.

23/214. FINANCE

(a) To approve list of payments made / to be made

The list of payments was circulated prior to the meeting. It was unanimously **APPROVED**. The RFO had sent an email in advance of the meeting, to confirm that pay increases for staff will take place with effect from the November salary, in line with NALC and National Living Wage increases. All **AGREED**.

(b) To receive the income & expenditure report to 31st October 2023

The Income & Expenditure report was received.

(c) To identify budgetary requirements for the 2024-25 budget, to be considered in the December meeting.

The Clerk, RFO and two Councillors are meeting next week to put together a draft budget. Anyone is welcome to attend. Councillors are asked to send any budgetary requirements to the Clerk in advance of the meeting.

23/215. TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. It covered an update of work taking place at Stimpson's Piece.

23/216. ALLOTMENTS – TO RECEIVE ANY UPDATES

None.

23/217. MARKET PLACE – TO RECEIVE ANY UPDATES

The parking issues remain. Norfolk County Council Highways have said they own the top surface and the Town Council only own the subsoil. An FOI request has been put in to ask who gave permission for the parking restrictions, so legal advice can be obtained.

23/218. OVERTON WAY PLAY AREA - TO RECEIVE ANY UPDATES

Nothing to report.

23/219. TOWN HALL – TO RECEIVE ANY UPDATES

None.

23/220. CEMETERY – TO RECEIVE ANY UPDATES

A large tree has blown over in the recent bad weather. Luckily, it has not damaged any graves. A very reasonable quote has been accepted to remove it.

23/221. STIMPSON'S PIECE – TO RECEIVE ANY UPDATES, AND CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS FROM TRUSTEES

Covered in the Clerk's report.

23/222. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(a) To report on feedback received from the feasibility study by Norfolk Highways regarding traffic management in Reepham

The Clerk and Cllr Mitchell met with County Cllr Greg Peck and Richard Pearson, the Highways Engineer. A

draft report has been produced, which has given some options to deter HGVs from driving into the town, and to enhance the 20mph signage towards the Market Place. It has been requested that additional signage should be considered on the Northern Distributor Road, at the Reepham roundabout turnoff, to direct HGVs onto the A1067 or B1149, unless they need to access the town itself. It has also been suggested that a pedestrian crossing is needed on School Road, as a crossing patrol person has not been found, despite the role being advertised. The Highways Officer has agreed to look into these matters and report back to the Town Council.

(b) To update on the possibility of extending the 20mph speed limit along Norwich Road as far as the junction with The Moor and requesting that HGV vehicles over 3.5t unladen weight are prohibited from the Market Place and Church Hill except for access / deliveries.

Already covered above.

23/223. PUBLIC TOILETS – TO RECEIVE ANY UPDATES

There was an incident of vandalism. The Clerk has spoken to the Headteacher at the primary school, who has dealt with the children involved.

23/224. PLANNING

(a) APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

2023/3252. 53 Station Road, Reepham. New dropped kerb to allow vehicular access to highway (B1145). The Town Council had no objection to this application.

(b) APPLICATIONS DETERMINED

None.

(c) TO CONSIDER LATE PLANNING APPLICATIONS

2023/2332 (2023/2333). 1 & 2 Nelson House, Back Street, Reepham. Internal re-configuration to form a single dwelling, single storey link extension with reconfigured front garden wall. The Town Council had no objection to this application.

2023/3201 (2023/3202). Fern House, Dereham Road, Reepham. Demolitions, alterations and extensions, and landscaping works. The Town Council had no objection to this application, but are disappointed that the historic name of Eynsford House, which is a listed building, has been changed.

(d) TO RATIFY PLANNING CONSULTATIONS RECEIVED BETWEEN MEETINGS

None.

23/225. TO UPDATE ON YOUTH ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS IN THE TOWN

A report was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting, of engagement sessions at the High School, with the Youth Action Board (YAB). There was a lot of discussion surrounding sports facilities. The skatepark and open space at Stimpson's Piece was popular in discussion. The YAB feel that there is sufficient interest and engagement to continue sessions. Another skate park centred session will take place next week. Covered seating areas and outside gym equipment were also discussed. It was agreed that Cllr James should continue spearheading this under her company and the YAB, with the support of the Town Council.

23/226. TO UPDATE ON WIND FARM CABLING CORRIDORS AND APPLICATIONS

Orsted recently advertised a road closure for Booton, using Orchard Lane as part of the diversion route. Members of the public and the Clerk contacted Orsted and Highways to inform them of the unsuitability of this route, and a new diversion route has been agreed.

23/227. TO NOTE CORRESPONDENCE, ITEMS OF INFORMATION & REFER TO FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

(b) Funded Mini Forest plan – covered in Clerk's report

(c) Reepham Runners Cross Country Event – advance notice - Noted.

(d) Request to advertise the charity Christmas Fair – The organisers of a Charity Christmas Fayre have asked if they can display a banner on the Pound Railings. It was **AGREED** that they can do this.

(e) Reepham Community Partnership volunteering event – Will take place on 25th November at Stimpson's Piece. It is hoped that a Councillor could come and man the Town Council stall.

23/228. TO CONFIRM THE DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING –13TH DECEMBER 2023

The Town Council Meeting will take place on Wednesday 13th December at 7:30pm at Stimpson's Piece.

23/229. TO CLOSE THE MEETING

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:50pm.

Minutes Agreed..... 13th December 2023