



Needham Market Town Council  
Community & Assets Committee

Minutes – 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Present: Cllr Phillips, Chairperson; Cllrs Annis, Goodchild, Lea, Mason, Norris, O'Shea, AReardon, J Reardon and Stansfield.

The Town Clerk was in attendance.

CA021/24 Chairperson's Welcome and Apologies for Absence.

Apologies: Cllrs Cave and Lawrence.

CA022/24 The Minutes of the Community & Assets Committee meeting held 21st February were adopted by the 13<sup>th</sup> March Town Council meeting.

CA023/24 To receive Councillors Declarations of Interest for items on the agenda: None.

CA024/24 To consider outstanding projects including those in course of delivery.

The Clerk reported on the Scout Hut Replacement Project. In the past few days and following the decision by the Scouts to proceed with and complete the demolition of the Scout Hut, the Scout Trustees have requested a pause before the rebuild process commences. The contractor is due to commence the rebuild within a few days (22<sup>nd</sup> April). The request for a pause is related to the Scouts seeking a re-evaluation of a quotation from a different contractor. The Clerk immediately spoke with the contractor due on site within a few days and subsequently Cllr Phillips. An exigent email was sent to the Chairperson of the Scouts, seeking an assurance that the work on site can commence, as agreed, on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April. No positive response was received from the Scouts despite follow up emails. The contractor due to start on 22<sup>nd</sup> April is unprepared to do otherwise. Consequently, the contractor will not now be engaged in the project, which leaves the Scouts free to pursue other options.

Cllr Phillips proposed the Clerk prepare a statement setting out the Council's position (draft to be circulated to Councillors). Cllr Mason seconded the proposal. The Committee agreed the proposal.

The Clerk reported the engagement between the Trustees of the Needham Market & Barking Welfare Charities and the Needham Market Allotment Holders Association has broken down. This may leave the Council in a position of having to face demands for the provision of allotments earlier than had the two organisations been able to broker an agreement to extend the current provision of allotments at their current location.

The Clerk reported Council has received £7,867 CIL funding for the first half-year 2024/25. This brings the total CIL funding Council retains to £24,000.

The Clerk reported inspections (Rospa) have been carried out at the two Council play equipment locations, Crowley Park and School Street. The reports included identification of risks, most of which are at the very lowest end of the measures applied. Those issues where more immediate attention is

required will be referred to Council's contractor to resolve. It was noted that the Older Children's Play Area at Crowley Park attracted the primary attention in the Inspector's report. Council has resolved to mitigate the majority of the risks present by rationalising that play equipment with a decision to be taken on provision of any future replacement. Cllr AReardon proposed the Needham Market News letter be used to gauge the level of need for Older Children's Play Equipment. Cllr Goodchild seconded the proposal. The Committee agreed the proposal.

Cllr Annis reported on a complaint received relating to the Town Clock and specifically the noise of its chiming continuing at night. The historical background to its initial endowment was discussed and it was acknowledged that some residents supported the current chiming regimen whilst others have complained. The ancient mechanism of the clock has been maintained to ensure its durability. The cost of adjusting the mechanism would require the services of a horologist with specialist technical knowledge, the cost of which is estimated at £2,500. The Committee agreed the question of continuing the current night-time chiming should be put to residents via the Town Council Newsletter. Cllr Annis agreed to provide the necessary copy for inclusion in the Newsletter.

Cllr Annis gave an update on progress on the Needham Market Community Centre project to improve its sustainability and safeguard its future as the primary community facility in the town. A Project Manager, appointed through Mid Suffolk District Council, is leading current activity which includes surveying the fabric of the building and its internal services, plus a review of current usage, by whom and when. There will also be a broad-based survey of the public's opinion of the Community Centre and how they wish to see it operate in the future. The survey will be carried out via the Town Council Newsletter and, it is intended that a monthly statement will be published on progress on the project.

CA025/24 To consider new projects, their prioritisation and funding, including allocation of CIL funds.

The Clerk referred to Council's Community Infrastructure Investment Plan, which informs decisions on future allocation of CIL to agreed priority projects.

The Committee agreed it would welcome a quotation for the removal/consolidation of items of equipment in the Older Children's play area, Crowley Park.

CA026/24 To consider the Council's Communications functions.

Cllr JReardon reported on the Town Council's Facebook page activity over the past 90 days. 4,017 communications had taken place with 1,328 responded to. There are 488 followers.

Cllr Phillips confirmed Council's policy on illuminated signage in the town centre, which had previously been communicated erroneously.

CA027/24 To receive a report from Council's Civic Events Working Group

Cllr Lea reported a meeting is to be held with Reverend Tracey James (St John the Baptist Church) on 22<sup>nd</sup> April to set a date for, and agree initial activity, regarding the 2024/25 Civic Service.

Cllr Lea referred to discussions taking place relating to the future of the local branch of the British Legion and, any potential involvement by the branch in the 2024 Remembrance Service.

CA028/24 To consider Crime Prevention and Community Health and Wellbeing issues.

Cllr Phillips reported he had met with the Needham Market Neighbourhood Watch Chairperson and, it was agreed 'first point of contact' information concerning the reporting of crimes by members of the public, is to be resurrected.

Cllr AReardon reported 35 people had attended the Flooding – Public Engagement meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. A number of people agreed to form a Flood Group including a volunteer Chairperson. The Group has met with local MP Dan Poulter and with him looked at the flood risk situation around Pinecroft Way.

CA029/24 To consider a response to the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, Norwich to Tilbury Electricity Transmission, statutory consultation.

Following debate, Cllr Phillips proposed Council submit its objection to the proposed pylon route and that alternative options, such as offshore energy transfer, be fully researched. Cllr Lea seconded the proposal. The Committee agreed the proposal.

CA030/24 To receive an update from the Council’s Climate Awareness Group (CAG).

Cllr AReardon reported the forthcoming Former Needham Market Middle School playing field land audit is to be undertaken by Ross Piper. A report will go to the 21<sup>st</sup> May Climate Action Group meeting with a view to extracting thoughts/ideas following the land audit.

Cllr AReardon, referring to the newly planted orchard on the Former Needham Market Middle School playing field, said more trees have been received and the team from the Climate Action Group are working on a watering scheme.

The Meeting closed at 8:49pm.

Signed..... Committee Chairperson Date.....

Addendum: Minute form Community and Assets Committee Meeting 12.06.2024

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It is a common mistake to think that the derivative of a function is the same as the function itself. In fact, the derivative of a function is a new function that represents the rate of change of the original function. For example, the derivative of  $f(x) = x^2$  is  $f'(x) = 2x$ .

One of the most important properties of the derivative is the chain rule. This rule allows us to find the derivative of a composite function. For example, if  $y = f(g(x))$ , then the derivative of  $y$  with respect to  $x$  is  $y' = f'(g(x)) \cdot g'(x)$ .