



Needham Market Town Council

Community & Assets Committee

Minutes – 16.10.2024

Chair's welcome and apologies of absence:

Present: Cllr Goodchild (In the Chair) Cllrs: T Cooke, L Cornish, K Hunter, T Lawrence, I Mason, M O'Shea, A Reardon, J Reardon, G Sinnerton.

Apologies: Cllrs G Cave, R Darnell, M Norris, M Ost.

There were three members of the public present, representing the Skate Park Committee.

To receive and confirm the minutes of the Community and Assets Committee Meeting held 21.08.2024: The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest for items on the agenda: None.

To receive questions from any members of the public present: Jude Bloomfield, on behalf of the Skate Park Committee gave a presentation, a copy of the slides with fuller details was shared with Councillors after the meeting :

- Fearless Ramps have provided an example of what construction might be possible with the projected budget. This could be scaled up or down. Fearlessramps.com
- 20m x 15m, galvanised steel with Skatelite surfacing. Non-permanent structure.
- Location proposed is at the top of the Middle School Field to the south of the line of trees running through the field.
- Budget: £70,000 NM Institute; £1165 on the JustGiving site; £17,850.96 in the committee's account.
- Fearless Ramps currently have capacity to start works at Easter for Summer 2025 opening.

The following were discussed in brief:

- Floodlighting not required or desired.
- Insurance implications for Town Council.
- Due diligence exercise needed.
- Middle School Field Consultation responses need to be considered.

To consider outstanding projects including those in the course of delivery:

Crowley Park Younger Children's Play Area: The granular resin safety surface repair kit took some time to source but has now arrived. A date will be agreed to install.

There has been no further deterioration to any new areas of the surfacing.

CCTV: Cllr J Reardon to set a date to visit the Bury St Edmunds monitoring centre.

Bus shelters: a review of these needs to be added to the next agenda.

To approve any works required/review quotes: No quotes to discuss. There has been further vandalism to the Barrett's Lane toilets with wall and dividing panels being smashed through. The men's toilet has had to be closed. A working group will review what needs to be done and look at the possibility of changing the material used.

To consider new projects, their prioritisation and funding, including allocation of CIL funds: No new projects to discuss.

To consider the Council's communication functions:

Newsletter: A review of costs and income in terms of advertising prices is needed. Cllr T Cooke will progress this.

Website and Emails: We are still waiting for Hugo Fox to finalise their process to move us to .gov.uk domain and email addresses. The cost will be £32 per month with 20 email addresses.

Middle School Field Consultation: Response was very good. This was available to residents to submit responses online via our Facebook page and the website and paper copies were available from the Library and the office. There was also a paper insert in every October Newsletter.

To receive a report from the Council's Civic Events Group:

Remembrance: Final details were shared, and councillor responsibilities decided.

Christmas Street Fayre: It was agreed that the section of the Town Council's car park closest to the main road in Jubilee Crescent will be closed for this event.

VE Day 80th Anniversary: This is on 8th May 2025. It was agreed that this event will be marked in some way. Details to be discussed.

To consider crime prevention and community health and wellbeing issues: CCTV, as above.

To receive a report from the Council's Climate Action Group: The minutes of this meeting had been circulated to councillors. There were no questions.

To consider Town Council obligations referenced in the Section 19 Flood Report:

Town Council have already agreed to progress the two actions suggested as being its responsibility. A working party will be set up to progress these. Cllr Hunter will liaise with the Joint Planning Unit and report back.

To consider requests for donations towards community activities: None

To consider returns from Middle School Field and Community Centre Consultation:

The consultation closed on 14.10. 2025. Cllr Goodchild shared some slides with an initial summary of some aspects of the responses which need further analysis. These slides will be shared with councillors.

In terms of the Skate Park question, there were enough positive responses to warrant exploration of the project. The following were agreed:

- The consultation responses need a full analysis to determine the full extent of opinions.
- Cllr Goodchild will liaise with the Skate Park Committee.
- Councillors will consider the presentation given.
- Details for a due diligence exercise will be drawn up.
- The Skate Park Committee will discuss the possibilities of an extension for the grant from the NM Institute.
- An update will be given at the Town Council meeting on 13.11.2025.

To discuss the Warm Winter Spaces initiative: It was agreed that a budget of up to £50 be allocated to supply the Library with tea, coffee, soups and biscuits as last year. Cllr A Reardon will liaise with Library staff.

To consider comments/requests from members of the public via email:

Allotments: Town Council will now keep a list of interested members of the public and no longer pass names to the Needham Market and Barking Charity.

Jubilee Crescent upkeep: Cllrs J Reardon and Cave will be liaising with Alan Warner regarding what is needed and the time he allocates to it.

Phoenix Football Club fees: It was agreed to charge the same amount as for 2023-24.

Meeting Closed: 8.30pm

Signed (Chair):

Date: