



Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting of Newmarket
Electors
Tuesday 25th May 2021 at 6.00pm at the Memorial Hall,
High Street, Newmarket, Suffolk, CB8 8JP

Attendance:

Cllr M Jefferys, (Town Mayor), Cllrs Appleby, Berry, Borda, Crissall, Drummond, Fitzgerald, Hall, Harvey, Hood, Hulbert, O'Neill, Winter and Yarrow.

From SCC: Cllrs Drummond and Hood.

From West Suffolk Council – Council Leader – M Marks, Cllrs K Soons and R Nobbs.

Also present: D Baines – Town Clerk, C Whitaker – RFO, C Argyroudi – Events Manager, G Colby – Administrator, J Ashton – Minute Assistant, Inspector Shipton – Suffolk Constabulary, W Butcher – PCSO, 1 Member of the press and 14 Members of the Public.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs D'Ath and Lay. Cllrs Anderson and Clover were absent.

2. Introductions and Welcome from The Town Mayor

The Mayor opened the meeting and gave a summary of the year during this difficult time and confirmed that the council had continued to meet and conduct its' business successfully by virtual means. The theme for the year, had been partnership working; the Town Council's immediate response to the pandemic was to create a Helpline for those in the Town needing support. This had been achieved by working with other organisations and individuals in the Town – particularly, the volunteer network; with the common goal of helping the residents of Newmarket, during these unprecedented times.

Adoption of the Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan in February 2020 not only as planning policy, but as a working document had led to the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan committee. Through this committee a number of working groups had been created – open to members of the public, to further the 57 Community Actions defined in the Neighbourhood Plan. Included in the community actions are improvements to the public realm – these have been and will continue to be a priority, and will require the Town Council to work with both West Suffolk and Suffolk County Councils, to strive to make the town centre and the High Street as attractive an area as possible. With this in mind, a project to undertake improvements to the Clock Tower area is already well underway.

During the year, the Town Council welcomed the return of cricket to the Severals and the theme of partnership working drew 2020 to a close, as the Town Council participated in the organisation and running of the Father Christmas visit, distributing presents to the children of Newmarket. The Town Council now looks forward to holding a successful Soap Box Derby event in 2021,



Cllrs Berry and Fitzgerald joined the meeting

3. Open Session – Questions from Electors to Representatives of The Three Local Authorities Responsible for the Town of Newmarket

A resident asked if a Working Group could be set up to look at providing affordable housing in Newmarket. This is part of the Neighbourhood Plan Actions and an item will be added to the Neighbourhood Plan Committee agenda

A resident asked what happened to the investigation to redesign the High Street. The Mayor agreed that there had not been an update on this. Cllr Drummond noted, that this is an action of Newmarket Vision and they will be meeting next month to agree the priorities next year

Inspector Shipton invited questions.

Cllr Soons asked what difference the PCSO is making. Inspector Shipton responded that his main focus was in community engagement and being visible. He meets regularly with the Council and provides a monthly bulletin of recent activities. The Town Council will look to publish these on the website.

Cllr Drummond asked if Inspector Shipton would be supporting the renewal of the Cumulative Impact Assessment - he confirmed that he would continue to do so.

Cllr Hall asked if there were plans to have a similar scheme in Newmarket to that in Cambridge where the Fire Service runs courses for young offenders. The response, was that there is currently a Police Cadet force in Mildenhall and the Fire Service also offer a scheme which could be rolled out to Newmarket.

Cllr Hulbert queried the hours of PCSO in respect of evening and weekend coverage. Inspector Shipman confirmed that the PCSO worked contract hours and that Newmarket has 24-hour Police cover by the response and SNT teams. The primary focus of a PCSO is that of Community Officer rather than Police Officer.

4. To Receive Questions Relating to Reports of the Following Committees:

Cllr J De'Ath – Chairman of the Community and Leisure Services Committee

A report on the work of the Committee was displayed in the Hall.

Cllr C O'Neil - Chairman of the Development & Planning Committee

A report on the work of the Committee was displayed in the Hall.

The Mayor - Chairman of the Finance & Policy Committee

A report on the work of the Committee was displayed in the Hall

Cllr C O'Neill– Chairman of the Human Resources Committee

A report on the work of the Committee was displayed in the Hall.



Cllr A Appleby – Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee

A report on the work of the Committee was displayed in the Hall.

5. To Receive any Reports West Suffolk District Council

A resident reported that a petition had been started to require questions relating to drivers meeting horses and how to safely respond, included in driving tests and asked if the horse crossing signage and warning signals around Town were going to be improved.

Signage is the responsibility of SCC Highways who work closely with Jockey Club Estates for horse related signage and Cllr Hood agreed to take this forward. The Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee would also put this item on the agenda.

Cllr Drummond gave an update on the following:

- Newmarket Cinema – now on hold but they were looking for other opportunities
- Newmarket market – prior to the restrictions there were 7-8 permanent traders which was now up to 9 plus casual traders. Costs remain high due to the logistics of the barriers and better infrastructure will be looked at.
- Local Plan – awaiting an assessment on public open space and sports facilities. SCC are working on a development brief for St Felix housing and a sports hub.
- Grosvenor carpark – now resurfaced and next will be the Market Square.
- Residents Parking Zone – proposals from SCC were awaited and West Suffolk are chasing them up.
- Tree planting – plan to plant more trees at the George Lambton playing fields
- Cumulative Impact Assessment consultation ends 28th June 2021.
- Crossing at Laureate School

Cllr Soons – reported that the pedestrian crossing at the Laureate School had been agreed in principle and was being costed. Resident views are being sought in a Traffic Regulation Order consultation for changes to stopping and waiting times in Exning Road.

6. To Receive any Reports From Suffolk County Councillors

Cllrs Drummond and Hood gave an update on the following:

- Education, health highways and environment – SCC main priorities
- Heritage project at the Horseracing Museum
- Refurbishment of Foley House
- Pedestrian crossing at Laureate School
- Free Cycling sessions by Bikeability and the Fix your Bike scheme
- Supported the Wetherby Crossing
- Install more electric charging points
- Environmental emergency work with West Suffolk
- Support resident concerns regarding Sunnica
- New special education needs building at Exning



Newmarket

TOWN COUNCIL

- A Town Museum
- Road safety
- Free recycling centre

Cllr Hall asked what was being done to repair the pot holes in Newmarket. Repairing pot holes had taken longer during the restrictions but schedules were now back to normal. Reports are available on the SCC website.

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 6:53pm

Signed by the Chairman

Dated 11th May 2022