

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**MONDAY, 8th APRIL 2019**

Present: Cllr P. Conquest (Chair), Cllr P. Allen, Cllr K. Bond, Cllr B. Cutts, Cllr R. Dallyn, Cllr J. Godwin, Cllr J. Hart, Cllr M. Johns, Cllr J. Lynch, Cllr S. McMurray, Cllr D. Reynolds, Cllr L. Samiotis

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr C. Blake, Cllr D. Tarbun

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Open to the Public

TVBF representative, Jeremy Binley, and Architect, Mark Newell were in attendance for Item 4.

4. Tove Valley Baptist Fellowship

TVBF representative, Jeremy Binley and Architect, Mark Newell, gave a presentation to the TC of its revised plans for the Tove Valley Centre off Northampton Road. Its original proposals were re-costed in 2018, and due to the significant increase in estimates, the TVBF has remodelled its plans for the centre, which will now be delivered in 2 phases. Of the anticipated cost to complete Phase 1, 75% has been raised and it is expected that the remaining funds can be achieved through private/corporate contributions which will enable construction to commence later in 2019.

In May, TVBF plans to apply to SNC for substantial funding from the New Homes Bonus Fund and is seeking the written support of the TC for its application.

TC members put forward a number of questions.

The application includes 29 spaces in Phase 1 and a total of 51 spaces including Phase 2. Cllr Hart raised concerns about the limited number of car parking spaces for the centre, and the possible impact of this on off-street parking within the adjacent Shires Estate. Mark Newell anticipates users will occupy the long stay public car park on Northampton Road and confirmed the revised planning application includes a footpath link between the car park and the Tove Valley Centre site.

Cllr Dallyn considers parking will be difficult as the long stay car park is already fully occupied daytimes and is currently closed overnight.

Cllr Reynolds enquired about the financing to deliver the project. It was confirmed that TVBF has set aside £500,000 in reserves, and applied for a £500,000 loan from the National Baptist Union fund. The planned application for New Homes Bonus funding is £150,000. The remainder will be achieved through private/corporate contributions as well as continued fundraising. The completed building will be held in Trust by the Baptist Union for the TVBF.

Cllr Johns enquired about the anticipated revenue costs. Jeremy Binley confirmed that a 3-year budget had been devised and it is hoped that hiring out the venue will cover the majority of the running costs for the centre.

Proposal

Cllr Samiotis proposed that the Town Council writes a letter of support for the Tove Valley Baptist Fellowship to receive funding from the New Homes Bonus; seconded by Cllr Mc Murray; 11 votes in favour. 2 abstentions; proposal carried.

5. Town Mayor's Itemsa) Report back from the Town Mayor on events he has recently attended

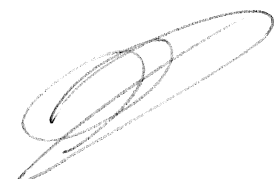
29.03 NCC Chairman's Civic Dinner at Daventry Court Hotel & Spa

07.04 The Town Mayor of Raunds' Civic Service at St. Peter's Church, Raunds

Cllr Conquest said the Raunds Civic Service had been very well attended and included awards to volunteers for their service to the community. He suggested this would be a good idea for Towcester. The Clerk confirmed that the TC had previously operated the Bill Stephenson Awards with presentations to the nominated Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year taking place at the Annual Meeting of the Town Council (Mayormaking). Sadly, it was necessary to cease these awards due to a lack of nominations for both categories.

Proposal

Cllr Samiotis proposed that discussions on re-introducing a Citizen's Award Scheme be added to the agenda for the next Town Council Meeting; seconded by Cllr McMurray; all in favour.



b) To consider alterations to the Town Mayor's Chain of Office

The Mayoral regalia has been returned from Toye, Kenning & Spence following minor repairs and updates to the engraving. In the coming years, it will be necessary for the TC to consider adjustments to the Town Mayor's Chain of Office to accommodate additional engraving. She will circulate proposals for TC members to consider. The Clerk has also received a quotation of £490.00 for a new, bespoke, case for the Town Mayor's chain as the clasps of the existing case are not secure. TC members were in agreement that this quotation is excessive and alternative solutions will be investigated.

6. Report back from:-a) Cllr A. Sadygov, Northamptonshire County Council

Cllr Sadygov was not in attendance and had not forwarded a report for the meeting.

b) A representative of South Northamptonshire Council

Cllr Dallyn reported that discussions on the Towcester Relief Road are at 'stalemate'. Construction of the relief road is scheduled to be completed upon occupation of the 1016th property within the Southern Urban Extension development. Current proposals include four roundabouts and a 40mph speed limit. TC members agreed this will not remove heavy through traffic from the town centre, and Highways England has stated it will not de-trunk the A5. At the current rate of sales, the road is unlikely to be constructed before 2025. At the last meeting of its Full Council, Cllr Johns urged SNC to become more involved in negotiations concerning the relief road. This motion was approved but subsequently scaled back.

Cllr Lynch pointed out that SNC was aware of the proposed design of the road when planning permission for the development was approved but it made no effort to tell the town. It is a service road for Persimmon Homes to build houses and will serve the development's new residents; which has been paid for by S106 monies. The cost of improvements to the Tove and Abthorpe roundabouts were met by Central Government and not S106 monies, despite the vast profits being made by Persimmon Homes. With the number of cars just from new residents of the development being estimated at 3,500, there will be no chance of HGVs using this route.

Cllr Dallyn advised he had been contacted by a number of residents of Highfields concerned about the re-routing of HGVs along this road due to the temporary road closure at Wood Burcote. This diversion has now ended.

Cllr Dallyn confirmed that SNC plans to install CCTV on the Richmond Road car park due to a recent increase in vandalism. Cllr Dallyn also reminded those present that the Watermeadows Fun Day will take place on Tuesday, 16th April.

7. Minutes of MeetingsProposal

Cllr Godwin proposed to that the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday, 11th March 2019 be signed by the Chairman as a true record; seconded by Cllr McMurray; all in favour.

8. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Minute Page 19/03/037 – The Clerk confirmed that Surveyors, Ash & Co, continue to manage the Sponne Shopping Centre but the former Poundstretcher car park is still owned by the Mid Counties Co-op. Ash & Co. is being frustrated by the non-response from the Co-op to complaints it has raised regarding the condition of the car park and vandalism to the empty store. The Clerk reported that an elderly gentleman had recently tripped and injured himself in the car park due to the failed lighting. Cllr Johns agreed to follow up on this matter and report back.

Minute Page 19/03/038 – The Clerk confirmed the formal resignation of Cllr Lofts from the Town Council now he has moved out of Towcester. To date, she has received three enquiries requesting further information on the Councillor vacancies. Cllr Johns suggested that interested parties be encouraged to attend meetings to learn more about what is involved. Cllr Lynch said he would be happy to speak with anyone interested in becoming a Councillor.

9.a) Nominations for the roles of Town Mayor 2019/20Proposal

Cllr Johns proposed that Cllr Lisa Samiotis be nominated for the role of Town Mayor for the ensuing year; seconded by Cllr McMurray; all in favour.

b) Nominations for the roles of Deputy Town Mayor 2019/20Proposal

Cllr Allen proposed that Cllr Dallyn be nominated for the role of Deputy Town Mayor for the ensuing year; seconded by Cllr Lynch; all in favour.



10. Report from the Chairman of the:-Resources/Planning Committee

Cllr Samiotis had nothing to report

Premises Committee

Cllr Hart reported that repairs to the ceiling of Town Hall Office 7 have been completed following the ingress of water. The ladies toilets which serve the main hall will be repaired and redecorated once completely dried out. Cllr Hart also confirmed that the committee had decided NOT to proceed with purchasing AV equipment for the Sawpits Centre at this time. Cllr Conquest asked whether the committee would consider the purchase of a projector stand as a minimum and it was agreed for this item to be placed on a future agenda.

Recreation/Leisure Committee

Cllr Dallyn reported that Towcester in Bloom seeds had been sown with planned entry into the East Midlands in Bloom competition in 2020. The aim this year is to expand upon the existing town centre floral displays and reintroduce the Best Kept Garden Competition. The TC will look into opportunities for additional planters in areas such as Whittons Lane, Moat Lane and Sponne Shopping Centre; however, planning permission will be required. A number of local organisations have expressed interest in becoming involved.

Cemetery Committee & Allotment Working Group

Cllr Godwin had nothing to report.

11. Reports back from Town Council representatives on news from Local Bodies

Cllr Johns was delighted to report that Reverend Paula Challen has accepted the position as Vicar of Tove Benefice.

Proposal

Cllr Lynch asked that the Clerk writes a letter of congratulations to Reverend Paula on behalf of the Town Council; seconded by Cllr Godwin; all in favour.

Cllr Hart reported that the Sponne & Bickerstaffe Charity had completed its quinquennial inspection of the alms houses and concluded that £220,000 of repairs are required to be undertaken over the next 5 years. The Charity is planning to submit an application to SNC to receive New Homes Bonus funding towards this cost. Cllr Samiotis confirmed that the next deadline for applications is 31st May 2019.

Cllr Samiotis was pleased to report that TTFC Girls team won in the recent final against Woburn. She also reminded those present that the Annual Tournament will take place on 8th & 9th June with 110 teams registered to participate.

Cllr Allen reported that the most recent meeting of Northants CALC had been cancelled due to absence. He had attended the National Assembly in London on behalf of NCALC and was made very welcome.

Cllr Hart reported that the annual Sponne & Bickerstaffe duty to attend church on 25th April will go ahead as part of the requirements of the Trustees. Referring to the town centre flags/flowers, she said that the number of businesses/residents participating this year has increased. Arrangements have been made for the flags and flowers to be put up in time for the Towcester Food Festival and Annual Football Tournament, both on the weekend of 8th/9th June.

12. Northamptonshire ACRE - Good Neighbour Scheme (GNS)

This item had been placed on the agenda to give TC members the opportunity to consider whether a Good Neighbour Scheme should be created in Towcester. A GNS pilot has been set up in Whittlebury and is receiving good feedback. Concern was expressed that Towcester may be too big to have a GNS. The Clerk has been directed towards Moulton Parish Council to give an example of the scheme operating in a larger parish. Cllr Johns offered to investigate how the scheme operates in Moulton and will report back to the next Town Council Meeting on 8th April.

13. Northamptonshire Unitary Authorities

The Clerk confirmed she is due to attend a meeting with SNC Assistant Director of Finance, Kelly Watson, on 25th April to discuss the TC expression of interest in assets belonging to SNC.

14. Correspondence

Northants CALC – The Northants CALC e-update for March/April 2019 had been forwarded to all TC members via email prior to the meeting.