# DISS TOWN COUNCIL

# MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the **Infrastructure Committee** held **online on Zoom** on **Thursday 23rd April 2020** at **8pm.**

Present: Members S. Browne (ex-officio)
D. Collins
M. Gingell
S. Kiddie
A. Kitchen
S. Olander (ex-officio & Chair)
D. Poulter
E. Taylor
J. Welch

In attendance: Councillor J. Robertson
Sarah Richards, Town Clerk
Sonya French, Deputy Town Clerk
Robert Ludkin, Maintenance Manager

**INF0420/01 APOLOGIES**
There were no apologies.

**INF0420/02 NOMINATION OF SUBSTITUTE REPRESENTATIVES**
There were none.

**INF0420/03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST[1] AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**
There were none.

**INF0420/04 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**
It was

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Infrastructure Committee held on 19th February 2020 were confirmed and signed as a true record subject to an amendment to the venue as the Council Chamber at the Corn Hall.

**(Action: Clerk; immediately)**

**INF0420/05 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
There were no members of the public present.

**INF0420/06 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**
There was one item raised regarding parking enforcement. It was noted that South Norfolk Council car parks are free of charge during Covid-19 and on-street parking enforcement is continuing with tickets issued by Kings Lynn. Councillor Kitchen has been notified of an incident of a carer being ticketed when parking outside a residence and the Clerk agreed to follow up with South Norfolk Council when relevant details are forwarded.

**(Action: Clerk / AK; immediately)**

**INF0420/07 VINCES ROAD JUNCTION**
Councillors considered a proposal from Norfolk County Council regarding improvements to the Vinces Road junction to alleviate congestion (copy details referred). The previous agreed scheme in 2015 was a two-lane exit from Vinces Road and mini roundabout. Due to challenges negotiating with the landowner to progress a Compulsory Purchase Order, NCC has proposed a new traffic signal controlled three-arm junction with dedicated right turn filter on the east arm, for which they seek committee approval.

There was discussion around the rationale for progressing the new proposal instead of the original scheme, the loss of local business and impact on residents if the junction improvements are not progressed and the impact of another set of traffic lights and pedestrian crossings on the A1066. It was noted that NCC's legal team has stated that the likelihood of a successful CPO case given the landowner's opposition is too low to warrant further investigation.

Members discussed the challenges of the proposed scheme fettering access to at least 11 properties, the negotiation required with landowners and the likelihood of these negotiations resulting in multiple legal

challenges particularly given that residents may have already established a Right of Way despite the apparent lack of dropped kerbs for driveway accesses.

It was noted that the funds for the original scheme were transferred into the 2020-21 financial year and that at least four major businesses, employing between 100 and 300 staff, located off of Vinces Road have been pushing for junction improvements for many years. NCC's traffic safety team have stated they would not support access to the row of properties to the south of the junction, requiring options to prevent parking access and NCC is reviewing the Sawmills Road and the A1066 junction, which currently allows vehicular access at a similar traffic light junction. It was

RESOLVED: To support in principle the proposal from Norfolk County Council to install a traffic signal controlled three-arm junction with dedicated right turn filter on the east arm but to first request a report setting out how and in what timescale NCC will manage the legal process of amending the access to the affected residential properties to enable delivery of the proposed scheme, identifying the legal issues to be addressed and the manner in which each will be resolved.

**(Action: Clerk; immediately)**

**INF0420/08 MARKET PLACE / MERE STREET TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER**

Councillors considered a review of the Market Place / Mere Street Traffic Regulation Order created in 2011 given changes to the market operation (copy details referred). It was noted that Norfolk County Council's legal team has stated that the timings of the TRO must be enforced despite fewer market stalls, earlier trader departure times and fewer pedestrians given Covid-19. The TRO also states that only traffic wardens and the Police can allow any vehicle to travel along Market Place / Mere Street.

The TRO sign stating 'No entry to vehicles between 5.30am and 6pm on Fridays' sign cannot act as a replacement for the bollards. It was noted that the question raised to NCC's legal team regarding the TRO stated departure time for market traders was not answered and would be raised again. The market traders can currently depart using the Market Place / Chapel Street exit but that this would not be possible when normal market operation resumes. There was discussion regarding the poor lighting in the area, which is being addressed and the proposed earlier end time to the TRO of 4pm should avoid market stalls having to pack up in the dark in winter months. It was

RESOLVED: to review the Market Place / Mere Street Traffic Regulation Order created in 2011 given changes to the market operation.

**(Action: Clerk / SO / RL; by 31.12.20)**

**INF0420/09 PROGRESS REPORT**

Councillors noted progress on decisions made at the last meeting of Council related to the Infrastructure Committee. Updates were provided as follows. There are nine lights still to be repaired in Blomefield Road, on Fair Green, in Ladbrook Close, Mission Road and Thomas Manning Road. Suffolk County Council's contractors are reviewing the cabling and options for gear tray replacement along with access requirements, having already changed all decorative lamps in Mere Street and Market Place.

The TRO for Nelson Road i.e. double yellow lines along Nelson Road, Sawmills Road, Oak Drive and part of Sandy Lane has been approved and the works are being scheduled. The architect for Wetherspoons has confirmed the agreed name of the development as Kings Head Yard. A request to consider just the Kings Head has been forwarded not least because the whole existing car park area is known as the Kings Head Yard and given that there is likely to be at least one other premises in the Yard.

**INF0420/10 MEMBER FORUM**

There were no issues relevant to this committee raised by members for brief discussion, action or inclusion on a future agenda.

**INF0420/11 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

To note that the next meeting of the Infrastructure Committee will be scheduled as required.

Meeting Closed at: 9.49pm.

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Chairman: Councillor Olander