



## **ATTLEBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL**

Town Hall, Queens Square, Attleborough, Norfolk, NR17 2AF  
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### **Minutes of the Meeting of Attleborough Town Council Held on Thursday, 14 July 2016 at 7.00pm in the Town Hall**

#### **Present:**

Cllr J Burton - presiding

Cllr G Ellis	Cllr J Williams	Cllr V Dale	Cllr S Taylor
Cllr M Weaver	Cllr A Perkins	Cllr T Cobb	Cllr A Busk
Cllr E Tyrer	Cllr R Bond	Cllr T Crouch	Cllr T Taylor

In attendance – Gina Lopes – Clerk to Attleborough Town Council  
Sarah Watts – Admin Assistant (minute taker)

Dist Cllr K Martin                      Dist Cllr A Stasiak

Mr Tim Mills (Breckland Dist Council)      Mr Phil Mileham (Breckland Dist Council)

Mr Ian Parkes (Norfolk County Council)

Mr Richard Doleman (Norfolk County Council)

Elizabeth Wrigley (ANP Consultant)

30 x public

#### **044.16) Chairman's Welcome**

Mayor Jeremy Burton introduced the meeting. He explained the public were invited to speak during "Public Participation" items 4 and 8 on the agenda. He stated many of the Council members were local Attleborough residents and continued by expressing his disappointment that Cllr Alec Byrne from Norfolk County Council was unable to attend. However in attendance were representatives from the Breckland District Council, Cllr Keith Martin and Mr Phil Mileham and Mr Tim Mills and Ian Parks and Richard Doleman from Norfolk County Council. Also in attendance were representatives from Attleborough's Emergency Services, members of the Attleborough Neighbourhood Steering Group and Liz Wrigley, planning consultant working on behalf of Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan.

The Chairman advised the aim of the meeting was to provide the opportunity to go through the Neighbourhood Plan document; consider agenda items regarding proposed Highway improvements and the recently formed Attleborough Development Partnership, which consisted of both Town and District Councillors.

#### **045.16) Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted as below:

Cllr K Montague      -      work  
Cllr J Blyth            -      personal

Further apologies noted from NCC Cllr Byrne and Dist Cllr Ashby

**046.16) Declarations of Interest**

**a) To receive and consider declarations of interest in items below**

Declarations of Interest were received as below:-

Cllr E Tyrer - Employment Land and the Indoor Sports Centre.

**b) To receive and consider dispensations in respect of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests - None**

**047.16) Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr Tony Perkins, Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group gave a verbal report which included the following:-

- It was several years since these discussions started and after countless meetings the Group are now able to present a Neighbourhood Plan in draft form for the public to comment upon for the future of Attleborough
- Many topics have been addressed, Education, Transport, Health and Social Care.
- The plan is not a fix or a cure but to protect what we already have; a green historic Town Centre
- It aims to promote Health, Education, and Employment, Sports facilities, Tourist attractions and Attleborough as a destination
- Sections 2 and 3 explore the development of new housing and more
- The time scale for the Plan is until 2036 another 20 years to implement building of housing to accommodate double the population, from approx. 11,000 existing inhabitants to an expected 20,000; an unprecedented growth.
- Attleborough is not a new Town it was built for horse and cart
- With the growth will come many additional facilities, availability of Doctors for all of the residents, the building of new schools, many new pupil places
- It was stressed that residents needed to confirm the plan and take it through to referendum stage - comments and feedback from the public were invited during the 6 week consultation period and would provide evidence.
- If the consultation period went well and it was signed-off in September, Regulation 18 could be submitted to the statutory bodies and Breckland Council and Attleborough Neighbourhood plan could then be submitted to referendum.
- Cllr Perkins appealed to residents to read the Plan that was available to view, at the Doctors Surgery, the Library, the Attleborough Town Council offices and on the Attleborough Town Council Website and urged them to make comments which could then be formulated into the Final Plan for submission.
- Cllr Perkins stated that everyone wanted a better Attleborough, a nice environment to appreciate, not a 'Dormitory Town', but to create a thriving economy and to increase employment to the area.
- All want good education for our children and new schools have already been approved, the relocation of the Infant school and another Primary school in London Road
- There is to be a new sixth form academy with 300 places and, from trigger points in the building of new houses, further new schools. The education leaders were making good progress to provide good education in Attleborough.
- Health; there are presently 17,400 users of the Health Centre which is to be redeveloped in Station Road.

- There will be a Dual Registered Care Facility; extensive back ground work has been done nationally into the lack of Dementia care and Elizabeth Burrows has been working very hard to develop this care and a Dementia Care Home.
- Sports; there is presently a lack of provision in Attleborough of open spaces, both formal and informal
- There is to be an Indoor and Outside Sports Hub and provision for a Linear Park from Decoy Common to Hargham Road for additional green spaces in the new planned development
- It was reiterated that the public must read and comment to ensure the Plan is implemented and to expand the play areas, create better movement within the Town, support local shops and stimulate a thriving economy

Councillors' comments were received and included the following:

- A lot of time was spent on producing the Plan and it must be available for all to access
- Reiterated that paper copies are available to view at the Doctors surgery and the Library and available on the website
- The full Plan with a display and presentation would be available to the public on the weekend of the 13 and 14 August 2016 at the Town Hall
- Concern expressed regarding the building of 4,000 to 5,000 new homes presently on the plan, which may rise up to 8000 in the future, query as to what provision had been made regarding the flood plains – noted there is presently a significant problem on Hargham Road and beyond.
- Suggested that these are issues the public should put on the Feedback forms during the consultation
- Concern that some of the proposed highway improvements would further burden the road congestion in the Town

On the motion of Cllr Perkins, seconded by Cllr S Taylor, it was

**RESOLVED** copies of Neighbourhood Plan document would be printed free of charge for those requiring a hard copy

#### **048.16) Public Participation**

**RESOLVED** that the meeting be adjourned to allow the public to speak and points raised included the following:-

- A resident stated that five years ago Attleborough had a brilliant plan but Breckland did not sign-up and ran away from the suggestions. What reassurances will they give they will not do this again? Will it be respected by Breckland Council?
- Cllr Perkins confirmed the ASSHAP was the previous plan but unfortunately there was a change in Government Policy and it was dropped. He stressed the original plan had been used to kick-off the new plan and many aspects had been incorporated into the current ANP. Consultant, Liz Wrigley added at this stage the Plan was going to Phil Mileham at Breckland District Council and the 'Sign-up' was not until the next stage and it was stated there was support for the Plan for many years, Breckland has been interested in supporting the Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan

- Query regarding the development of Station Road Surgery in view of the continued development, is the Plan going over and above, to provide sufficient places?
- No evidence has been gathered through the Plan, however, the Doctors Surgery has taken it upon themselves to do the research and provide more spaces. Elizabeth Burrows stated the Health Centre and the Surgery were going to combine and become twice the size and would be two storeys high on the one site. Plans will be available at the end of August and are presently with the architect. The Norfolk Community Group together with Norfolk Health Services had combined to give funding for this project
- Query on employment issues, is an area provided, or is there encouragement for businesses to come to the area. Will there be any funding available for businesses to employ apprentices? Confirmed that the land had been safeguarded as employment land. 'Nursery' areas were to be created. The Academy were to increase the sixth form to include Apprentice opportunities with the aim to train with local businesses. Noted that at Victory Park they offered hands-on training in engineering and there was to be 26 acres for employment land next to Victory Park
- Cllr Ellis was thanked by a resident for raising the flood concerns and queried what holding provision has been made for the new houses. Advised that there should be a Water Survey, however, concern expressed as the water table is only 18" under the surface and felt unsuitable for building. Noted flooding in Hargham Road but these issues were above the control of Attleborough Town Council, however, could highlight to Breckland Council. Liz Wrigley referred to Objective ESD 4 of the plan, which stated efficient surface water drainage systems will be expected in all new developments. Noted the need for a Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) has been included in the plan document. The Fire Services have also been involved in the clearance and maintenance of the drainage system.
- Resident felt he would have to walk into Attleborough before long because of traffic and that the relief road should be built before development and noted that any incident at the crossing caused a major traffic problem

#### **049.16) Attleborough Development Partnership**

There was a discussion regarding the recently formed partnership and points included the following:-

- The Town Council needed to work with the Development Partnership
- The partnership must understand and support the Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan Tim Mills, Breckland Council, confirmed that local Councillors sit on the Development Partnership and any issues must be put forward through them
- It was commented Swaffham and Watton, do not have to work with the partnership
- Tim Mills confirmed the Development Partnership shared and recognised the Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan and would take it forward in to the new Local Plan
- As Thetford were to develop a further 5,000 houses and Attleborough a further 4,000, it was decided they needed more focus and attention than

Swaffham and Watton and as such were taken to a senior position to work together

- Thetford Partnership had formed two sub-groups, one for planning and projects and the other for community issues, Attleborough were yet to form subgroups
- With the help of the partnership, the Neighbourhood Plan could gain influence within the Local Enterprise Partnership and Norfolk County Council
- Attleborough would have a senior education representative to review post sixteen education and senior representatives in the LEP and government to represent us in terms of what is needed for Attleborough in addition to increasing local influence
- The Neighbourhood Plan group have been working very hard to identify projects and queried if the board will help deliver these and Tim Mills advised that Breckland priorities may not match Attleborough's so they cannot promise but what is available at the time will take precedence
- It was confirmed an independent Chairman will be recruited
- Attleborough Development Partnership has to deliver what is in the Area Development Plan
- Queried if there are any open sessions planned and Tim Mills advised that the ADP thought it best not to have open meetings as some aspects cannot be discussed in public
- Liz Wrigley advised that the Neighbourhood Plan must conform to the core strategy which it does
- Phil Mileham, Breckland Council, commented that such a large Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan had been unexpected and want to make sure both work together. Breckland have to provide a street plan for the whole neighbourhood and not have projects duplicated and have to look at the whole range of developments together with the delivery and partnership and also any other issues as they arise

#### **050.16) Public Participation**

**RESOLVED** that the meeting be adjourned to allow the public to speak and points raised included the following:-

- Resident queried if the Plan is going to referendum or an independent examiner, then to referendum. Would development go ahead even if residents did not like it and Tim Mills confirmed that the decision has already been made to build 4,000 houses
- It was stated the Development Partnership had no authority over this, it was offering Attleborough experience but was not democratic. It would take the Plan to referendum, but Breckland does not yet have a strategy. The money could be reallocated to the infrastructure and residents would have no ability to contest it or have control over membership
- It was questioned if Attleborough Town Council should have more members on the Partnership as there were only three members at present
- A member of the Thetford Partnership stated that it was not working and that Breckland were in control
- Elizabeth Burrows stated she attended two Attleborough Development Partnership meetings both followed protocol and it was good to know the

pitfalls that Thetford were facing. Elizabeth had made some useful contacts and felt the partnership was a good way to access help and added that it is important to work with Breckland and work with those with greater influence

### **051.16) Norfolk County Council Town Centre Improvements Proposals**

Following the recent presentation from Ian Parkes and Richard Doleman, Norfolk County Council Highways, in relation to the redevelopment of the traffic system in Attleborough, it was stated there was £4.6 million available for Attleborough improvements and this was discussed as below:

- The proposal for the gyratory system, to add sets of lights and make Surrogate Street two-way traffic was unanimously rejected by members and they were not happy with the proposals
- There were concerns that the proposals would slow the transit of traffic in the town and felt there were insufficient links to the south of Attleborough and to the new Grampian site
- Members requested a weight restriction of 7.5 tons to be implemented
- Liz Wrigley advised there were proposals to move the market and create a pedestrian area in front of the Town Hall and to create additional car parking space
- Comment that it was a shame the surveyors did not gather more data on other occasions as recently the town was in gridlock and this was a regular occurrence Felt that lights would cause problems to Surrogate Street and Thieves Lane and difficulty to the Emergency services trying to get access through Connaught Road as the fire engine would be able to turn right onto Surrogate Street but then be stopped by the congested traffic
- It was confirmed as per T38A if the proposal was adopted, the street should remain one-way but with 2 cycle lanes allowing the cars to pull over.
- Ian Parkes stated they must promote and encourage the use of cycles and public transport and that CAPITA has suggested the signals. He confirmed there was a growth fund of £4.6 million available and that the proposals were only a starting point and confirmed the response times for the Emergency services had been discussed He also stated the Town would be further relieved when the relief road was built
- There was a need to implement an integrated strategy and it was not being presented as a whole plan
- Query as to how much additional housing could be built before the existing road network would fall down and questioned why the Transport Plan stood alone and was not integrated but held-off until the Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan is launched
- Concern expressed over the plans for Surrogate Street which involved knocking down the church wall, taking down trees which have 'Tree preservation orders' upon them and all on consecrated ground
- Tim Mills confirmed in 2021 the money runs out and if not spent may be lost so need to take the opportunity as there is a profile to be spent each year

**052.16) Public Participation**

**RESOLVED** that the meeting be adjourned to allow the public to speak and points raised included the following:-

- The Fire Officer confirmed the site of the Fire Station was satisfactory and it was not about the emergency services getting out of the town whilst on duty but about getting staff into the town with some staff coming in from a 4-5 mile radius, driving at normal speed
- The key into solving the traffic issues was the link road which would have to be completed before the build of a further 4000 homes
- Residents stressed that the link road should be built now and the plan seems to be back-to-front, building without the infrastructure first
- Mr Terry Cracknell (Neighbourhood Plan) commented that there are six options presented and asked if the other proposals were being considered as this is the recommended one and presently the only viable one
- There was a need for a strategic body; the Attleborough Development Partnership with the structure agreed as the Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan has invested £70,000 and has had professional input with support
- Suggested that Norfolk County Council should build the relief road first and then look to recover costs from the developers later and the Chairman agreed this could be pursued

**053.16) Date of next Meeting**

Monday, 1 August 2016

Meeting closed at 8:50pm