



# Attleborough Town Council

Historic Market Town in the Heart of Norfolk

**Minutes of the meeting of the Attleborough Town Council  
Environment Committee  
Held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7.00 pm  
Held at the Town Hall, Queens Square.**

**Present:**

Cllr T Taylor – presiding  
Cllr A Westby, Cllr P Wenham, Cllr S Taylor, Cllr Mackinnon, Cllr Dale,  
In attendance – Sharon Smyth - Town Clerk  
Anne Willett – Town Clerk Assistant – Minute Taker  
Public x 3

**088.23) Chairman Welcome** – Cllr T Taylor welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologised for starting a few minutes late.

**089.23 Apologies for absence** –  
Cllr De Souza, Cllr J Taylor, Cllr Bond

**090.23) Declarations of Interest**

- a) To receive and consider declarations of interest in items below – None received  
b) To receive and consider dispensations in respect of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests –  
None received

**091.23) Public Participation** –

- A resident living on Mill Lane, Attleborough who had been flooded last October gave her account of the horrendous day they had endured on Sunday trying to clear culverts to avert flooding and spending twelve hours in waders. The resident thanked ATC for their support especially Cllr T Taylor, Cllr S Taylor and Cllr Fraser who had been amazing. Residents are very concerned about keeping the momentum going, there has been a proposed grill which we are concerned about and people are suffering with their mental health. We have to get a solution in place where the water is collected and then slowly released back down the culvert in a controlled manner.
- Cllr T Taylor had spoken to George Freeman's office regarding the flooding and numerous burst pipes across the town, trash screen and culvert but more importantly the attenuation tanks upstream need accelerating. We can make representation to third parties and there are talks about making flood plains further down. Cllr S Taylor stated the new trash screen design would be inadequate and what would be helpful is to explore installing lighting to be able to monitor water levels, Cllr T Taylor and Town Clerk to carry out a site visit, look into ATC funding and arrange an EGM.

- Resident who lives in Leys Lane off Slough Lane yesterday morning a surge of water probably 15-20 feet wide coming down middle of Becker's horse field running down to bottom into the road and round corner into Leys Lane and fills the culvert in Becker's field. It was immense and at the top of Slough Lane the water was coming down the field and by pumping station all the surface was flooded trying to find its way into the first house on the opposite side they had sandbags out. The drains haven't been emptied for many years. Also, nearby houses that have been built the water run off floods the field completely.
- Cllr T Taylor suggested Town Clerk makes representations to NCC engineers for a site meeting.

### **092.23) Minutes of the Environment Committee 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

On the motion of Cllr Dale, seconded by Cllr Wenham, it was

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

**ACTION: CLERK**

### **093.23) Actions Arising From Outstanding Actions – Complaint regarding use of Wheel Park after 9pm.**

Quotations to install higher fencing and auto lock mechanism for gates at Wheel Park.

Cllr T Taylor explained this had been raised by resident who had ongoing issues, there have been two meetings, first with enforcement officer, then follow up meeting at Town Hall. It has become apparent within the permitted development, the planning conditions no longer applied but this wasn't passed on by previous administration. We are no longer forced to act it is whether we chose to find an amicable solution. We have explored higher fencing, automatic locks, better signage and CCTV. Cllr S Taylor queried why when the CCTV was purchased greater consideration was not given to Infra-red lighting and when one light would have been sufficient. It was decided no decision to be made tonight as final figures not to hand and other residents in the area to be consulted.

**ACTION: CLERK**

### **094.23) Correspondence –**

a) Request from Athletics Club

On the motion of Cllr T Taylor, seconded by Cllr Dale, it was

**RESOLVED** – to allow container to be positioned sited for two years and to be reviewed at that point, removal of container to be paid for by Athletics Club.

### **095.23) Town Hall Accessibility -**

Town Clerk gave an update still obtaining quotes for front door bell/intercom and motion sensory lighting. Estimates for platform lift £40,000 to £50,000 and £8,000 for stairlift. Contacted Historic Buildings officer regarding any refurbishment or decorating front of Town Hall. Looking at fire safety procedures and will be contacting Fire Officer again with any questions. Cllr S Taylor pointed out there is no emergency pull cord in disabled toilet Town Clerk confirmed this would be rectified. At a previous event a wheelchair user could not gain access through door so attempted to gain entrance via rear fire doors but lane so uneven was not possible. Town Clerk to obtain costs for a path at rear of Town Hall. Cllr S Taylor suggested identifying the Town Hall as a project and ask Megan Free for help and apply for funding.

### **096.23) Open Spaces**

- Jubilee Wood Update  
There had been a site visit on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and an Open Spaces Work Shop on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024.

Councillor points at site meetings:

**Birch Drive 11am**

A place to quietly reflect

Shrubs to be planted, re-planted and retained – lavender, rosemary, winter flowering. Any plants that are fragrant and visually stimulating. Entry for dogs at the site should be permitted. Bins to be relocated towards the entrance gate to allow rubbish to be put in on exit. A small oak tree in the spare area. There is a past report in existence already to refer to. Paths for mobility scooters, wheelchairs. Possible concrete pad at front of site. Chess tables for recreation favoured.

**Blackthorn Rd 11.30am**

The orchard grant funding is secured. The orchard will make for a more interesting walk. Picnic benches and more bins are needed – but in strategic places. Dog bin is needed at the orchard end. A rewilded area at the orchard end to include hedgehog/insect hotels (behind existing hedgerows also. More bird boxes on the existing trees. (40 trees already on site). Created paths would be beneficial for better access. Trods or tarmac. £73K of S106 for development and maintenance is available. Possible District Member funding of £150,000 is still unclaimed.

**St Edmunds Close 12pm**

The site is very small and so options are fairly limited. Possible site for two affordable houses. Built by ATC for rent or sale. Possible site for an accessible allotment. Rent or sale of housing would bring in investment for other sites. Acknowledged that the overage agreed of one third would be taken by Breckland.

Cllr Wenham suggested a second gate at Birch Drive and edging to beds.

- Decoy Common Update on progress – Already engaged with Norfolk Wildlife Trust Officer, conscious of fencing and looking to progress this.
- Land at St Edmunds Close possible development opportunities – covered in Workshop
- Blackthorn Road possible development opportunities – covered in Workshop
- Birch Drive Update on progress – covered in Workshop

**097.23) Clerks Update with Athletics Club Regarding Line Marker**

On the motion of Cllr Mackinnon, seconded by Cllr S Taylor, it was **RESOLVED** – to approve the purchase a line marking machine  
**ACTION: CLERK**

**098.23) To Consider Two New Chain Saws**

On the motion of Cllr S Taylor, seconded by Cllr Dale, it was **RESOLVED** – to purchase one 18” chainsaw & one 14” chainsaw from Thurlow Nunn  
**ACTION: CLERK**

**099.23) London Road Dog Area Fencing Quotations**

On the motion of Cllr Westby, seconded by Cllr Wenham, it was **RESOLVED** – to accept G & G Fencing quote for Weld Mesh fencing total £2365.00 + VAT  
**ACTION: CLERK**

**100.23) Second Public Participation (10 Minutes)** - None

**101.23) Items for the next Agenda**

Wheel Park

Town Clerk said she would like to give a quarterly report for an Allotments update and informed members there were 2 plots at Grosvenor Park that were not able to be let due to being waterlogged, another plot was left in an unfit state but a tenant has agreed to take it on. A plot at Chapel Road again left in a bad state but now allocated to a lady who is very willing. Splitting the allotment plots into two has proved very successful and has helped bring the waiting list down to 12 people.

Cllr S Taylor, Cllr T Taylor and Senior Groundsman had met at Grosvenor Park to discuss the flooding that had occurred which had also affected nearby fields. Housing were being built nearby and the builders had filled in a ditch which may have caused the flooding as prior to the houses being built there was no flooding. Photographs were taken and are going to be submitted.

Meeting Closed 8.15pm