

**MINUTES of the EXTRAORDINARY FULL COUNCIL MEETING of  
FAKENHAM TOWN COUNCIL  
held at Fakenham Connect, Oak Street, Fakenham  
on MONDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2017 at 6:30pm**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor G Acheson (Town Mayor, Presiding)

Town Cllrs: J Sandford-Cooke, T Duffy, R Smith, A Edwards, G Thorpe, C Brown, M Coates, R Crook, A Vertigan and J Holdom

Town Clerk: L Jennings

Admin Assistant: A Kerrison

District Councillors: None

Press: Alistair Robinson (Fakenham Sun)

Public: 3 members of the public

**91 TO ALLOW 15 MINUTES FOR ELECTORS QUESTIONS**

One member of the public commented that she thought the redevelopment of the Highfield Road car park was unnecessary. She felt this was a short-term solution, and that an increase in council tax should be considered instead.

**92 TO ALLOW 10 MINUTES FOR DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLORS TO ADDRESS THE MEETING**

There were no district councillors present, and no reports had been sent.

**93 TO CONSIDER FOR ACCEPTANCE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr N Westmancott.

**94 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**95 TO DISCUSS THE TOWN COUNCIL RESPONSE FOR THE RE-DEVELOPMENT OF HIGHFIELD ROAD CAR APRK**

Cllr Acheson had produced a document on thoughts about Highfield Road. This was gone through point by point to allow comment from fellow councillors. The following was noted;

- It was agreed to ask for a Freedom of Information Request to find out how many of the car parking spaces on parks owned by NNDC have been sold to businesses for their workers, and permit holders, and what kind of permits they are.
- Cllr Edwards and the Clerk will submit a freedom of information request to NNDC asking for information relevant to Fakenham from the Gleeds report.
- 30 spaces on the Miller's Walk development will be lost due to re-development
- 20 Spaces on the Queens Road car park have been sold to McNamara builders
- There are a large number of houses around the Highfield Road car park with insufficient parking and they use the car park to park their vehicles.
- Traffic flow is already impeded on neighbouring roads due to on-street parking. This is a safety issue and will only get worse if the car park is closed.

- On Page 5 of the document it is stated that NNDC believes a transport hub should be in the middle of town, not on the edge. When the Northern Development is complete, Highfield Road car park will be in the centre of the town.
- FTC feels that NNDC proposal for the car park is an ill thought out, short term policy, which has not been thought through. They also felt that the consultation document produced by NNDC was misleading and disingenuous. FTC needs to produce their own publicity to counter this.

Cllr Smith left the meeting

It was agreed that not being able to park coaches in the town continued to have a detrimental effect on local businesses. Cllr Footse will contact Thursford Collection to ask for a list of the coach companies that come to the Christmas show to gain their views as to whether this has prevented them visiting the town on-route to Thursford. Councillors pointed out that NNDC had stated in their document that coaches could park at the Racecourse once they had dropped their passengers off in town. Cllr Footse pointed out that this had not been agreed with the Gallow's or Racecourse management and had only been an idea.

FTC felt that a development for the over 55's was not needed in the town, and that instead part of the Northern Development could be earmarked for this purpose. They also queried whether any development on Highfield Road would have a strict covenant on the properties preventing future sale to under 55's or as second homes. Cllr Acheson is to amend his document to reflect the comments and issues raised. This will be circulated to all councillors for further comment.

It was agreed that Cllr Vertigan will collate all the results of the FTC surveys. Photographs of already congested streets are also needed to show the extent of the on-street parking. Cllr Edwards will organise this. Cllr Vertigan will take pictures of the congested pavements in the centre of town when passengers have alighted from buses.

It was agreed that when Cllr Acheson's report is finished it should be made available to the press and published on the website to give it as much publicity as possible. It was also suggested that the press should be invited to take photographs of councillors outside the full car park, to disprove NNDC's statement that the car park is not well used.

Cllr Sandford-Cooke left the meeting

On the proposition of Cllr Acheson, seconded by Cllr Vertigan, standing orders were suspended.

A member of the public pointed out that if the car park was not sold off; to raise the equivalent amount of money NNDC's portion of the community tax would need to be raised by 25% i.e. less than £1 per band D property. He will make the figures supporting this statement available to FTC.

On the proposition of Cllr Acheson, Seconded by Cllr Vertigan, standing orders were re-instated.

It was agreed that FTC want to retain the car park and allow parking of coaches and buses on the site. They want to see long-term strategic planning from NNDC and not short-term gain for political reasons.

**95 TO MOVE THAT THE PUBLIC & PRESS BE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 1(2) OF THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS)ACT 1960.**

On the proposition of Cllr Acheson seconded by Cllr Coates RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that Public & Press be excluded from the Meeting, as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the nature of the business to be transacted

**96 TO DISCUSS THE TOWN COUNCIL'S ESTATE**

See confidential minute

**97 TO MOVE INTO OPEN SESSION**

On the proposition of Cllr Acheson seconded by Cllr Coates RESOLVED the Council moves into Open Session.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:25

Confirmed this

day of

**CHAIRMAN**

2017