

Minutes of Meeting: FULL COUNCIL

Date and Time: Wednesday 16th February 2022 19.00

Venue: The Old Courthouse

Present: Cllrs Reynolds (Chair) Brock, P Harris, Jeffrey, Roberts, Scorer, Stott, D Martin, Blaney, Perry & Rainbow

In Attendance L Wright Town Clerk, Alice Dunn Deputy Clerk , Cllr R Jackson

- 22/02/137 Apologies for absence - Cllrs Scorer, Thompstone & L Harris**
- 22/02/138 To receive any declarations of interest** under the provisions of sections 27-34 and Schedule 4 of the Localism Act 2011- Cllrs Rainbow, Brock & Blaney to leave the room for agenda item 149
- 22/02/139 Approval of Minutes of previous meeting**
139.1 Full Council Meeting 19th January 2022
Agreed unanimously with the following amendments
Cllr Perry was present, and Cllr Roberts was absent at the January meeting
District and County councillor comments to be added to the minutes
Proposed D Martin Seconded Stott
139.2 Matters Arising (not covered in the agenda) - none
- 22/02/140 Opportunity to hear questions or statements from members of the public- None**
- 22/02/141 County Councillor Report – attached**
- 22/02/142 District Councillors Report – attached**
- 22/02/143 Chairs Report and Announcements**
A grant for £500 has been received to promote healthy eating
Abi Brackenbury has been appointed the project co-ordinator and the receptionist post has been advertised
The Tour of Britain is the 8 September but the route is still to be finalised
- 22/02/144 Finance**
144.1 Draft Income & Expenditure Summary/Reserves Position to end January 2022 – previously circulated
144.2 Bills for Payment – previously circulated
144.3 Late Bills for Payment – to be tabled
Proposed M Jeffrey Seconded R Blaney
Agreed Unanimously
144.4 Grant Application – Gate to Southwell Festival
Proposed R Blaney Seconded M Stott

To award an initial £500 grant and a second an amount up to £500 to cover the cost of the road closure, if costs were involved in employing a Traffic Management System. Southwell Town council staff are not available to assist in the road closure

Agree Unanimously

22/02/145 Greening Day Update – A meeting with NSDC has discussed ideas to work with staff, residents and school children. A district councillor surgery would take place, the police will be represented. Green Southwell have organised a lifter pick for the 26 March. Cllr P Harris indicated that NSDC will pick up the collected litter
NSDC will supply banners for advertising

22/02/146 Platinum Jubilee Update – Plans are underway, which include – a Sunday big lunch at the Minster, Road closures on Thursday and Sunday. A potential Commonwealth market, possible Beacon at Brackenhurst and also potentially lighting the Minster. An Oak tree will be planted on the WMRG in November and the 1000 tree giveaway, is to be arranged

22/02/147 Proposal to establish a Strategy Planning Committee –there was much discussion on the timing of this committee and what could be achieved by the council in its last year before elections in May 2023.

Proposed S Reynolds

Seconded M Brock

To establish the Strategic Planning Committee for this council

5 For 5 against – Agreed by Chairs casting vote

22/02/148 Annual Town Meeting –it was agreed to hold a separate Annual Town meeting to the Annual Town Council meeting, ATM to be held 26 May and various organisations are to be invited. Clerk to investigate if the library is available for that date

Cllrs Rainbow, Brock & Blaney left the room and re-joined the meeting after Agenda item 149

22/02/149 Planning Application

21/02043/F ULM AMENDED	Land Off Nottingham Road Southwell	Erection of a new foodstore (Use Class E) and associated new access, parking, servicing, drainage, landscaping and highway works.	Southwell Town council agreed to object by majority to Planning Application 21/02043/FULM Comments attached
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22/02/150 To receive and note the most recent committee meeting minutes from the following standing committees that have taken place since the last Full Council meeting -noted

150.1 Draft Town Environment Meeting 26th January 2022 – previously circulated

150.2 Draft Planning & Highways Minutes – 12th January & 2nd February 2022 – previously circulated

22/02/151 Items for discussion at next meeting – working notes distribution to all Councillors
The condition of Church Street Toilets to be added the next Town Environment meeting

22/02/152 Date of next meeting – 16th March 2022

Meeting Closed

Signed

Chair of the Council

Date

Agenda item 141 County Councillor Report – R Jackson

NCC are working with STC on the proposal for the Kings Street road closure
Road repairs on Springfield Road and Moncton Drive have been completed
17 more properties have are being offered flood protection
Burgage has been marked for repair
RJ to chase the result of the Halloughton Road survey

Agenda item 142 District Councillor Report

N&SDC Report for STC Feb 2022 (Peter Harris/Malcolm Brock)

Economic Development Jan 19

Town Centre support - there were few references to Southwell in the reports as much of the effort of the Council is directed into Newark; with significant details on the Newark Town Fund as ‘the focus for activity for supporting the high street’ by N&SDC including alterations to Projects being funded and Newark Heritage Action Zone and the development of another ‘Newark Town Centre Masterplan’ detailed. A meeting of a ‘Landlord Commission’ was held but it was not clear if Southwell landlords were included. The erroneous title at the meeting was Town Centre Strategy and made little reference to the other towns in the District apart from Newark and this was picked up by local media and Peter Harris - it will refer to Town Centres Strategy in future.

Diversification support for High Street Traders

There were 39 applications from Southwell traders with 21 successful for website support for £250 match funded. There were 3 supportive quotes from Southwell traders inc Soak and Carnill & Co

There have been negotiations about the remodelling of the Cattle Market roundabout but no time line was indicated

The Open Space strategy was agreed In response to comments: STC’s commented “we need a template for footpath verge management, agreed by all councils involved and publicised to residents, which would serve to protect and enhance the value of these footpaths for local flora and fauna and the pedestrians who use them. The aim would be to develop a network of green wildflower corridors around the town in our efforts to tackle climate change one verge at a time.”

NSDC responded - Comments noted. The Open Space Strategy document is a starting point which is intended to form part of a wider management strategy and additional work needs to be undertaken to allow for more strategic thinking to take place. Whilst some open spaces will include public footpath verges, the role of the Open Space Strategy is to detail what open space provision exists in the area, its condition, distribution and overall quality.

and the Civic Soc’s commented “The strategy document states at Page 7 that “Sites allocated to a settlement if they are within or adjacent to the boundary of a settlement. Any sites located outside the settlement but which are likely to help serving the settlement are highlighted within the settlement summaries.” However the map on page 45, for Southwell, excludes the new allotment site on Lower Kirklington Road towards Maythorne. This has been developed to replace the site off Kirklington Road, (487 on the map) which has been allocated for development as Land east of Kirklington Road (So/Ho/4). Allotments 487 should therefore be removed from the map. Similarly there does not appear to be any reference to the Norwood Golf Course, Archery Ground or the Brackenhurst Cricket Ground. Why has Westhorpe been excluded from the map? Although it is outside the urban boundary it is considered part of Southwell town for all amenities. There is a piece of “Main Open Area” missed from the map i.e. running from the urban boundary west along the Westhorpe Dumble. There also appears to be a small allotment piece missing from the map on the opposite side of Crink Lane to the main allotment block there. This new study does not adequately consider

the distance of some open space categories from existing or proposed development. An earlier NSDC study showed that Southwell's North and West Wards were suffering under provision of a variety of open spaces. It is still the case that residents from Westgate or Westhorpe will have to drive across town to reach an allotment, for example.

NSDC Responded – Comments noted. The new allotment site to the north of Lower Kirklington Road is the allotment site that has been assessed but the mapping has not been updated to reflect this. We will ask KKP to amend the mapping accordingly. Norwood Golf Course, Archery Ground and Brackenhurst Cricket Ground have not been included in the study as they constitute formal sports provision and it is the view of the consultants that they do not provide a multi-functional role (i.e. amenity greenspace role) to be included. Main Open Areas is not the same as Open Space and is therefore outside the scope of the study

Other land owner/developer from Southwell commented “The Open Space Strategy covers Southwell specifically at Part 8 (page 44). A map of existing open spaces is provided for at Figure 8.1. This shows 26 open spaces which form the current provision for the settlement. It is noted that this map includes open space ref 487, which forms part of Local Plan allocation So/Ho/4. As referenced, this is a Local and Neighbourhood Plan allocation (as referenced elsewhere within the Strategy) and there is now an outline planning consent of this site. Clearly therefore the site no longer forms part of the allotment provision moving forward for the settlement. Replacement provision has been provided for north of Kirklington Road, and as such the document should be amended to reflect this. Notwithstanding this, it is important that the Open Space Strategy correctly assesses allotments, and this includes reference and appropriate regard for the ownership and statutory protections relevant to assessed allotments. There are demonstrable differences in terms of legal protection and operation of allotments, whether they are privately owned or statutory, which are afforded significant extra protections. The consultation document does not differentiate between either, something which could serve to be problematic given the lack of certainty as to whether non-statutory allotments will remain in perpetuity and that any improvements could not be guaranteed to be made. Furthermore, the nature of leases available on allotment sites is a material consideration. In Southwell it is noted that the Crink Lane allotments are leased, whereas the former provision east of Kirklington Road were provided under an annual licence. Replacement provision has already been agreed and will be provided north of Kirklington Road and the Open Space Strategy should be amended to reflect this provision. As such the consultation document should be amended to provide an up-to-date position in respect of Southwell. In particular this will require amendments to the maps provided at page 45 and to remove the references to Site ID Lower Kirklington Road Allotments where it appears in the document, such as at page 46. Considering Southwell more generally, the consultation document sets out that there are identified gaps in provision for young people (particularly older children) to the north of the settlement and a similar gap in provision in respect of parks and gardens. In terms of overall Agenda Page 33 Appendix A Open Space Assessment and Strategy Consultation Responses quantum, Southwell has a significant deficit of Natural & Semi-natural open space, equating to circa 9ha. Southwell is one of only two settlements therefore to have insufficient provision across all open space types. On this basis the Council should seek to deliver new open space either as part of new development proposals with provision provided on site, or alternatively through the delivery of new open space paid for with developer contributions. In Southwell, as part of long-term planning, future housing needs may best be met on larger sites which can provide significant areas of open space to meet such deficiencies. Conversations should also be had with landowners within the area to see if any land may be available for sale to deliver new open space and even potentially biodiversity offsetting which may be necessary to achieve environmental net gains. Policy Recommendations The consultation document sets out a number of recommendations to inform both the approach to planning applications and also to inform the development of future policy. We concur with the approach recommended by the consultation document which advocates a flexible approach to new provision. In particular we agree that off site contributions are likely to be preferable and appropriate to secure provision of a suitable size and location, rather than small areas of incremental open space which do not adequately or sensibly serve the required purpose. We also agree that minimum thresholds are useful albeit no recommendations for new updated thresholds are provided. We also agree that in some circumstances, improvement of existing provision may be more beneficial and effective than new provision, both in terms of spatial location relative to the wider population and also with regards to long term management and maintenance. Accessibility will be a key consideration in this regard, and accessible open spaces should be a key focus of such improvements. In respect of the

requirements for Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace, we still are not clear why such a high requirement is suggested nor that it has been appropriately justified. Whilst deviations in standards from that proposed by Fields in Trust are likely to be justifiable, we have not seen any specific evidence in respect of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace which would logically lead to a requirement in excess of 5 times that proposed by Fields in Trust. It is not clear why the Fields in Trust standards are insufficient in this regard in this area. The same is also applicable to provision of play space for children, which is double that recommended by Fields in Trust. Having regard for the Council's requirements to deliver CIL in addition to forthcoming requirements relating to environmental net gain, significant concern is raised as to the realistic deliverability of these requirements. The relationship between open space provision and environmental net gains has also not been adequately explored and the inter-relationship between these two requirements requires further thought to ensure the developer contribution burden does not become unduly significant, creating issues of viability and thus impacting delivery.

NSDC Responded – Comments noted. The new allotment site to the north of Lower Kirklington Road is the allotment site that has been assessed under reference 487 but the mapping had not been updated to reflect this (historic mapping issue). We have asked KKP to amend the mapping accordingly. Your comments are noted regarding ownership and statutory protections in terms of allotment provision but this is outside the scope of the Open Space Strategy and could be picked up as part of a wider management strategy but additional work needs to be undertaken to allow for more strategic thinking on issues like this to take place. The standard for natural / semi-natural greenspace reflects the characteristics of the District with a degree of ambition. These standards have been reviewed by the consultant and concluded that in line with the evidence in front of them, they remain the most appropriate standards to adopt.

After this 'consultation' N&SDC made only 7 minor alterations including typography amendments to the report

We have identified N&SDC has an income from Southwell car park expected to be £800 2022-2023, for an access across the Church St car park. This was excluded from the devolution, so income from this payment does not come to the STC. However, N&SDC have no liability for any repairs so this is being challenged.

At the Full Council meeting, Peter Harris made additional critique of the Council's Strategy pointing out significant inconsistencies in identifying the types of use of the open spaces, seemingly disadvantageous to under provided areas. The District Council seemed to put the onus on Parish and Town Councils by saying that N&SDC had not the capacity to do much more. There will have to be a further review of the Strategy.

N&SDC's charge for tree work application is going up by 44% - with other charges increasing by 0% to under 5%

Furthermore, confirmation that a planning Enforcement Notice has been complied with (including Listed Building, Breach of Condition etc.) that was free is now to be charged £120

No increase in CIL is being proposed - the CIL charge was set in 2010 with no revision for inflation

There is a £414,000 underspend on the Econ Dev Committee's budget to date

Planning Jan 18

(i)Community Hall Easthorpe, Southwell (21/02420/FUL). The committee agreed to the change of use to one dwelling, with an erection of an extension.

It was noted that the Southwell Civic Society objected to this application taking a view that 'it is a public asset which once lost will never be replaced.'

(ii)Appeal: 15A Waterloo Yard, King Street, Southwell. Ultimate Nails & Beauty Unit. Appeal against alleged cladding of salon.

This appeal was dismissed and the enforcement notice upheld. The inspector reported that '...the appeal scheme harms the character and appearance of the area, the significance of the SCA and a nearby listed building and its setting'. Reference is made to policies DH1, DH2 and DH3 of the Southwell Neighbourhood Plan.

(iii)Appeal: The Spread Eagle Public House, Hockerton.

The appeal was dismissed. The key issue was whether the loss of the public house would have an adverse effect on the social vitality of the village

The inspector noted (a)NSDC does not dispute the appellants' evidence that the business had become commercially unviable.... irrespective of the difficulties arising from the COVID pandemic (ii)while it is claimed that there is no real prospect of the public house becoming viable again in the near future.....appropriate marketing might provide an opportunity to determine whether new ownership might secure re-opening. (iii).... without appropriate market testing, the proposed change of use and resultant loss of the public house would have an adverse effect on the social vitality of the village (iv).....would reduce the community's ability to meet its day to day needs.

Homes Jan 24

(i)Apologies offered by Neighbourhood Policing Inspector (Charlotte Allardice). Presentation postponed until March.

(ii)Plans are in place for the arrival of a third Afghan family. A tour of Sherwood Forest had been arranged for resettled families as part of their integration into the local community.

(iii)The York Drive Regeneration Project continues. There is an imminent consultation with residents regarding an element of redesign which will take into account the issues of noise and the installation of EVC points.

Leisure Jan 25

The Dog Orders that the STC requested have been deferred as the N&SDC are required 'additional evidence' to support our requests - despite not asking for this previously. Peter objected to the additional burden on the STC fro evidence of consultation especially as the N&SDC did not provide any for its changes to its Dog Orders.

Changes to the recycling regime - that should have been improved by the passing of the Environment Act last year, including a standardisation of collection including kerbside glass and food water collection - have not been implemented as the Council is waiting for the legal instructions from the Government, that are not forthcoming.

Active for Today, the N&SDC Company that now runs the Leisure Centre, are considering installing solar PV panels on Centre's south facing roofs. A4T are expecting to lose £740,000 this year, and the N&SDC will underwrite this deficit. At the time that A4T took over from the Trustees, the Trustees were reducing the deficit by c£100k per quarter and the deficit for the SLC is now likely to be £125k. The continuing provision of fatty and salty snacks has been challenged, but there is no indication that these not be vended at the SLC in the A4T's Business Plan.

Full Council Feb 8

The rents for Council housing are being increased by the CPI for September 2021 [the baseline that N&SDC uses] plus an additional 1%. An amendment to reduce this increase and to spend some of the accumulated savings made by the Housing officers of £643,000 on further improvements to the housing stock, was supported by Malcolm Brock and Peter Harris but this rejected by a significant majority.

Cllr Blaney commented that CIL charge it set yearly and is indexed linked is now set at £153.5m2. The Leisure Centre 2020/21 deficit reduction was due to efficiency savings.

District Council Report February 2022

Day of Action / Greening Day for Southwell.

Plans are well underway for the Day of Action / Greening Day for Southwell.

The original action day was cancelled due to the onset of the pandemic. We are now looking forward and with the input of numerous teams and senior officers of NSDC, plans are being sharpened up with a view to it being a success, as other areas within the NSDC have experienced.

The agreed day is Wednesday March 30th.

The day starts at 9:30am. It is hoped the 'base' for the day will be the Scout Hut.

Lunch will be between 12noon and 1pm. Some refreshments will be offered.

We are looking to resurrect ideas that were shared in the planning of the original day Leafleting cars outside local schools, with a view to mitigate against 'engine idling'.

Lower Wong has been identified as the primary location, with Holy Trinity and the Minster school targeted if manpower permits. An A5 poster, designed and written by a concerned resident, will also be given out by way of information and reinforcement.

If available, the Police Commander for our area will also visit during the day and chat with residents about any concerns they wish to discuss. Community support officers and our Community Speed Watch team will be invited to come along and demonstrate the equipment and hopefully sign up more volunteers for a training session.

The WISE enforcement team will also have a presence on the day.

Some targeted dog fouling action will go ahead on the Memorial Park and other areas, where necessary nearer the day. Dog waste bags will be handed out.

Litter picking is planned for both the morning and afternoon sessions with a clean of the Market Square to include benches and gullies. King St, Queen St and Church St pavements will be swept.

A member surgery, by the three ward members is planned, this may take place, during the morning, on the Market Square but yet to be confirmed.

Two locations have been suggested for new recycling bins to be added to the two we already have, the suggested areas are outside Lowes Wong School and close to the Memorial gates at the park.

A consultation exercise with Minster School pupils will take place on our planned new skatepark.

The long overdue painting of the War Memorial Gates will be painted.

And hopefully more besides.....

Cllr Penny Rainbow

District Councillor Southwell