

NORTH WEST AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**THURSDAY 5 MARCH 2020
CASTLE HILL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH,
DRYDEN ROAD IPSWICH IP1 6QF
7.00 PM**

Present: Castle Hill Ward Councillors: R Vickery and E Xhaferaj
Whitehouse Ward Councillors: L Trenchard and C Wright
Whitton Ward Councillors: D Heaps, S Meudec and C Shaw

There were 8 members of the public in attendance.

68. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Chisholm and Councillor Fisher.

69. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 9 January 2020

Resolved:

that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2020 be signed as a true record.

70. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business

Resolved:

that the Order of Business be as printed on the Agenda.

71. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Vickery declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 9 – Eastern Angles Theatre Gatacre Presentation, as a Suffolk County Council observer on the Eastern Angles Theatre Group.

72. Police Priorities

- 72.1. PC Milton, Safer Neighbourhood Team, confirmed that the main policing priorities for the West Ipswich continued to be as per the previous meeting: tackling antisocial behaviour around Belstead Road/Austin Street and Garrick Way/Castle Court, and the ongoing issue of 'cuckoo'ing' across Ipswich.
- 72.2. With regards to Garrick Way, several individuals had been arrested of which court process had begun. Further information would be reported following the outcomes of this.

73. Chairs Update on Actions from the Previous Meeting

- 73.1. The Chair reported that as per the minutes of the previous meeting, the issue raised by a resident regarding parking on Dryden Road and safety concerns had been referred to Suffolk County Council/Suffolk Highways, who had advised that this would be investigated further. Unfortunately, an outcome to the investigation had not yet been provided and it was agreed that the resident and County Councillor West would discuss the matter further following the meeting.
- 73.2. The Chair confirmed that as requested at the previous meeting, the verge and pathway clearance on Shenstone Drive had been referred to the Council and would be included within the next schedule of works.

74. Ward Councillors Feedback from their Communities

Whitton Ward

Councillor Meudec confirmed that the Whitton Youth Partnership had held several events for young people during the half term, and herself and Councillor Shaw had attended one of the successful craft activity mornings.

The "Whitton Wombles", a community group in West Ipswich, had held two successful litter pick events recently, and Councillor Meudec thanked the organisers for their work arranging the sessions and confirmed that further information could be found regarding future events on their Facebook page.

It was anticipated that the new home development built on the former Tooks Bakery site would be occupied by end of August 2020.

Whitehouse Ward

Councillor Trenchard confirmed that the Whitehouse Wanderers continued to hold once monthly meetings on a Tuesday at the Whitehouse Baptist Church from 11.30am to 12.30pm where anyone in the community would be welcome to attend, including any interested volunteers.

Discussions continued with Suffolk County Council regarding re-engineering the grassed area on the corner of Kerry Avenue and Lovetofts Drive, which although was

intended to be used as a wildflower area, other alternative options were also under consideration.

Councillor Wright confirmed that the “Whitton Wombles” had also been in contact with regards to holding a litter pick in Whitehouse and suggested routes were currently under consideration.

Castle Hill Ward

Councillor Vickery reported on behalf of Councillor Fisher that a meeting had been held at Dale Hall School to discuss the ongoing parking issues. This had been well attended by both residents and Councillors, with agreed measures put in place to hopefully improve the issues. Councillor Vickery suggested that the North West Area Committee could consider in future funding the planting of shrubs on the verges in Dale Hall Lane to both improve them aesthetically and to alleviate problems with parking. The Chair confirmed that although this could be considered, this would fall under Suffolk Highways responsibility and therefore may be unsuitable for Area Committee funding.

It was confirmed that further consideration would be taken with regards to alleviating the problems in June Avenue and Clive Avenue where when HGV’s used these roads, damage was being caused to the grass verges.

Councillor Goldsmith, Suffolk County Councillor, confirmed that following the visit to Dale Hall School regarding speeding and the concerns around children’s safety, a further meeting had been arranged with SCC Officers to try and resolve the matter.

75. Responses to Public Questions and Open Discussion on Local Issues

75.1. Discussion took place around grass verges and the potential options available for improving those in poor condition and deterring vehicles from parking on them. It was advised that this would be a matter for Suffolk Highways as this was their land and therefore their responsibility to agree any substantive changes (such as making it illegal to park on the verges and any enforcement action which would then be needed) and the maintenance which would then be required. It was also possible that any short-term measures such as safety barriers could create other problems as a result.

75.2. A resident asked how long a property had to be derelict before the Council could take action. It was confirmed that if Council Tax was paid on an owned property, although it may be empty, this would be legally permitted. However, as an incentive for people who owned an empty property, the empty property council tax had been increased to encourage owners to have their properties occupied and not empty/derelict. It was advised that should residents note any long-term derelict properties in their wards, that these be reported to their Ward Councillor who could raise the issue to the Council. It was also noted that in special circumstances, and should all the criteria for this be demonstrated, a Compulsory Purchase Order could be made by the Council.

76. Eastern Angles Gatacre Centre: Presentation

- 76.1. Alyson Tipping, Eastern Angles Theatre Company Engagement Manager, provided a presentation on the Gatacre Centre which was a new arts and heritage hub within Westgate Ward, created as a space for all in the community to use. The company's mission was to provide high quality theatre which promoted regional identity and toured in a number of different community spaces around the region.
- 76.2. It was anticipated that the extra space recently acquired within the Gatacre Centre would be used to provide a co-working space with hot desks, extra rehearsal space and a community gallery of which would be able to hire.
- 76.3. Ms Tipping confirmed that volunteers were at the heart of the company and requested that anyone interested contact them for possible opportunities which would involve assisting with events and shows.

77. NWAC/19/18 Funding Request: Whitehouse Baptist Church

- 77.1. Ms Maureen Dork, Church Treasurer of Whitehouse Baptist Church, presented a funding request to the committee which sought £2692.52 funding towards the purchase of a new dishwasher for the users of the church's community space.
- 77.2. Ms Dork confirmed that the church was used by all members of the community, including lunch clubs and a dementia café assisted by volunteers, and for personal use such as birthday parties and other celebrations. Since the previous dishwasher had broken, this had unfortunately affected the amount of time volunteers had to engage with those attending the activities.
- 77.3. Discussion took place around the cost of the dishwasher and whether alternative funding sources had been considered. It was confirmed that a funding bid had been presented to the Suffolk Community Foundation which was currently under consideration and that the Church had also agreed to fund £500.00 towards the costs.
- 77.4. It was proposed that half of the funding bid requested be granted on the understanding that other funding options were actively being sought.

Resolved:

That £1346.26 funding be allocated towards the purchase of a new dishwasher for the users of Whitehouse Baptist Church community space.

Reason: to contribute towards the cost of a new dishwasher, so the church can continue to cater for social lunches and coffee mornings.

78. NWAC/19/19 Spending Proposal: Jumpers for Goalposts

- 78.1. Bella Colafrancesco, Ipswich Borough Council, presented a funding request to the Committee which sought £2,081.00 spending to the Sports & Leisure

Service for the Jumpers for Goalposts programme. The programme had been successfully run for several years and provided young people with free opportunities to increase their physical activity during the school holidays and offered a variety of activities to choose from.

78.2. The Officer confirmed that the Sports Leadership programme held last year had been developed further and it was anticipated that two courses (Level 1 and 2) would be held over the Easter and Summer Holidays for young people aged 13-19 to participate.

78.3. The Officer advised that this year, activities would be delivered all across the North West including Whitehouse, Whitton and Castle Hill Recreation Ground. The types of activity provided were agreed following monitoring of what sessions had been most successful in previous years and as a result of the programme, more girls' activities had been provided within the area (such as weekly sessions provided for girl wild scout football).

78.4. In response to a question, it was confirmed that discussion continued to be held as part of the budget setting process as to whether funding could be directly agreed by Ipswich Borough Council on an annual basis, rather than through Area Committee funding.

Resolved:

That £2,081.00 spending be allocated to the Sports & Leisure Service for the Jumpers for Goalposts programme.

Reason: the Jumpers for Goalposts programme has increased participation numbers over the last 5 years and this will allow young people across the town to participate in physical activity over the summer and half-term holidays.

79. NWAC/19/20 Area Committee Budget Update

79.1. Lisa Stannard, Operations Manager Parks/Bereavement, presented the Area Committee budget report for noting and reported that the remaining unallocated budget available to spend on the priorities of the Area Action Plan for North West Ipswich (pending any financial agreements made this meeting) was £6,342.00.

Resolved: that the financial position of the North West Area Committee be noted.

Reason: to provide clear and transparent details of the amount of funds available to the Area Committee to deliver the priorities in its action plan.

80. Dates of Future Meetings 2020/21, all to be held at 7.00pm

80.1. The Chair recorded his thanks to Councillor Chisholm for his service on the North West Area Committee and as a Whitehouse and former Stoke Park Ward Councillor.

Thursday 4 June 2020:

The Ascension Hall, Larchcroft Road IP1 6AJ

Thursday 16 July 2020:

St Raphael Club, St Raphael Court, Highfield Road IP1 6DA

Thursday 10 September 2020

The Beeches Community Primary School, Shakespeare Road IP1 6ET

Thursday 5 November 2020:

St Thomas Apostle Church, 102 Cromer Road IP1 5EP

Thursday 21 January 2021:

Castle Hill Community Centre, Highfield Road IP1 6DG

Thursday 11 March 2021:

Castle Hill Church, Dryden Road, IP1 6QF.

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm

Chair