

Swaffham Town Council

Minutes of the **Extraordinary Town Council** meeting held on **Wednesday 4th July 2018** at **2.30pm** in the Council Chamber, Town Hall Swaffham.

Present: Deputy Mayor Cllr J Skinner (in the Chair)

Councillors: Mr R Bartram, Mrs B Bowler, Mr P Darby, Mrs S Matthews, Mrs J Buckley-Stevens, Mr L Scott, Mrs A Thorp, Mrs J Skinner, Mrs S Lister

Town Clerk: Mr R Bishop
Office Administrator: Mrs H Duggan

Guests: Mr Tony Abel, Mr Paul Le-Grice

1 Apologies for Absence

- 1.1. Cllr C Houghton – holiday
- 1.2. Cllr W Bensley – work commitments

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. ADMISSION TO MEETINGS ACT (PUBLIC BODIES) 1960:

CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS following the exclusion of the public and press

3.1. To receive and consider update from the Town Clerk following the meeting at Breckland Council on 18th June with Abel Homes.

The Town Clerk advised that a meeting had been held with representatives from NCC and Breckland – Rob Walker, Rianna Rudland, Steve Jones and Debi Sherman following the resolution agreed at the last Extraordinary Council meeting on 12th June 2018 - *It was unanimously agreed to support the Abel Homes application 3PL/2017/1487/O, Land to the West of Brandon Road Swaffham – with the following comments: Swaffham Town Council have agreed to support the application including a S106 contribution towards an offsite leisure facility for Swaffham. The Town Council are aware that the original highways objections put forward have now been overcome by Norfolk County Council. The Town Council also recognise that removal of the Health Centre will lead to less traffic than first believed.*

Discussions took place concerning the merits of a proposed onsite and offsite Leisure Facility. It was noted the discussions were still ongoing with the Nicholas Hamond Academy and were anticipated to take longer as it was difficult getting the school to the negotiation table.

3.2. To receive and consider a report from Abel Homes in respect of a site opposite Redlands Park in Brandon Road – following the meeting on 18th June and subsequent update received yesterday.

Paul Le-Grice confirmed that the current situation with the Nicholas Hamond School was at a standstill and the funds allocated by NCC and Breckland were tied up until discussions were concluded.

Breckland Planning were currently reviewing how the proposed larger S106 contribution could be worked out. It was understood that if an offsite facility was preferred then Breckland would only consider this on the availability of an existing site to ensure delivery within a short timescale.

Mr Le-Grice and Mr Abel answered questions from the floor regarding funding, build, timing, possible amended development plans.

10.40a.m - the meeting was adjourned to allow Mr Abel and Mr Le-Grice to leave.

Initials: _____

10.45a.m - the meeting was restarted.

3.3. To receive and consider the confidential discussions held at 3.1 and 3.2 and to agree a way forward.

Cllrs discussed at length the information provided by Mr Le-Grice and Mr Abel.

Cllr Darby put forward a proposal that the council agree to the an additional contribution being put toward an offsite Leisure Facility, using the land allocated for the swimming pool to allow immediate development and to investigate a possible joint venture with Breckland and NCC to utilise the Green Britain Centre to expand Leisure Facilities for the town, when the current lease is up for renewal in January 2019.

The proposal was seconded by Cllr Ister.

It was agreed, 8 votes for, 2 abstentions, that the council agree to the additional contribution being put toward an offsite Leisure Facility, using the land allocated for the swimming pool to allow immediate development and to investigate a possible joint venture with Breckland and NCC to utilise the Green Britain Centre to expand Leisure Facilities for the town, when the current lease is up for renewal in January 2019.

The meeting closed at 3.30pm Mayor.....