

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING - 26th APRIL 2023 at Northstowe Secondary College

MINUTES

<u>AGENDA</u> Item	Minutes
Reports from the TOWN COUNCIL	
<p>Welcome from the Chair of Northstowe Town Council; and</p> <p>Apologies for absence received.</p> <p><i>Cllr Richard Owen</i></p>	<p>The Town Mayor, Cllr Richard Owen, also Chaired this meeting and opened the meeting at 19:05 pm. The Mayor welcomed all attendees and provided an overview of the evening's presentations and speakers. Apologies had been received from the following Town Councillors: Cllr Balaji; Cllr Bros Sabria; Cllr Kinnera; Cllr Littlemore.</p> <p>Apologies had also been received from South Cambridgeshire District Council Ward Member Cllr Tom Bygott.</p> <p><i>The meeting was attended by 25 people.</i></p>
<p>Minutes</p> <p>To approve the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 16th March 2022 as a true record of that meeting.</p>	<p>A vote was held (<i>all registered electors in the parish of Northstowe being eligible to vote</i>): With 8 votes for and 1 abstention, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 16th March 2022 as a true record of that meeting.</p> <p>The Chair signed the minutes.</p>

<p>Annual Report: Report on Council activities during the previous year.</p> <p><i>Cllr Richard Owen, Town Mayor; with Cllr Pradeep Susarla (on behalf of Cllr Carla Bros Sabria)</i></p> <p>and</p> <p>Financial Report: Report on Council finances during the previous year.</p> <p><i>Mark Nokkert, Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)</i></p>	<p>Cllr Owen, together with Cllr Susarla and the RFO, gave a joint presentation, in which they provided an overview of what the Town Council had achieved in the Civic Year '22-'23. They set out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The actions of the Council and its Committees, including details about the developments of the market; Warm Hub/Community Lounge; and plans for ParkPlay. - This was followed by a more detailed understanding of the current and future market plans; an overview of the Town Council's links with partners through external partnerships and bodies it has representation on; events involvement; staffing increase plans; and an explanation of the Town Council's ambitions for more direct involvement in facility management in the future. - This was followed by a summary of the finances for '22-'23 and the plans for income and expenditure in '23-'24.
<p>Questions from the floor</p>	<p><i>Questions raised by attendees:</i></p> <p><i>Q: The indoor market events, held Jan – Mar '23, saw some WIFI issues; will these be resolved?</i></p> <p>A: The Council is looking at a suitable venue option, since the Pathfinder Primary School was no longer available for use, to continue such monthly markets again in the near future; good WIFI access is one of the criteria being considered. The Temporary Community Centre to be built on The Green should come with good WIFI. On Station Road there may also appear a 5G mast as well at some stage.</p> <p><i>Q: Where is the Town Council's office going to be?</i></p> <p>A: Discussions have been held and in-principle agreement reached, with South Cambridgeshire District Council, that the Town Council is to become a tenant, using one of the office rooms in the Temporary Community Centre at the Green, once built.</p> <p><i>Q: How much influence had the Town Council had on the design of the Temporary Community Centre, in particular to ensure there will be sufficient large spaces for social activities in Northstowe?</i></p>

	<p>A: The Town Council has provided, and continues to do so, input into designs, as part of the SCDC-coordinated consultations and through the Northstowe Delivery Group. The bookable main hall in the Temporary Community Centre will be able to accommodate a good number of people; in addition, the Phase 1 Pavilion is due to open later this year and should also become bookable for events and activities.</p> <p><i>Q: When can the football pitches and other sports facilities in Western Park be used?</i></p> <p>A: This is not a Town Council's responsibility, but we understand that these can be hired once the pavilion is opened for use.</p>
<p>Reports from COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBERS</p>	<p>The Mayor introduced this session, highlighting the productive cooperation and information exchange between the Town Council and the other tiers of Local Authority.</p>
<p>Report from County Councillor (Longstanton – Northstowe – Over Ward)</p> <p><i>Cllr Firouz Thompson</i></p>	<p>Further to Cllr Thompson's annual report, she provided a verbal update with a focus on various items including: highways and potholes; speeding and parking issues and concerns; opening of Southern Access Road West; Making Connections & Sustainable Travel Zone consultation. Her work on the Children and Young Adults Committee, feeding into early years and primary school supply concerns. She also highlighted her work through Northstowe Foodies which has since 2020 brought over £10,000 back into the community to support local initiatives.</p>
<p>Report from District Councillors (Longstanton – Northstowe - Oakington & Westwick Ward)</p> <p><i>Cllr Natalie Warren-Green</i></p> <p><i>Cllr Tom Bygott</i></p>	<p>Further to Cllr Warren-Green's annual report, she also provided a presentation in which she explained how the activities that have been the focus in the Ward are linked to and sit under the SCDC- wide Activity Themes of 'Business Support'; 'Affordable Housing'; 'Green to our Core'; and 'Modern & Caring Council' and how these have been implemented on a District-wide scale. This was followed by an overview of the key areas of work focused on in the Ward, related to: transport; planning; groundwater; local environment; and facilities delivery. She also highlighted how she has felt the community as well as the Town Council being welcoming, and her active support in delivery of Warm Hub and market</p> <p>Cllr Bygott's annual report.</p>

<p>Questions from the floor</p>	<p><i>Questions raised by attendees:</i></p> <p><i>Q: September 2023 is to see a reduction in early years provision, with the new school in phase 2 not to be opened until Sep 2024; what is happening to support local families with young children for the '23-'24 school year?</i></p> <p>A: A meeting was held a month ago with key partners involved to discuss this. One option being looked into is whether additional services can be brought into the Temporary Community Centre from September to counter for some of the losses of spaces to be offered at Pathfinder Primary School. There will also be a new service starting in Oakington in September. Although these measures should alleviate some of the pressures, it is nevertheless clear that for the 0-2 year olds there will not be the capacity available locally to cover demand, and that families are to seek child minders elsewhere to fill gaps.</p> <p><i>Q: What are the plans for the outcomes of the consultation, and is there to be a free vote on the 'Congestion Charge' proposals once this is to be discussed by the District Council?</i></p> <p>A: The Council is in agreement that there should be a Sustainable Travel Zone to support vulnerable community members especially for the young and elderly, and for workers who wish to reduce their carbon emissions by taking public transport or through active travel. The Council is to discuss further, in July, whether the congestion charge element of the range of proposals that were consulted on is also to be taken forward, or in the format as has been consulted on.</p>
<p>NORTHSTOWE COMMUNITY</p>	<p>The Mayor provided an introduction, highlighting that there are many active community-led initiatives that the Town Council works with in a positive, collaborative manner, some of which have been invited to set out what they have been doing and their plans going forward.</p>
<p>Northstowe Youth Work <i>Emma Whitbread, Romsey Mill, Northstowe Youth Development Worker, and Revd Beth Cope, Chair of</i></p>	<p>Emma Whitbread and Revd Beth Cope jointly gave a presentation, in which they set out the aims and activities of the Northstowe Youth Hive and its longer-term partnership ambitions; and the work done through Emma, working as Northstowe Youth Development Worker in Northstowe, through Romsey Mill. Emma explained that she had been able to work with 108 young people since she started in her role in January. The plans and ambitions for youth work in Northstowe are set out, highlighting the needs and wishes as expressed by young people they have worked with, and the focus on development of asset-based and</p>

<i>Northstowe Youth Hive</i>	needs-led activities.
Northstowe Arts <i>Mari O'Neill, Director of Northstowe Arts</i>	A presentation was given by Mari O'Neill, one of the three Directors of Northstowe Arts, setting out the range of creative activities and events they have either led on or been involved in, such as Northstowe Day; Queen's Jubilee event; and Northstowe Winter Festival and Light Up Northstowe; looked at recent and current projects such as work with Homes England for the Heritage Centre and 'Nature in Northstowe' - artwork to embellish the Community Centre. Creative Get-togethers have been set up for weekly get-togethers, and an 'Arts and Minds' programme is being developed; and highlighted the range of partners and funders who have supported the organisation to date.
Sustainable Northstowe <i>Mihaela Stan (SCDC), on behalf of Carla Bros Sabria</i>	A presentation was given on behalf of Sustainable Northstowe, in which the range of activities it has been involved in was set out, such as: the close links with the Community Pantry (having saved over 30,000 items from going to landfill since it started); clothes swap rails; Super Sustainable Saturdays. Highlighted were also the plans for the Great Big Green Week 2023, with a focus on Saturday 17 th June, with a community skip day and other activities, and ending on opportunities how people can get involved.
Northstowe Hub <i>Peter Cope & Graeme Hodgson</i>	Peter Cope and Graeme Hodgson, two of the Trustees of Northstowe Hub, jointly gave a presentation in which they set out: how the community group had evolved from the former Friends of the Wing, and how they have gone about creating a CIO and clarified its charitable objectives; and its ambitions going forward, with a focus on the new community centre and the opportunities this would present, whilst working with residents to ensure their organisation is going to work for the whole community.
Questions from the floor	<i>Questions raised by attendees:</i> <i>Q: What are the specific needs for volunteers to support the youth work programmes?</i> <i>A: In order to enable more detached work and 1:1 work with children, more volunteers would be needed to support the professionals in their work. Local people have been trained up as well to support the youth work.</i>
The Chair closed the meeting at 8: 40 pm and invited everyone to continue talking to each other over a drink and snack.	