

Reports from the TOWN COUNCIL

Welcome from the Chair of Northstowe Town Council

The Town Mayor, Cllr Paul Littlemore, chaired the meeting opening the meeting at 19:04 pm. He welcomed all speakers and attendees and provided an overview of the evening's presentations.
The meeting was attended by 23 people.

To note Apologies for absence received prior to the meeting

Apologies had been received from Town Councillor Cllr Kinnera, and from Revd. Beth Cope in their capacity for Northstowe Youth Hive.

To approve the Minutes of the A.T.M. of 26th April 2023 as a true record of that meeting.

A vote was held: with 9 registered electors in the parish of Northstowe voting for and none against it was RESOLVED to approve the [minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 26th April 2023](#) as a true record of that meeting.

Annual Report: Report on Council activities during the previous year. Cllr Paul Littlemore, Town Mayor

The Town Mayor, Cllr. Paul Littlemore, showed a [presentation](#), in which he provided an overview of the Town Council's achievements during the Civic Year 2023-2024.

Reports from Chairs of the Council's Committees - Finance and Governance; Planning; Events and Markets; Personnel.

The Chairs of the Town Council's Committees provided in a [presentation](#) an overview of the key achievements and challenges faced over the past year. Cllr Naveen Castelino provided an overview for the Finance and Governance Committee; Cllr Richard Owen for the Planning Committee; Cllr Pradeep Susarla for the Events and Markets Committee; and Cllr Carla Bros Sabría for the Personnel Committee.

The following questions were raised:

Q: Who owns the Sports Pavilion?

A: Elite Sports has taken over ownership.

Q: Is there any learning from the loss of the Market Manager?

A: The Council is in the process of considering the future of the market and understanding its options for management and will probably re-recruit a market manager shortly.

Financial Report: Report on Council finances during the previous year. Mark Nokkert, Responsible Financial Officer

The RFO provided a [presentation](#), setting out an overview of the [past year's finances](#) and highlighting details of the agreed [Budget for '24-'25](#).

The following questions were raised:

Q: The £30,000 mentioned when the school is opened (Phase 2 Primary School) is that same money going to the Council for all schools?

A: No the 'Community Endowment Fund' S106 contributions coming to the Town Council are linked to the phase 2 primary school only.

Q: Would there be an opportunity to use the Community Endowment Fund for a Community Youth Worker?

A: This has been suggested before and could be one of the options the Council can consider for use of these funds.

Q: Elite Sports - Could the Astro Turf be used without high higher fees? A suggestion was also made that certain hours could be allocated for use by the general community.

A: A discussion has already taken place at a recent Pavilion Management Board, with Elite Sports having indicated they are willing to look at options for the community to use it when not booked.

Q: Is there a general way of raising the sort of things (as in previous question) and who is the contact?

A: This will be raised with Elite Sports through the Pavilion Board. It was also mentioned that there is an open day at the Pavilion on 18th May.

Reports from COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBERS

Report from Cambridgeshire County Council Division Member for: Longstanton; Northstowe; Over - Cllr Firouz Thompson

Cllr Thompson provided a verbal update to accompany her [annual report](#), focusing on: the ongoing works on the nursery and schools in phase 2; discussions around childminder needs and current restrictions in Northstowe; A14 tree re-planting scheme; Bar Hill bridge road problems.

The following questions were raised:

Q: re: Tree replanting: what has been learnt, to prevent similar problems from happening again?

A: Several learning points, including success rate bare root vs cell-grown trees; use of biodegradable tree guards instead of plastic ones.

Q: re: Childcare: What is the level of training to become a Child Minder?

A: There is training available through Pacey.

Q: Are there any plans to put traffic lights on the roundabout at Bar Hill? Dangerous driving in that area was also raised.

A: There are many discussions going on with all relevant partners involved around speeding and ASB issues, for those roads and elsewhere within and near Northstowe.

Report from South Cambridgeshire District Council Ward Members for: Longstanton; Northstowe; Oakington & Westwick - Cllr Natalie Warren-Green and Cllr Tom Bygott

Cllr Warren-Green provided an [annual report](#) and a [presentation](#) in which she focused on the District Council's four Business Plan themes: Business; Housing; Environment; Modern & Caring Council, highlighting recent work for these areas, mentioning under the 'Green to our Core' theme the Council's Biodiversity and Net Gain policies and work on addressing water scarcity issues

The following questions were raised:

Q: re: 4-day week: Could SCDC gain evidence from other Councils all over the world, and private sector, where this is working? It was also commented that the 4-Day week may be misunderstood as the Council continues to operate 5 days a week.

A: Data and information exchange and provision are key and these continue to be provided to learn from.

Cllr Bygott provided a verbal update to accompany his [annual report](#), in which he highlighted some of the agreements and disagreements from the Conservative party versus those set out by the Lib-Dem majority Council on various issues, focusing on the 4-day working week. Other items covered were: fly tipping issues; ground water issues; Wilson's Bridleway resurfacing.

The following questions were raised:

Q: re: 4-day week: Would you agree with the data on agency fees savings made?

A: There are concerns over how taxpayers' money is being spent on the 4-day week trial, and not everybody agrees with the data regarding savings made; raising salaries could be a better option to bring in staff.

Updates from the NORTHSTOWE COMMUNITY

Northstowe News

M. Kemp, Northstowe News, provided a verbal update, highlighting how they have run entirely by volunteers and have been fully independent since 2018. She highlighted that costs have gone up per issue whilst advertising revenue has gone down, but that a recent, independent survey seemed to suggest that most residents read the hard copies and that people find the content useful.

Northstowe Hub

P. Cope and G. Hodgson, Northstowe Hub, provided a [presentation](#), highlighting key achievements and activities delivered with an overview of the organisation's finances.

The following questions were raised:

Q: What other plans do you have for other events?

A: Plans are for extending opening the Community Café on other days, but newly formed businesses and other organisations who already serve coffee and related products need to be taken into consideration in this.

Sustainable Northstowe

B. Megson, Sustainable Northstowe, provided a [presentation](#), in which she highlighted the range of activities done in the past year, an overview of the organisation's finances, and plans for the coming year, highlighting key events such as the Great Big Green Week as well as the Community Pantry and Clothes Swaps.

There were no questions.

Northstowe Sports and Wellbeing Committee

M. Lis, Northstowe Sports & Wellbeing, provided a [presentation](#), in which he set out the organisation of the group, first formed in 2019, and an understanding of the activities and events it has been involved in. He mentioned that Northstowe Sports and Wellbeing sees itself acting as an umbrella and support for all sport clubs and wellbeing in Northstowe, and to capture all sport events in Northstowe and activities under one web.

The following questions were raised:

Q: Could the Town Council support financially the Sports and Wellbeing Group?

A: The [Town Council's grant funding scheme](#) is open to all organisations and organisations are encouraged to enquire if they have ideas for which they may need financial support.

Northstowe – Longstanton ParkPlay

H. Marden, Northstowe-Longstanton ParkPlay, provided a verbal update, highlighting that every Saturday morning at the MUGA behind the pavilion a totally free session is provided for anyone to join. He welcomed new people to come and try it out

The following questions were raised:

Q: Has thought been given to linking up with local schools? It was also commented that they could promote more on Facebook.

A: Promotional activities are being widened and direct contact with schools and other groups have been made to widen the promotion of these free activities for all residents of Northstowe and Longstanton.

Northstowe Running Festival

M. Lis and L. Mayers, Northstowe Running Festival, provided a [presentation](#), in which they showcased past events and their successes. They highlighted that they wish to make sure that each event is beneficial to everyone in the community, not just those participating in running; hence additional entertainment and other activities are also offered at events.

The following questions were raised:

Q: re: Visitor numbers attending the Running Festival; where are you advertising to get so many numbers?

A: Northstowe Running Festival taps into many well-established national running promotional platforms, through which many people find this event. They mentioned that their data suggests that their events attracts a lot of people from a wide area, helping the promotion of Northstowe and thereby helping local businesses as well. Many people learn also about the Northstowe events through word-of-mouth as the events have a good reputation.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8:50 pm and invited everyone to continue talking to each other over a drink and snack.