



Needham Market Town Council Community and Asset Committee Minutes 16th April 2025

Place: Green Room of the Needham Market Community Centre, School Street, Needham Market.

Present Councillors:

C Goodchild (Chair)

G Blake

L Cornish

T Lawrence

I Mason

M Norris

A Reardon

G Sinnerton

And L Smith (elected Councillor, yet to make formal declaration of office).

And one member of the public.

CA056/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors T Cooke, R Darnell, M O'Shea, J Reardon and Clerk S Smith. Councillors K. Hunter and M. Ost were absent

RESOLVED That the apologies be received and approved.

CA057/25 MINUTES

The minutes for the meeting of the Community and Assets held 26.02.2025 were received.

M Norris appeared as both present and having given apologies. He had been present and this was corrected.

RESOLVED That the minutes be received and approved with the appropriate amendments.

Moved: Cllr G Sinnerton

Seconded: Cllr M Norris

CA058/25 INTERESTS

Cllrs G Blake, T Lawrence and G Sinnerton are members of the Bowling Club and so have an interest in the item related to the defibrillator noted in CA061/25.

CA059/25 QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mid Suffolk District Councillor John Matthiessen asked if Town Council would declare the patch of land leading from Jubilee Crescent to Station Yard as an asset of community value.

Location: ///forced.bottle.encloses. This is a much used path linking Jubilee Crescent and the High Street to the station. When the Jubilee Crescent homes were built, the developer agreed to install a proper path for access but could only do so on the land they owned. The rest of the path remains unfinished, leaving it uneven and unsuitable for disability access.

MSDC would like this piece of land completed to provide a continuous path and can finance the project. However, they have been unable to establish ownership despite extensive searches. Advice received is that if the piece of land can be declared an asset of community value by Town Council, MSDC can then ask SCC to adopt the land and subsequently get it finished.

Discussion covered liabilities, potential answers to who the land owners are and previous attempts to complete the job.

The general view was that the path should be completed and that some exploration is needed before a formal resolution can be made.

RESOLVED

1. Ask Cllr K Hunter about the location of previous correspondence on the issue as it may help identify an owner.
2. Cllr J Matthissen will share the legal advice received with Town Council.
3. Town Council will review the information received and a proposal will be brought to Town Council for decision.

CA060/25 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk was not present and so there was no report to receive.

CA061/25 PROJECT UPDATE

- A date has been identified to install the wet pour repair to the Crowley Park Younger Children's play area.
- ROSPA inspections are due.
- Work will begin on 28th April to install a proper path between the Community Centre car park and the Middle School Field.
- Council noted receipt of Cllr M O'Shea's report on the bus stops. This will be reviewed at the next meeting of this committee.
- Cllr K Oakes (SCC) and Town Council have worked on a project to move a defibrillator currently installed inside the Boxing Club to the external wall of the Bowls Club. Cllr L Cornish will carry out the work.
- Councillors shared the location of some vandalisms which need attention.

RESOLVED To receive the report.

CA062/25 UPDATE ON CIL POSITION

There was no update from the previous meeting.

CA063/25 POTENTIAL PROJECTS

Some of the bus shelters will need work.

CA064/25 CIVIC EVENTS GROUP

Cllr A Reardon provided an update on the VE Day 80th Anniversary celebrations and requested support on the day.

As a result of discussions at the Civic Service 'Wash Up' meeting, the following proposal was brought to the meeting: That Christchurch is booked for the next Civic Service as the location for robing and meeting as well as refreshments.

RESOLVED To book Christchurch.

Moved: Cllr A Reardon

Seconded: Cllr L Cornish

CA065/25 TOWN MARKET STATUS

A request had been received from Graham Oxenham of the Needham Market Society that Town Council support an event on the early Bank Holiday 2026 to celebrate the 800th Anniversary of Needham Market being given 'market' status.

RESOLVED To welcome and support the request.

Moved: Cllr T Lawrence

Seconded: Cllr M Norris

CA066/25 DONATIONS

No donation requests had been received.

Cllr T Lawrence raised the subject of Needham in Bloom's request for Town Council's assistance in gaining financial compensation from Allison Homes for the removal of their brick planter on Stowmarket Road. Discussion covered the detail of what is known about the situation in terms of communications to date. It was acknowledged that Town Council have likely now done all they can to communicate with Allison homes, to no avail. It was suggested that Town Council might welcome a donation request for the amount from Needham in Bloom and Cllr M Norris agreed to share the update with Needham in Bloom.

Council discussed the impact of SCC's decision to take all libraries back into their control on 01.06.25 on its financial support for Needham Market's library. Cllr T Lawrence has discussed which payments and assets need to be ceased with the Clerk. There may be resolutions needed at future meetings.

CA067/25 EASTER EVENT

There was no report to receive.

Councillors noted that: there have been a few positive comments on social media; additional collection boxes could be installed for future events; publicity in the newsletter and greater social media publicity could be helpful.

CA068/25 MIDDLE SCHOOL FIELD

Development to date has focused on liaising with the Skate Park Committee as this had been a significant suggestion on the survey.

CA069/25 SKATEPARK

It was reported that, as agreed, two meetings have taken place between councillors and the Skate Park Committee. They have now been invited to put forward a revised proposal and council is awaiting receipt.

RESOLVED To receive and note.

CA070/25 COMMUNITY CENTRE

The following were noted:

- Parking is an ongoing issue when Phoenix Football Club is using the Middle School Field. Cllr J Reardon is liaising.
- The Chairperson is actively seeking a successor.
- The bins are going to be fenced to stop residents using them for personal rubbish.
- Tony Bass has been engaged to assist with two capital projects.

RESOLVED To receive and note.

CA071/25 BIN PROVISION

Installation of these at the top of Hill House Lane and at the bus stop opposite Flint Drive were discussed.

RESOLVED To agree in principal, subject to clarification of land ownership and that council have permission to install.

Moved: Cllr L Cornish

Seconded: Cllr I Mason

CA072/25 FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

Following receipt of the meetings schedule for 2025/26, discussion brought two proposals.

RESOLVED Community and Assets meetings to be scheduled bi-monthly.

Moved: Cllr G Sinnerton

Seconded: Cllr I Mason

RESOLVED An Annual Town meeting be scheduled for May 2026.

Moved: Cllr A Reardon

Seconded: Cllr G Sinnerton

CA073/25 CHRISTMAS STREET FAYRE

Cllr A Reardon reported that the lady who has previously organised these on an informal basis will no longer be doing so.

Council noted: the event is growing in popularity and it would be a shame to see it go; council's capacity to run the event needs to be considered.

RESOLVED To form a working group to run this year's street fayre.

Moved: Cllr T Lawrence

Seconded : Cllr L Cornish

The proposal will be taken to Full Town Council.

The meeting closed at 8.47pm.

Chairperson..... Date.....