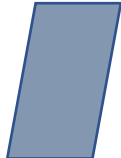




# BUNGAY TOWN COUNCIL



**Minutes of the Grounds, Properties and Amenities Extraordinary Committee Meeting held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020 at 7.00 p.m. As permitted by the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 No.392 this meeting was conducted “online”.**

**Members:**

Cllr. M Lincoln (ML) -Chair    Cllr. J Adams (JA)    Cllr. J. Blowers O’Neill (JBO’N)    Cllr. S Collins (SC) – Deputy Chair  
Cllr. M Atterwill (MA)    Cllr. P Love (PL)    Cllr. B. Prior (BP)    Cllr. A. Dawes (AD)

Also present were Eddie Rosier (ER) Temporary Assistant Town Clerk, Cllr. G Halliwell, Cllr D O’Neill and thirteen members of the public.

GPAC-029    **Apologies for absence:** To receive any apologies for absence.  
2019/2020    There were apologies for absence from MA. **Noted.**

GPAC- 030    **Declaration of Interest & Requests for Dispensations:** Councillors to declare any Pecuniary or Non-  
2020/2021    Pecuniary Interests. Notwithstanding this item, Members may subsequently declare an interest at any point in the meeting.

**AD declared a non-pecuniary interest as a trustee of The Falcon Meadow Community Trust (FMCT), which owns land adjacent to The Riverside Centre.**

GPAC-031    **Minutes of the previous meeting:** To approve the minutes of the Grounds, Properties & Amenities  
2020/2021    Committee Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> August: for consideration.

The minutes of the Grounds, Properties & Amenities Committee Meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> August were presented for approval. **It was proposed by PL, seconded by BP and unanimously RESOLVED to accept the minutes, with amendments to the wording on P2. ‘she’ (they), and P3. ‘postponed’ (postposed), and these were duly signed by the Chairman (ML).**

GPAC-032    **Public Forum:** Members of the public are invited to give their views on issues on this agenda, or raise  
2020/2021    issues for future consideration, at the discretion of the Chair, for no more than 15 minutes. Members of the public may not take part in the Committee meeting itself.

**It was proposed by AD and seconded by BP and unanimously RESOLVED to suspend standing orders to enable members of the public and councillors to continue discussions.**

GPAC-033    **The Staithe area:** to review the survey by Alan Keely, Suffolk Police – for Consideration.  
2020/2021

ML. referred to the survey by Allen Keely of Suffolk Police dated 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020, covering several issues at The Staithe. The difficulties experienced by residents were outlined in the report along with the views of some residents, and some suggested solutions to those problems. The main concerns were 1) The amount of traffic, the limited and indiscriminate parking, and the associated antisocial behaviour. Amongst the suggestions was the use of Bungay Primary School as an overspill car park. 2) The impact of visitor parking to the whole area, and consideration in the future of parking permits for the town. Improving existing signage and introducing new signs where appropriate. 3) Improving CCTV and lighting to the car park, the impact on residents, wildlife in general and bats. 4) Exploring the issue of toilet facilities and the possible introduction of cycle racks.



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One member of the public raised concerns about the speed and volume of traffic, the knock on effect of parking in Staithe Road, and an awareness that permit parking would need to involve the whole town and would take a long time to arrange. The inflating of boats on pavements outside people's homes was considered to be unacceptable. Another member of the public questioned the impact of visitors using the Riverside Centre and the overall increase in traffic this would cause. Use of the amenities in a positive way was felt by all to be a good thing but it was felt that antisocial behaviour suffered by residents would not be resolved using policing by consent as the report suggested. Another member of the public referred to the disturbance caused by people arriving with boats at 4am in the morning, and others leaving at 2am, resulting in disturbance almost around the clock. Litter remained a problem despite the increase in the regularity of bin collections during the summer.

Concerns were also raised about the ongoing damage to the Staithe triangle. JA stated that when the land concerned became the property of the council, there was a condition that bollards would be placed around the original part of the triangle. One resident was in favour of improved lighting to the car park and felt that CCTV was the best deterrent against antisocial behaviour.

One member of the public, representing a professional canoeing organisation, referred to a lock down phenomenon, and the warm summer, with canoeing, cycling and running resulting in hot spots around East Anglia, but demand was likely to reduce as the weather got colder. Another member of a professional canoeing organisation felt that the use of cheap inflatables was unlikely to last, in part due to the effort involved when inflating and deflating them. They were however able to help with advice through social media and for the effective use of signage. One member of the public felt that a resurgence was likely next year, and another felt that people coming from far and wide would not unlearn the experience of using an attractive amenity. Another resident said that regular posting on facebook promoting free parking at The Staithe was one reason that people were coming from far and wide, and that a charge should be considered.

BP. advised that the River Waveney, upstream from Geldeston locks, is exempt from licensing regulation by the Broads Authority, and therefore no licenses for boat users are required.

ER reflected upon the commitment by councillors when attempting to address resident's concerns. There was a need to investigate every aspect of the items raised in the report, and to look for ways that would not adversely impact other residents in the area. Access and rights of way were being investigated as the council prepared to take ownership of the land in the Staithe area. Parking solutions being considered included parking for users of The Riverside Centre, Canoe Club and Scout Group, the provision of disabled bays and the possibility of increasing the number of spaces available. The need to explore permit parking for the wider area of Staithe Road, to establish the criteria when applying for traffic management orders, the associated cost implications, and the limitations of such a scheme, namely one permit per household. Overflow parking was being considered and Bungay Primary School was to be approached, using the Wharton St entrance.

Further solutions included Improvements to safety and security and included the car park surface and drainage, the use of improved signage to assist policing by consent, upgrading of the current CCTV system and improved lighting using low energy LED which appeared to offer many benefits.



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The Riverside Centre was due to re-open to the public following the Coronavirus Pandemic, and several user groups were already signed up including a yoga class, knitting group and art class. Safety measures including deep cleaning and hand sanitiser stations had been introduced, and the main hall allowed for 12 people using mats, and 18 people seated. A press release had been issued and full details had been posted on the council's website.

SC. said that Access Community Trust was a well-respected and professional body, and that one of their specialisms was in youth engagement. She explained that ACT were actively working in Bungay under an agreed eighty-hour contract, engaging in dialogue with the schools and reporting back with some of the issues and identified needs. One of the things highlighted to ACT was the potentially dangerous activities being engaged at The Staithe.

ML. summarised by stating that whatever was done, there was a need to ensure it did not make the situation worse elsewhere. There was the need to enforce overnight restrictions on using the car park. To look at the lighting and CCTV and how to manage the speed of vehicles, although it was acknowledged that the speed bumps presented both a hazard and restriction to wheelchair users and those with limited mobility.

AD. referred to the Falcon Meadow conservation expert who confirmed the presence of bats and proposed that a survey should be undertaken to enable some direction on the sort of lighting which would not upset their habitat.

SC. stated that she understood resident's frustrations, and although the council hadn't yet taken over the land, there were some things the council would be able to do more or less immediately, and others when they took ownership. She recommended that the council should put together a proposal, based on the information and comments received, to feed back to residents in the community affected, to enable further consultation before the council implemented anything.

ML. proposed the presentation of a draft plan at the next meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> September for discussion, stating that the meeting was open for anyone to attend, with a second stage involving a local consultation to see what people felt about the proposals being made.

JA. Said that he felt that it was necessary to be realistic with residents over how long the implementation of items such as permit parking might take.

GPAC-034 **Date and time of next meeting:** Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020. – for information.  
2020/2021

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.26 pm.

**27<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

**Jeremy Burton**  
Town Clerk

**Bungay Town Council.**  
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Signed \_\_\_\_\_

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Date \_\_\_\_\_