

Norwich Area Committee

Minutes of the Meeting Held on Tuesday 18 November 2010
at Jubilee Community Centre, Long John Hill, Norwich

Members of the Committee Present:

Mr R Bearman (Chairman)

Mr B Bremner
Mr R Edwards
Mr P Hardy
Mr S Little

Mr M Scutter
Ms J Toms
Mr P Wells
Dr F Williamson

Officers Present:

Kristen Jones	Committee Officer, Democratic Services
Chris Mitchell	City Agency Manager, Norfolk County Council
Andy Watt	Head of Transportation, Norwich City Council

Others Present:

Graham Fletcher Churches Together

1. **Apologies and substitutions**

1.1 Apologies were received from Dr Boswell, Miss Casimir, Mr Hemsley, and Mr Nobbs.

2. **Minutes**

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2010 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. **Declarations of Interests**

3.1 There were no declarations of interest

4. **Items of Urgent Business**

4.1 There were no items of urgent business.

5. **Review of Norwich Winter Maintenance Service**

5.1 The City Agency Manager (Norfolk County Council) presented the annexed PowerPoint presentation titled 'Winter Service 2010-11' which gave the

legislative background to winter road maintenance, what it meant for Norfolk County Council, and what the Council did through its policy to ensure these requirements were met.

5.2 During the presentation, the following points were noted:

- Throughout the county, Norfolk County Council had use of sixty gritting lorries, up to 200 backhoe excavators, and 80 farmers with tractors and ploughs. The ploughs were maintained by the County Council and stored by farmers. Each farmer ploughed agreed parishes.
- Norfolk County Council have stored 19,000 tonnes of salt at eight sites throughout Norfolk.

5.3 Following this presentation, the Head of Transportation (Norwich City Council) presented his report which looked back at the 2009/10 winter maintenance season and highlighted improvements and efficiencies that had been made for the 2010/11 season.

5.4 During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- The meeting of the Environment, Transport and Development Overview and Scrutiny Panel which met the previous day considered the agency agreement with the City Council. It had supported a proposal to address winter maintenance as a whole rather than looking at Norwich as a separate area with a separate strategy. By considering the whole county as part of a single strategy from 2011/12, it was thought that this would achieve better use of vehicles and achieve through further route optimisation. This would lead to a fully-integrated service in the future.
- A website link was circulated to all Members which provided updated information and advice recently published by the Department for Transport (DfT) for residents on clearing snow and ice from pavements themselves. The website can be found at http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/NI1/Newsroom/DG_191868.
- The next editions of both the Norwich City Council Citizens magazine and the Norfolk County Council YourNorfolk magazine would feature an article about salting and clearing pavements and improved information about prevention in litigation against residents.
- In relation to grit bins, it was noted that the Council often relied on the public to make it aware when individual grit bins were getting low or were empty.
- Due to a very limited budget there was little opportunity to install further grit bins, but in some cases grit bins were relocated.

- Work was currently underway to promote awareness of the location of grit bins and so they knew that they were entitled to use them and advised on their use. A map and a list of locations of grit bins were being produced and this would be communicated via the City Council's website.
- The City Agency Manager (Norfolk County Council) noted that three new vehicles were procured and the Council had retained the brine vehicle to be used in the city centre shopping area. The brine vehicle spread brine instead of salt so that customers did not tread salt left on their footwear into shops.
- Gritting routes were prioritised on a hierarchical basis according to policy so that the most heavily trafficked and high risk routes were gritted first.
- In relation to cycle lanes, it was noted that it was very difficult to effectively treat these using salt as salt relied on substantial traffic to activate the salt for it to be effective. The cycles did not move the salt as effectively as vehicles and therefore did not melt the snow and ice as quickly.

5.5 The Chairman thanked the officers for attending and for their presentation and report.

6. The Future of Norwich Area Committee

6.1 The report by the Chair of the Norwich Area Committee was received. The report asked Members for their views on the Future of the Norwich Area Committee and to discuss topics which affected Norwich for an upcoming meeting with the Leader of the Council.

6.2 It was AGREED that following for meetings with the Leader of the Council:

- The meetings would be comprised of Norwich councillors with the potential of inviting councillors from the Greater Norwich area as the meetings develop.
- Meetings would be informal ad hoc meetings and be scheduled well in advance with specific agenda items in mind. In principle, there would be approximately four meetings each year. Ideally meetings would be held at 6pm at County Hall on a Tuesday or a Thursday.
- Norwich councillors would hold a pre-meeting before the meeting with the Leader of the Council.
- The first meeting would be held early in January 2011.
- Any potential items for meetings should be sent to Richard Bearman.

The meeting concluded at 8:15pm.

CHAIRMAN



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