

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF HUNSTANTON
HELD IN HUNSTANTON COUNCIL CHAMBER ON
FRIDAY 22nd April 2016 AT 6.50PM

Present: Mayor Cllr A Murray

Town Councillors: K Dunbar D Jones G Smith S Ellis R Bird
T Bishopp C Earnshaw M Large S Bower S Tong
W Croucher A Winnington D Harrington G Wilby

Also present:

BCllr Bower

BCllr Beal

BCllr Bird

L Powell Town Clerk

J Roomes Deputy Clerk

Press x 1

Members of the Public x 8

Prayers:

In the absence of Father John, the Mayor Cllr Murray took prayers.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Deputy Mayor Cllr Johnson who was on vacation and Cllr Clutton who had a family illness.

2. Public Question Time

Mr John Maiden relayed his disappointment that the recommendation made by the General Purposes Committee, to support the Town Twinning Event, had been overturned by Full Council. He felt the reason given by Council, insufficient discussions taking place with the people of the Town, was unjustified. He reiterated that this event will be taking place 6th May and urged the Council to accept this.

Mr Mike Ruston commented that whilst he could understand Mr Maiden's disappointment, he questioned the manner in which Mr Maiden had criticised the Council for their decision.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Police Liaison Officer

Sgt. Bane was unable to attend. The Clerk read out the Police Report that had been emailed.

From 15th March to 15th April 2016 25 offences had been recorded.

6 less than this time last year.

10 violent crimes.

8 thefts.

6 criminal damage.

1 miscellaneous crime.

5. Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk
BCllr Bower reported that good communications were made with everybody who attended the In Bloom launch at Bressingham with ideas and skills being shared. Exchange days were being organized with Downham Market and Halesworth. The bunting in the High Street has been replaced and thanks are given to the generosity of the Chamber of Trade for their financial assistance. Car Park charges have risen 30p per hour due to less money coming from Central Government but there is now more flexibility on parking. The Coastal Path is being continued from Wolferton to King's Lynn which will encourage tourism. A better bus service is required to bring visitors in to the area. Hopefully with further discussions this will all come together and progress will be seen later in the year. Devolution - Cambridge, Norfolk and Suffolk are all talking but the situation is not becoming any clearer. A presentation is being held before Full Council at next week's meeting and hopefully the reasons for continuing will be defined. Assurance is given that once Devolution has become clearer HTC will be informed. The Borough Council is still having talks with the Citizens Advice Bureau and whilst discussions are still taking place there is hope that the service will continue. BCKLWN announced that it now has a 5 year supply of deliverable housing sites across the Borough.

Clarification was requested if the discussions for the prospective CAB budget was for 2016/17? BCllr Bower confirmed this was correct and will report back as soon as further details are available.

Cllr Beal reported that just today he had heard that only certain aspects of the CAB will be funded and will report back as more information is forthcoming. He relayed his apologies to the Mayor for his late arrival to the meeting. Questions had been asked as to why the lighting of the Hunstanton beacon had been such a low key event with a small replacement beacon. BCllr Beal was looking in to this and advised that the Beacon was available for use at any time subject to authorization, correct insurance and risk assessment in place. Parking was becoming a problem behind the Princess Theatre due to the McCarthy & Stone lorries using the majority of the area. The entrance bar had also been damaged stopping the car park from being locked at night. BCllr Beal advised he was investigating this matter.

6. Norfolk County Council
BCllr Bird advised he has written a full End of Year Report that will be printed in the next edition of Town & Around, outlining his views on the past year.
7. Mayor's Remarks
The Mayor gave no further report as he had given a presentation at the Town Meeting held prior to this meeting. Cllr Bower asked for the Mayors response to an email that had been circulated to Councillors over the past few days. The Clerk replied that the sender of the email has been advised to go to the Standards Committee with his complaint.
8. Minutes – confirmation of
An Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 18th March 2016. The minutes of this meeting had been distributed to members prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED (12 for, 3 abstentions)) the minutes of the Full Town Council Meeting held on 18th March be signed as a true record.

9. Minutes, Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

10. Questions

To answer any questions put by Members in accordance with Standard Orders.
No questions were asked.

11. Committee Recommendations

Consideration was given to the adoption of recommendations made at the meetings of General Purpose, Finance, Quality Council and Town Hall Management Committee held on 13th April 2016. Copies of the minutes of these meetings had been distributed to members prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the recommendations of the General Purpose Committee meeting held 13th April 2016 be adopted.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the recommendations of the Finance Committee meeting held 13th April 2016 be adopted.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the recommendations of the Town Hall & Community Centre Management Committee meeting held 13th April 2016 be adopted.

12. Accounts for Payment

Consideration was given to payment of Schedules of Accounts No 17/01a for the Town Council, No T17/01a for the Tourist Information Centre and No C17/01a for the Community Centre. Copies of these schedules were distributed to members prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED (unanimous) Accounts No 17/01a for the Town Council, No T17/01a for the TIC and No C17/01a for the Community Centre be approved for payment

13. Grant Applications

Consideration was given to any available grants for which to apply and for what project. The Clerk advised that she was currently looking in to funding towards the bus shelter for the Manorfields Estate.

14. Committees/Working Parties

Consideration was given to any members that wish to join or leave any committee or working party. Cllr Wilby requested to leave the Employment Working Party and Finance Committee.

RESOLVED (unanimous) Cllr Wilby to leave the Employment Working Party and Finance Committee.

15. Car Park Charges

At the request of Cllr Large, consideration was given to asking the Borough Cllrs why the Hunstanton Car Park charges are so much higher than in King's Lynn and why does the all-day parking increase in July? He felt people were being penalised for visiting the area.

BCllr Bower responded advising that higher costs was probably due to the fact that Hunstanton is a holiday resort and that the person to contact for clarification / analysis of charges is David Morton at Resort Services. BCllr Bird agreed with Cllr Large that this matter needed addressing and advised he will be working alongside other Borough Councillors to deal with the matter.

16. Structural Engineer Quotations
Consideration was given to 3 Structural Engineer Quotations.
i) Trundley Design (King's Lynn) £950 + vat
ii) Templeman Associates (King's Lynn) £750 + vat
iii) J P Chick (Norwich) £950 + vat
RESOLVED (unanimously) to proceed with Templeman Associates (King's Lynn) £750 + vat.
17. Orchard Extension
Consideration was given to a request from the Henry le Strange Community Orchard Committee to put a small extension of 10 trees on to the Orchard.
RESOLVED (unanimous) to permit a small extension of 10 trees to the Orchard.
18. Planning Application 16/00082/OM (Amendment)
Consideration was given to the amendments for planning application 16/00082/OM.
RESOLVED (unanimous) to support, in principle, the amendments for planning application 16/00082/OM.
19. Planning Application 16/00084/OM (Amendment)
Consideration was given to the amendments for planning application 16/00084/OM.
RESOLVED (unanimous) to support, in principle, the amendments for planning application 16/00084/OM.
20. Questions re Town Twinning
At the request of Cllr Bower, the following motion was put forward:
"HTC thanks the Civic Society for their friendship towards the 67th SOS but wishes to state that, in the absence of consultation with residents or approval of Council, the Society should not refer to any twinning being with the Town".
A lengthy debate as to the merits and drawbacks of twinning with the 67th SOS took place. An amendment to Cllr Bowers proposition was put forward and seconded. This became a substantive motion.
RESOLVED (10 in favour, 3 against, 2 abstentions) HTC thanks the Civic Society for their friendship towards the 67th SOS but wishes to state that some Councillors were not in favour of this twinning action.
21. Correspondence
The Deputy Clerk read out the following miscellaneous correspondence:
#1 At the request of Cllr Earnshaw, the Deputy Clerk read this item out in full
#5 At the request of Cllr Murray, the Deputy Clerk read this item out in full
#2 At the request of Cllr Tong, the Deputy Clerk read this item out in full
#4 At the request of Cllr Dunbar, the Deputy Clerk read this item out in full
22. Public Question Time
Mr Richardson announced how pleased he was that the Town Twinning with the 67th SOS was going ahead.

Meeting Closed 8.29pm