

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE TOWN COUNCIL OF HUNSTANTON
HELD IN HUNSTANTON COUNCIL CHAMBER ON
FRIDAY 22 MAY 2015 AT 6.30 PM

Present:

Town Councillors:

E Clutton	C Earnshaw	G Smith	A Murray	J Johnson
K Dunbar	S Tong	D Harrington	W Croucher	R Bird
D Jones	S Bower	G Wilby	T Bishopp	N King
M Large	A Winnington			

Also present:-

5 members of public

2 press representative

Town Clerk L Powell

Assistant Town Clerk M Horner

Fthr J Bloomfield (p/t)

BCllrs R Bird, P Beal & C Bower

Prayers were led by Father J Bloomfield

The meeting was opened by outgoing Mayor, Cllr C Bower, who informed on emergency evacuation procedures.

1. Election of Town Mayor

Cllr S Bower nominated Cllr J Johnson for the position of Mayor and was seconded by Cllr C Earnshaw. Cllr D Jones nominated A Murray for the position of Mayor seconded by Cllr D Harrington. Cllr E Clutton expressed the following:

I am speaking as a Councillor of 5 years with experience of holding the office of deputy mayor and mayor and chairman of this council for 2 years. I would like to comment on the proposal of Cllr Murray as Mayor and/or Deputy Mayor as I consider Cllr Murray to be an unsuitable candidate for the following reasons.

He showed a considerable lack of respect for the position of Mayor and chairman of this council last year. The Civic Society held an open meeting regarding the Hopkins Homes Development at which someone suggested that the Mayor had taken a brown envelope (meaning a bribe) as the council had voted in support of the development. The person who made the accusation did phone the Mayor and apologised for the remarks, admitted they had made the remarks and followed it up by apologising in writing. This was discussed in Council as it was a serious slur against the Mayor. The Mayor asked for Councillors support in this and all Councillors supported the Mayor except two. One of which was Cllr Murray who, when questioned said that he didn't think that had been said or meant, although this meeting had been recorded on video. This showed a complete lack of respect for the position for which he has now been proposed. Furthermore, at another Council meeting, Cllr Murray expressed that he would not support a decision made by the Council if he did not agree with it. I then produced the 'Good Councillors Guide' and asked if he was familiar with protocol and he said he had not read it. For new

councillors I would like to point out that any decisions, even if you do not agree with them, made by the Council are democratic and should be supported.

I therefore suggest that Cllr Murray has a lack of respect for the position of Mayor and chairman of the Council and a lack of understanding how councillors should conduct themselves.

Cllr Jones spoke in favour of Cllr. Murray and all the positive contributions he had made to the Council and the community.

Both Cllr Johnson and Cllr Murray left the meeting whilst voting took place.

RESOLVED (8 Votes to 6 1 abstention) Cllr Murray was duly elected as Mayor for the ensuing year. The Declaration of Office was read out and signed.

2. Election of Deputy Mayor

The new Mayor called for nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor and nominated Cllr J Johnson and was seconded by Cllr W Croucher.

RESOLVED (Unanimous) Cllr Johnson duly elected as Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year. The Declaration of Office was read out and signed.

3. Apologies for Absence

All Cllrs present.

4. Outgoing Mayor's Remarks

Cllr C Bower said she had been privileged to serve as Hunstanton Mayor and had enjoyed her time. She also commented that the Chamber is not a platform for personal agendas and should adhere to Good Cllrs guide.

5. Committee Membership

Membership of Standing Committees for the ensuing year was agreed to be:-

General Purposes Committee

All Councillors.

Finance Committee

All Councillors.

Town Hall Management Committee

Cllrs Bishopp, Earnshaw, Jones, Smith, Winnington, Harrington, Bower, Dunbar, Clutton & Bird.

Quality Council

All Councillors present with the exception of Wilby & Johnson.

6. E-planning

Cllr a Murray gave an outline of the structure of the Committee.

Cllrs Bishopp, Tong, Earnshaw, Jones, Croucher, Winnington, Clutton, Harrington & Johnson formed this committee.

Cllr C Earnshaw was elected as Chairman of the E-planning Committee.

7. Joint Management of the Green

Cllrs D Harrington, W Croucher and R Bird were elected to be the Town Council's representatives.

Highways & Byways

Cllrs S Tong, W Croucher, A Murray, J Johnson & Winnington were elected to be the Town Council's representatives on the Highways and Byways Committee.

Internal Audit Group

Cllrs T Bishopp, G Smith, S Bower, J Johnson were elected representatives for this Committee.

Freedom of the Town & Town Twinning

Cllr S Bower asked if the Freedom of the Town needs to be continued as we have already awarded it. Cllr A Murray informed Cllr S Bower that it is set to continue. Cllrs D Jones, G Smith, D Harrington and A Murray would like to be representatives on this Committee.

Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr S Bower asked if the neighbourhood plan WP was to establish if a NP was required or to actually prepare one A Murray advised it is to prepare one.
Cllrs W Croucher, A Winnington, D Harrington, K Dunbar, R Bird, A Murray & Town Clerk would like to be representatives on this Committee.

Special Expenses

Cllrs T Bishopp, D Jones, G Smith, D Harrington, S Bower, R Bird and A Murray would like to be representatives on this Committee.

Community Centre

Cllrs G Smith, W Croucher, S Tong, D Jones & K Dunbar would like to be representatives on this Committee.

Regeneration

Cllrs S Tong, C Earnshaw, D Jones, W Croucher, D Harrington, K Dunbar and A Murray would like to be representatives on this Committee,

Employment

Cllrs T Bishopp, C Earnshaw, G Wilby, G Smith, N King, E Clutton, R Bird, J Johnson and A Murray would like to be representatives on this Committee.

TIC Management

Cllrs T Bishopp, C Earnshaw, G Smith, S Bower, E Clutton, R Bird would like to be representatives on this Committee,

Youth

Cllrs N King, W Croucher, E Clutton and L Powell Town Clerk would like to represent this Committee.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor to be ex-officio members of all Working Parties.

8. Representatives

The following were agreed upon to act as HTC representatives:

Hunstanton Regeneration Project Team

Cllrs C Earnshaw, G Smith & D Harrington.

Anglia in Bloom

Cllr C Earnshaw.

Safer Neighbourhoods Action Plan

Cllrs N King & W Croucher.

Civic Society

Cllr A Winnington.

Chamber of Trade

A Green & L Powell.

West Norfolk Tourism Executive Management Committee

A Green & L Powell.

Town Events

Cllr S Tong & D Harrington.

Coastal Erosion

Cllr A Winnington.

Town Team

Cllrs T Bishopp, N King & J Johnson

9. Subscriptions

Membership subscriptions to the following organisations were considered:

Norfolk County Association of Parish & Town Councils (NALC) approx £600

RESOLVED subscribe

Society of Local Council Clerks approx £190

RESOLVED subscribe

Campaign to Protect Rural England approx £30

RESOLVED no subscription

Community Action Norfolk £50 Silver

RESOLVED subscribe

National Association Village Halls approx £20

RESOLVED subscribe

Norfolk Council for Voluntary Youth Services approx £30

RESOLVED no subscription at this time. May join later.

The meeting closed 7.31 pm