

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF HUNSTANTON
HELD IN HUNSTANTON COUNCIL CHAMBER ON
FRIDAY 19TH FEBRUARY 2016 AT 6.30PM

Present: Mayor Cllr A Murray Deputy Mayor Cllr J Johnson

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

Also present:-

BCllrs: Bower, Beale

Town Clerk Lisa Powell, Deputy Clerk Jan Roomes

Members of the Public x 4

Prayers : Father Bloomfield led prayers, those wishing to do so left the room.

1. Apologies for Absence
Full Council in Attendance.
2. Public Question Time
Mr Pat Richardson advised the Council that the Town Litter Pick will take place on 2nd July 2016. Volunteers to meet outside the Town Hall at 10am. Mr Richardson also advised that Mr Dick Melton had asked him to inform Councillors that gravel had now been laid to repair the pot holes along Alexander Road leading to the Cemetery.
3. Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest.
4. Police Liaison Officer
Sgt. Bane was unable to attend, the Clerk read the report that he had emailed over. From 15th January to 14th February 2016. 6 offences have been recorded. 14 less than this time last year.
1 violent crime.
3 thefts.
1 criminal damage.
1 possession of drugs.
5. Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk
BCllr Bower reported on Devolution, with 98% of tax going to Central Government and 72% of that revenue coming back to be spent on the country. Councils are now taking on more responsibility in their areas and are obtaining money from the Government to fund this. Some areas had already Devolved, for example Leeds, West Midlands and Ipswich. Norfolk would be in the next tranche. She advised that in order to maximize our bid for Devolution we should join together with other areas to become a larger entity. Norfolk will join Suffolk.

Peterborough were not keen to pursue this further but a liaison with Cambridge could prove workable. The funds received from Central Government could be used for Transport, Regeneration, Housing, and Social Care. Cllr Bower reported that Greg Clarke had said that we had not been ambitious enough in the past, this is something that needs to be rectified and some progress should be seen within the next few months.

Cllr Bower reported on a meeting at Holme that was attended by Brancaster Neighbourhood Planning. Brancaster had a very good plan and included a clause that prevented new build five bedroom houses in the area that were not affordable by local people. A four-bedroom extension was approved as the owner lived and worked in the area. New build, and old build extensions should be included in any Neighbourhood plan. Cllr Bower advised the meeting that help and advice should be sought from Borough officers as they would be more than happy to provide such. Brancaster had found their assistance most helpful.

Cllr Murray asked Cllr Bower if devolution would eliminate a tier of Government?

Cllr Bower replied that it would not and the existing tiers would still exist but may have to adjust. She will report back when further information becomes available.

Cllr Beale reported as follows:

- i) Chris Durham had been concentrating on the hedge and shrub cuttings in the area. The required work behind Quigley's is in hand.
- ii) Bunds around the Recreation Ground are to be done in next 2 weeks. Vehicles had been driven on the Football ground damaging the pitch.
- iii) Bookings for the Band Stand were looking good for the year with the exception of April. A call was made for the Spinney to be better utilized by schools, scout groups etc. possibly displaying art work. There is no charge to use this area, for further details or bookings please contact Dave Morton.
- iv) Tender for work on the Promenade had been agreed and work will commence after Easter.
- v) Car Parking charges have seen no rise for 5 years but will be increasing at Easter by 50p for 24 hours. However, if someone parks at 3pm and pays till 6pm there will be no extra charge for overnight. The 24-hour period will now be from 1pm to 1pm. Overnight parking to return to a £1 after 6pm.

Cllr Bird reported he has put forward a motion that requires the Council to initiate a comprehensive study of Hunstanton and adjacent areas to formulate a plan for the economic and social development of the area focused on local needs and potential.

Town Clerk Lisa Powell addressed a question to BCllrs - was there any truth in the suggestion that the future of CCTV was in some doubt in an attempt to save £600,000?

Cllr Bird responded that he has no knowledge of this. **Cllr Beale** advised he would look in to this matter.

6. Norfolk County Council

Cllr Bird reported that bed blocking is costing the NHS £900m a year. Cllr Clutton had visited Norfolk Hospice and previously asked the question - who picks up the bill for the end of life palliative care patient? - No definitive response to this question it had been received to date but Cllr Bird will update members when he receives.

A result of Devolved Government could mean we take on Norfolk and Suffolk coastal flooding responsibilities. The flooding committee is concerned with an area that stretches from Hunstanton to the Thames Barrier. For every £1 the County Council puts in the Government put in £7, this would have to continue for it to be workable. Priority is for life then the built environment.

Charging has been a suggestion of imposing on street parking. Not enough ECN's are being issued so the cost of the officers enforcing parking infringements is not being met. North Norfolk District Council have decided to withdraw from the consortium of six districts and at the moment no one knows how they will be financed. This could be an additional cost on the Rates. There will not be a consultation period, it will be imposed on us so we must devise a proper plan for Hunstanton. **Cllr Harrington** asked if there would there be permits for zones? **Cllr Bird** replied that residents parking has been put to one side and is not an issue at the moment, this is all about visitor parking. It was likely to be 45 mins free then a chargeable period, but the big challenge will be which streets this will apply to. **Cllr Croucher** asked if this should be added to the Neighbourhood Plan? **Cllr Bird** replied that it could be but as there would not be any consultation we will have very little say in it.

Cllr Croucher reported to Cllr Bird that she knew of a personal case of bed blocking and the lack of assistance available for when patient the was discharged to their home, without further care facilities this patient would likely be back in hospital blocking a bed again. **Cllr Bird** advised that with further details he would personally look in to this matter if Cllr Croucher requested and report the incident to appropriate officers.

7. Mayor's Remarks

The Mayor reported that he had the privilege of participating in the opening of the 812th Mart in King's Lynn. A procession from the Town Hall along the High St to the Mart took place and was formally opened by the King's Lynn Mayor. Networking and liaising with adjacent parishes is important, especially Downham Market and King's Lynn.

A pleasant day was spent with the Mayor of Wisbech who kindly gave him a tour of the town. Wisbech has produced some very eminent people. The Civic Society are arranging a trip to the Octavia Hill birth place and The Wisbech & Fenland Museum.

The Mayor reported that he was looking forward to the Twinning of the town with the 67th SOS. He had attended the last Change of Command event with several other councilors and was overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and hospitality of the Americans. Twinning can be of great benefit to the people of the town as well as the 67th. It was fortunate that Mark Service as official historian had contacted John Maiden at the time he was Chair of the Civic Society and set the ball in

motion for parades through the town and then the very successful Freedom of the Town event in October 2014. It has been suggested that Shelly Rodriguez had been influential with the Pentagon and that has now allowed us to proceed with the Twinning.

Cllr Clutton asked 2 question:

- i) It has been a custom for a number of years to have a Civic Service which includes the annual blessing of the town. Do you have plans in your term of office to have one?
- ii) In the past 4/5 years we have had Community Awards for an adult, child or group of people, will this be happening at your reception in May?

The Mayor replied: The answer is no to both of them as he had not intended to do things the same way as they had been done in previous years.

8. Minutes – confirmation of

An Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 22nd January 2016.

The minutes of this meeting had been distributed to members prior to the meeting.

Cllr Bird reported that on page 3 of the previous meetings minutes he had been quoted as saying that the budgets have not been ratified yet, this should have read the budgets are about to be ratified. Domestic rate increase be raised by 8% was incorrect, the minutes should have read 0.8%. £4 increase on a Band D property should have read £4 per annum. In total a Band D property should have a rise of about £50.

RESOLVED (unanimous) with the above corrections the minutes of the Full Town Council Meeting held on 22nd January 2016 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.

The following questions were asked.

Cllr Winnington asked if the recommendation from January meeting Item 12 to write to Manor Farm regarding the overgrowth had been carried out?

The Clerk replied that all actions from the January meeting had been carried out and that no reply as yet had been received back from Manor Farm.

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 10th February 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 on 10th February 2016 be adopted.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the recommendations made at the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 10th February 2016 be adopted.

Quality Council Committee

Recommendation 5.2 from the Freedom/Town Twinning Working Party held on 27th January 2016 was addressed.

A lengthy debate ensued with the following points raised.

- There appears to be no benefit to the Town, no Community link. It should be a two-way process. The whole town should be consulted to gain their opinion. There should be recognition given for the Firefighters and Police who were involved in the 1953 floods.
- The Americans are happy to continue the friendship on an informal basis. Twinning is a reflection of the time the Americans spent in the town. No additional cost to the town. Will provide cultural and sporting opportunities.

RESOLVED (10 in favour / 5 against / 2 abstentions) recommendation 5.2 be deferred until consultation with public has been carried out.

RESOLVED (unanimous) recommendation Agenda Item 6 be adopted.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the recommendation made at the meeting of the Town Hall & Community Centre Management Committee held on 10th February 2016 be adopted.

12. Accounts for Payment

Consideration was given to payment of Schedules of Accounts No 16/11a for the Town Council, No T16/11a for the Tourist Information Centre & No. 16/11a for the Community Centre. Copies of these schedules were distributed to members prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED: (unanimous) Accounts 16/11a for the Town Council, T16/11a for the TIC & C16/11a 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. No projects required funding at this time.

14. Committees/Working Parties

Consideration was given to any members that wish to join or leave any committee or working party.

RESOLVED (unanimous) Cllr Bird and Deputy Clerk Jan Roomes to join the Freedom of the Town Working Party.

15. Training Courses

Consideration was given to Clerk Lisa Powell to attend the Appraisals for Councils course at a cost of £35 to be payable by the Council.

RESOLVED (unanimous) Clerk to attend the relevant course.

No members wished to attend the Introductory Training for Clerks and Councillors course at this time.

17. Correspondence

A summary of miscellaneous correspondence received since the last meeting was available for members at the meeting.

1. **Environment Agency** - Letter dated 28th January 2016 advising the intention to carry out annual beach management works during March 2016
2. **Dick Melton** - Letter dated Feb 3rd 2016 querying cliff erosion, hedges to be planted along cliff top and lack of R.N.L.I. Lifeguards on the beach in summer.
3. **Scope** Notification of Scope house-to-house collection dates. Now changed to March 28th – April 17th.

2 At the request of Cllr Dunbar this item was read out in full.
The Clerk advised that, where possible, future correspondence would be distributed to Councillors prior to meeting.

18. Public Question Time

Mr P Richardson asked if there would be any additional costs if the Twinning went ahead?

The Mayor advised no additional cost would be incurred should the Twinning go ahead.

Meeting Closed 8.14pm