

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF HUNSTANTON
HELD IN HUNSTANTON COUNCIL CHAMBER ON
FRIDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2014 AT 6:30 PM

Present: Mayor: Cllr E Clutton

Town Councillors: A Boardman C Earnshaw J Maiden G Smith D Harrington S Ellis
G Gooderson A Murray B Devlin J Smith R Davies R Bird

Also present:-

Members of the Public x 2

Press x 1

BCllr P Beal

Town Clerk & Deputy Town Clerk

In the absence of Fthr Bloomfield the Mayor led the Council in prayers.

1. Apologies For Absence
Apologies for absence were received from Cllr C Bower, N Godfrey-Cole, L Brister and J Johnson.
2. Residents Question Time
Mr Ruston congratulated Mr Boardman on his election success.
3. Police Liaison Officer
There was no police representative present and no report had been received.
4. Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk
BCllr P Beal reported that Cllr Watson had sent her apologies as she had been at the King's Lynn Mart all day. The attendance at the Mart by Mayors had been most impressive.
Cllr Beal advised that he had been working conscientiously on a car park review.
Cllr Beal welcomed Cllr Boardman.
BCllr Bird reported that with the cabinet system there are no rules for debate. At the last meeting Cllr Bird had asked five questions, these he had handed to the Clerk prior to that meeting. Despite this, the minutes did not reflect the questions asked. Cllr Bird suggested the installation of a recording system but was informed it would be too expensive. Cllr Bird had received quotes of between £300 to £1,000.
5. Norfolk County Council
NCllr R Bird commented that as it had previously been mentioned that he speaks for too long he would keep his report brief.
He reported that he visits 13 parishes and 1 town in his role as County Councillor. He does his best to get to them all. There is a big difference from those who are very proactive to those who are less efficient.
The main issue currently being dealt with is that of budgets. The document is 187 pages long. There have been 2 amendments put forward, one by the Green Party which includes a 3.5% increase in general rates. The other amendment is by UKIP and this involves school buses and flood defences.

A group has put pressure on to the Managing Director of NCC, who in turn has written to the Minister. A version of Cobra has now been set up with a budget of £250k to look at coastal defences. Local knowledge will be an integral part of this.

6. Mayor's Remarks

The Mayor welcomed Cllr. Boardman to the Town Council and said he hoped he enjoyed his term of office.

She reported that the past month had been very busy. She had attended the West Norfolk Sports Awards where Chris Holt had received a supporting award for his work with local tennis.

She had attended the celebrations of the 100th edition of Town and Around and had been at the opening of the Mart.

A date for the diary is 23rd March 2014, Mayor's Gala in the Town Hall, tickets available from the Tourist Information Centre.

7. Minutes – Confirmation of

The minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council held on 17th January 2014, a copy of which had been distributed to councillors prior to the meeting, were considered.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the minutes of the Full Council Meeting of 17th January 2014 were approved.

8. Minutes – Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

9. Questions

No questions had been submitted.

10. Committee Recommendations

The recommendations made at the General Purpose, Finance, Quality Council and Town Hall Management Committee meetings held on 5th February 2014, copies of the minutes, which had been distributed to councillors prior to the meeting, were considered.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the recommendations made at the meeting of the General Purpose Committee held on 5th February 2014 be adopted.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the recommendations made at the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 5th February 2014 be adopted.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the recommendations made at the meeting of the Quality Council Committee held on 5th February 2014 be adopted.

11. New Membership of Committees and Working Parties

Cllr Boardman requested to join the General Purpose, Town Hall Management, Quality Council and Finance Committees but no working parties at this time.

RESOLVED (unanimous) Cllr Boardman become a member of the General Purpose, Town Hall Management, Quality Council and Finance Committees.

12. The General Power of Competence

Consideration was given to adopting, by formal resolution, the General Power of Competence.

Copy of the Town Clerk's report and recommended wording of resolution was distributed to members prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED (unanimous) The Town Council resolves from 14 February 2014, until the next relevant Annual Meeting of the Council, that having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in

the Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012, to adopt the General Power of Competence.

13. Correspondence

#6 At the request of Cllr Bird the Deputy Clerk read out the letter.

Cllr Bird advised that, in relation to the above letter, the Environment Agency had always had its hands tied due to issues such as toads, birds nesting, butterflies etc. This will now be under review as the saving of lives is more important. There is only funding available for another two years of beach recharging, this recharging costs between £150k - £250k per year.

13. Additional Residents Question Time

Mrs Bird thought the term “prolixity” might come in useful when referring to Cllr Bird, it means to talk at length.

Mr. Ruston asked for a progress report on the basement café. The Clerk advised that now the Power of Competence had been adopted things could progress.

Meeting closed at 7.00pm.