

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF HUNSTANTON
HELD IN HUNSTANTON COUNCIL CHAMBER ON
FRIDAY 11th APRIL 2014 AT 6:46 PM

Present: Mayor: Cllr E Clutton Deputy Mayor: Cllr C Bower

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

Also present:-

Members of the Public x 7

BCllr P Beal

NCCllr & BCllr R Bird

Press x 1

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 Cllrs J Maiden, BCllr Watson and the Deputy Town Clerk.

2. Public Question Time

There were no questions.

3. Police Liaison Officer

Sgt. R Curl gave the following report:

Since the last Council meeting we have recorded an almost identical number of crimes as we did in 2013.

We have seen no burglaries reported at all, however – very unusually – a street robbery was reported in Clarence Road at the A149. The victim of this crime sustained some minor cuts to his hands when one of the two offenders produced a Stanley knife and demanded his wallet. E-fit images of the offenders were reported in the Lynn News and although two local men were arrested in relation to this offence, the victim did not identify them as being responsible. This matter remains under investigation by King's Lynn CID. The vast majority of violent crime in the town involves people known to each other and so this offence stands out as particularly significant, but thankfully also particularly infrequent.

There have been only 2 vehicle crimes, one of which was interference with the window trim of a Ford Ka at Chiltern Crescent, the other a theft of a motorcycle ignition coil from outside the victim's home.

There have been 7 violent crimes. Most of these are domestic in nature, and the circumstances vary greatly. One offence involving 3 women and a man in a resulted in him receiving minor head wound and charges are under consideration in respect of two local women. A 58 year old woman from Whittlesey has been charged with assaulting her 11yr old grandson in Tesco car park. An unconnected but similar allegation was reported but not pursued at the wish of the victim's father. Another report accused a 74 year old man of pushing and threatening his neighbour during a dispute over a boundary fence being erected.

Two other offences of threatening behaviour have been investigated. One has resulted in a 23 yr old man being reported for a public order offence in a Public House.

We have dealt with 2 reports of theft, both of which involve people putting their property down and leaving it where unknown others can simply walk away with it. A mobile telephone was taken from the bowling alley, and a Zippo cigarette lighter was taken from a window ledge in Westgate.

The remaining offences are damage to vehicles and buildings. A single incident accounts for 6 of the 9 offences. A 20 year old man from Dersingham was detained by residents in Waveney Road until police arrived. He was subsequently arrested for smashing 2 windows on the side of the Children's Centre minibus, a window on the Children's Centre itself, followed by causing damage to 4 cars in Park Road and Waveney Road. He was also found to be in possession of cannabis.

Numerous other cars were struck on the route but suffered no permanent damage. The man is on police bail until 29th April with conditions including a curfew.

A 35 year old man reported as missing from his home address in King's Lynn contacted us to say that he had smashed a shop window in Church Street. He was arrested and charged with the offence.

NCllr Bird asked if there had been any offences of dog fouling. Sgt Curl advised that there had been no enforcement action to date. Recently an angry dog killed a Westie but the dog had now been destroyed by its owner.

The Clerk queried the report about the Surestart damage as there was no mention of the 9 windows damaged at the Community Centre. Sgt Curl apologised for the omission.

Sgt Curl reported that the Police would still make a presence at Town and Parish meetings but there would also be a ward newsletter to keep everyone informed.

4. Casual Vacancies

Representations were made from candidates interested in standing for the four Casual Vacancies within the Town Council. The candidates were: Linza Corp (present), Amanda Knight (not present, presentation read out by Cllr Harrington), Terry Light (present), Peter Parsons (not present, presentation read out by NCllr Bird), Daniel Parton (present), Michael Ruston (present), Glynis Thomson (not present, presentation read out by the Town Clerk).

The Mayor advised candidates and members of the public that they did not have to leave the Chamber while Councillors discussed and voted, she respectfully requested that they did. All duly obliged.

Councillors discussed each candidates merits in turn, then as per NALC's voting instructions, taking each vacancy in turn, undertook the vote.

RESOLVED: The four new Councillors be T Light, D Parton, M Ruston, G Thomson.

Councillors T Light, D Parton and M Ruston read and signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took their place in the meeting. G Thomson not being present will do so at a later date.

5. Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk

BCllr Beal advised that he had carried out a parking review across the Borough but he was still awaiting its release. His concern at the moment was the coach park. He requested that the Mayor set up a working party, to include members of other organisations, to look at coach parking in Hunstanton. The Mayor assured Cllr Beal that this would be placed on the next committee agenda. BCllr Beal reported that he had major concerns over the state of Hunstanton toilets and the time they close. He requested that the Town Council form a working party to discuss this matter and find a way forward. The Mayor assured Cllr Beal that this would be placed on the next committee agenda. It was agreed that the matter would also be discussed at the next Highways & Byways Working Party which was due to meet shortly.

BCllr Bird Reported that in the BC offices at Valentine Road there was the District Emergency Planning Officer, Kevin Kent, he had been unaware of this until now. All emergencies are co-ordinated from here. He asked the Town Council to form an Emergency Planning working party to look at what action the Town Council and others can take in the event of an emergency. The Mayor assured Cllr Bird that this would be placed on the next committee agenda.

6. Norfolk County Council

Cllr Bird reported that the issue of the incinerator had now been dealt with at an Extraordinary Council Meeting. He had been one of the initial 6 Councillors who had fought against the incinerator. Cllr. Dobson's knowledge of the rule book and sheer doggedness had led them on. Cllr Bird reported that the steering group leading the transfer from the Cabinet system to the Committee system had made its recommendations. It had been a lot of hard work with some members refusing to take part and leaving the meeting.

Cllr Murray asked if Cllr Bird was confident that waste will be satisfactorily dealt with in the future. Cllr Bird advised that he was not at the moment but there were various options. No further ratepayers money will be put into waste programmes.

Cllr Bird reported that NCC now want to put an elongated island on the A149 rather than the promised crossing, surveyors will be coming to look at it again, Cllr Bird to advise HTC of the date. This had all been an officer level decision.

Cllr Devlin asked if the reputed £38,000,000 had to be paid to Cory Wheelabrator. Cllr Bird said he was not able to pass comment at this stage.

Cllr Earnshaw referred to last months Full Council minutes and asked whether the comments Cllr Bird had made regarding second homes affecting the drop in school numbers and hence schools closing had been based on actual information from a report. Cllr Bird said this was from observation not a report, as he dealt with the coastal division it was clear to see the effects.

Cllr Earnshaw asked if any more information had been obtained on the Clerk's question at the last Full Council meeting regarding the ceiling being put on Band D properties. Cllr Bird Said he was still investigating this.

7. Mayor's Remarks

The Mayor congratulated the Youth Working Party who have organised monthly discos for children age 7 – 11. These are proving more popular every month and special thanks must go to the councillors, the Clerk and Dawn Davies who regularly help out, and most of these volunteers do so after a day's work. So thank you and well done to everybody. The children really do appreciate all the effort.

The Mayor advised that on Monday 14th April she was taking a blind fold walk around the town in order to experience street and pavement hazards, such as A boards, poorly placed street clutter which are obstacles that blind and partially sighted people encounter every day. This will also raise public and shopkeeper awareness of the national Street Ahead campaign organised by The Guide Dog Association.

Cllr Clutton said that this was her last full council meeting as chairman with just a few more duties to carry out during the next month. Duties which include lunch with Mary Rhodes for the launch of her new book on the 1953 Floods, and the Mayor's Reception on Friday 25th April. She thought it was very encouraging to see 7 applicants for the four councillor vacancies and wished the four successful candidates an enjoyable and challenging time as Councillors.

8. Minutes – Confirmation of

The minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council held on 14th March 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 14th March 2014 were approved.

9. Minutes – Matters Arising
There were no matters arising.

10. Questions
No questions had been submitted.

11. Committee Recommendations
The recommendations made at the General Purpose, Finance and Town Hall Management Committee meetings held on 2nd April 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 2nd April 2014 be adopted.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the recommendations made at the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 2nd April 2014 be adopted.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the recommendations made at the meeting of the Town Hall Management Committee held on 2nd April 2014 be adopted.

12. Correspondence

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| 1. Norfolk Constabulary | February 2014 Community Update - Hunstanton |
| 2. WNVCA | Funding News, Local News, National News April 2014 |
| 3. CPRE | West Norfolk & District AGM 16 April |
| 4. CPRE | Spring Open Days 19 April – 4 May 2014 |
| 5. CPRE | Field Work Spring 2014 |
| 6. CPRE | Countryside Voice Spring 2014 |
| 7. Mr. D Melton | Letter dated 24 th March, reminder requesting bus shelters on Princess Drive, Lighthouse Lane and Cliff Parade |
| 8. Mr. D Melton | Letter dated 4 th April, regarding cycling along the prom |
| 9. Mr. D Melton | Poem regarding the differences in the North and South of the town |

#7, #8, #9 At the request of Cllr Murray, the Clerk read out these letters.

13. Additional Public Question Time
There were no additional questions.

Meeting closed at 8.38pm.