

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF HUNSTANTON  
HELD IN HUNSTANTON COUNCIL CHAMBER ON  
FRIDAY 17<sup>th</sup> April 2015 AT 6:55 PM

Present: Mayor: Cllr C Bower Deputy Mayor: Cllr J Johnson

Town Councillors: S Ellis B Devlin A Murray R Davies C Earnshaw  
M Ruston E Clutton D Parton G Thomson T Light

Also present:-

Members of the Public x 3

BCllr E Watson

NCCllr & BCllr R Bird

Town Clerk

Sgt Bane (p/t)

The Mayor led the Council in prayers.

1. Apologies for absence  
Apologies were received from Cllrs G Smith, G Gooderson, J Maiden and D Harrington.
2. Public Question Time  
Mr D Jones said he was still awaiting a reply to an email he sent to the Mayor on 4<sup>th</sup> February. The Mayor thought no reply was necessary.
3. Co- Option of Councillor  
There were no persons standing for co-option.
4. Police Liaison Officer  
Sgt Bane gave the following report compiled up to 16<sup>th</sup> April 2015 from 20<sup>th</sup> March 2015:  
We have recorded 27 offences during this period which is an increase of 9 crimes for the same time a year previously.  
This variance appears to be as result of an increase of Theft offences this year.  
**Burglary.**  
This is a domestic related incident and the suspect is a family member.  
**Burglary Other than Dwelling.**  
5 Incidences of burglary have occurred, two relate to a local Hotel where guests rooms have been entered and bank cards solely taken and money removed from accounts. And during one night 3 business premises in the town centre were entered where money and charity boxes were taken.  
**Violent Crime.**  
3 Common Assaults, two are domestic related involving parents and children, the third relates to a male who has refused to provide any details of the incident apart from he was assaulted.  
We have also received a non-recent rape allegation by the then partner from 20 years ago.  
**Criminal Damage.** There have been four counts of criminal damage, 1 is connected to a local home where the offender has been arrested. Another one was as a result of an ill family member, another was a sign damaged on a gate. The final one relates to an ongoing problematic neighbour where a fence slat was damaged and offender arrested and remanded before the court.  
**Theft.**  
We have had 12 counts of theft. One theft from shops, offender was arrested and charged.

Another where we had 1 reported theft from motor vehicle on Cliff Top Car Park where handbag was taken after the window had been smashed.

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

**BCllr Watson** advised that this would be her last official report as she was standing in the Brancaster Ward in the next election. She said she had enjoyed the past 8 years and had learned a lesson that when people work together they achieve a lot more, this was shown with Anglia in Bloom. She said she was also proud of the achievements that had taken place at Seagate and the Spinney but was now looking forward to a new challenge.

Cllrs thanked Cllr Watson and wished her well for the future.

6. Norfolk County Council

**NCCllr Bird** reported about LAG and the development of business opportunities. It was important to

7. Mayor's Remarks

I have just given my review in the Town Hall. I loved my year meeting many people getting to know our Town even better and as I said I was proud to represent Hunstanton near and far. What has disappointed me has been the rubbishing of our Council outside the chamber and in the press. This has been done by a minority of councillors when they disagree with the majority council decision made here in the chamber.

I hope this conduct doesn't continue because it has marred a largely good, caring, hardworking council.

I had this e-mail from Lt Col John Peake this morning. Could you please accept my apologies for having to miss the event on 10 Apr, I had to deploy short notice on 17 March for a 6 night trip that turned into 30 nights.

8. Minutes – Confirmation of

The minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2015, a copy of which had been distributed to councillors prior to the meeting, were considered.

With regard to Minute 10 Cllr Earnshaw reported that she had not been in attendance but Cllr Thomson had.

**RESOLVED** (unanimous) with the amendment to Minute 10 being noted the minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council of 20<sup>th</sup> March 2015 were approved.

9. Minutes – Matters Arising

Full Council 20 March – Item 2 A149 Resurfacing Work

The Clerk read out an email from Simon Turner, Network Coordinator, Community and Environmental Services. NCC thanked HTC for their letter of appreciation on the road resurfacing work carried out on the A149. He gave assurance that all parties involved will receive a copy of HTC's letter.

10. Questions

No questions had been submitted.

11. Committee Recommendations

The recommendations made at the Finance and Quality Council Committee meetings held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2015, copies of the minutes, which had been distributed to councillors prior to the meeting, were considered.

Cllr Ruston was of the opinion that the committee meetings had not been called with adequate notice and hence voted against all recommendations.

**RESOLVED** (11 for, 1 against) the recommendations made at the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2015 be adopted.

**RESOLVED** (11 for 1 against) the recommendations made at the meeting of the Quality Council Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2015 be adopted.

12. Schedule of Accounts 16/01

Consideration was given to amended Schedule of Accounts 16/01.

**RESOLVED** (unanimous) Schedule of Accounts 16/01 be approved for payment.

13. Accounts for Payment

Consideration was given to authorising for payment Schedules of Accounts for the Town Council No. 16/01a, the Tourist Information Centre No. T16/01a and the Community Centre No. 16/01a. Copies of the schedules had been distributed to members prior to the meeting.

Cllr Ruston was surprised at the high charge for dustbin emptying. Cllr Thomson offered to look for a less expensive quote.

**RESOLVED** (6 for, 6 against, Chairman used his casting vote) Schedules of Accounts for the Town Council No. 16/01a, the Tourist Information Centre No. T16/01a and the Community Centre No. 16/01a be approved for payment, with the exception of the payments for bin hire and emptying.

14. Civic Society/Mark Service

Consideration was given to a contribution of £250 to the Civic Society for an award for Mark Service for the contribution he has made towards the historical events of the town.

A lengthy debate ensued regarding this matter.

**RESOLVED** (9 for, 3 abstentions) no contribution be awarded.

15. Gas/Electricity Prices

As deferred from the April Finance meeting, consideration was given to the new quotes from Every Aspect for gas and electricity supplies from Opus Energy. Quotes were available at the meeting.

**RESOLVED** (11 for, 1 against) accept the quote and enter into a one year contract with Opus Energy.

16. Correspondence

1. **BCKLWNC** Copy of letter being sent to all known owners and operators along Hunstanton Promenade that may be affected by the installation of flood gates being installed in the promenade wall.
2. **CPRE** Light pollution survey, Guidance Note and Conference details.
3. **CAN** Information on the merging of Norfolk RCC and West Norfolk VCA. Plus copy of Spring edition of Signpost.
4. **Mac and Margaret Fox** Email dated 12 April re: the Amiens planters on Lincoln Square.
5. **DICK MELTON** Letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> April 2015 re: vandalism in the cemetery and how the cemetery used to be.

#5 At the request of Cllr Murray the Clerk read out the letter, Cllr Murray also requested a copy.

#4 At the request of Cllr Ruston the Clerk read out the email and the Town Clerk's reply. Cllr Parton requested a copy of this email.

17. Additional Public Question Time

Mr P Richardson thanked the Council for all their hard work.

Mr D Jones thought the Freedom event had been wonderful but was sorry that the effort of Mark Service had not been recognised. Cllr Ruston, commenting as a member of the public, said any financial recognition should not come out of public funds, Mr Bower was in agreement and was appalled at a suggested amount of £250.

Meeting closed at 7:46 pm.