

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF HUNSTANTON
HELD IN HUNSTANTON COUNCIL CHAMBER ON
FRIDAY 13th June 2014 AT 6:30 PM

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

Town Councillors: G Smith D Harrington S Ellis B Devlin A Murray
R Davies C Earnshaw J Maiden M Ruston E Clutton
G Gooderson D Parton G Thomson

Also present:-

Members of the Public x 1

BCllr E Watson

NCCllr & BCllr R Bird

Town Clerk & Deputy Town Clerk

The Mayor led the Council in prayers.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs A Boardman, T Light, BCllr P Beal and Sgt R Curl.

2. Public Question Time

There were no questions

3. Police Liaison Officer

Sgt. R Curl had sent the following report:

There have been 23 notifiable offences recorded in the town since your last meeting and they are summarised below. This is consistent with the last three years when 20-22 crimes were recorded.

Burglary. A burglary was reported to an occupied caravan on a holiday park. This incident is still under investigation and two men that were arrested at the time and a third arrested later are all now on police bail. A burglary was also reported after suspects were seen on CCTV to enter the Tesco stores open faced storage compound and steal items left there.

Violent Crime. Assault by a drunk man on the cab driver that brought him to town. Arrested and charged both with assault and damaging the victim's spectacles.

Two men from Stevenage were arrested after an altercation over a noisy telephone call at a Holiday Park. Both were charged with assault.

Two carers who had brought a child to Hunstanton for a day trip were assaulted when the child refused to go home and was pursued around the promenade area. No injuries were caused and police are working with the care services to resolve this appropriately.

There was also a domestic assault on a woman which remains under investigation. A 39 year old man from Heacham has been arrested and released on bail.

A 23 year old man from Doddington, Cambridgeshire has also been charged with the criminal harassment of his ex-partner who resides in Hunstanton.

Vehicle Crime. Two thefts from vehicles have been reported. A BMW bonnet badge taken from Avenue Road, and a case of beer taken from an insecure work van parked overnight in South Beach Road.

Drug Crime. A search warrant was executed at a flat in Chiltern Crescent where a cannabis plants were being grown in a small but organised set up. A man was charged with production of cannabis and his son – also found in possession – was cautioned. In addition, a local man attended at Hunstanton Police Station in connection with another matter and was

subsequently found to have a quantity of tablets in his jacket lining. These were Class C controlled drugs and the man has been charged with unlawful possession.

Other thefts. A handbag was stolen from the communal lounge of a hotel and there have been two reports of shoplifting from Supermarkets, one of which resulted in an offender being arrested and charged.

Damage. There have been seven reports of damage. Five of these were wing mirrors broken off vehicles, with three being damage in one incident that took place in Church Street at 5.45am one Monday morning. The remaining two offences relate to a windsurfer being damaged by someone trying to take it off the beach while the owner was on the promenade and a man was charged with damaging a window blind when he illicitly climbed into a multi-occupancy building and fell in the process.

Burglaries are unusual in Hunstanton and the burglary of an occupied caravan is certainly rare. The three arrests in this case were an important development and I see no reason think that offences like this will be repeated. I am also pleased to note that in every case of violence we have either had a positive outcome already, or fully expect offenders to be dealt with appropriately.

The Safer Neighbourhood Team currently has a priority relating to Anti-Social Behaviour in the lower Westgate/Le Strange Terrace area which is often linked to the night-time economy. We are working with the Borough Council, considering the efficacy of CCTV in and around this area and what options may exist to improve this. Across the Hunstanton & Burnham Neighbourhood as a whole, a rough check suggests that ASB calls have fallen from 52 last year to 31 in this period. Although recording practices may account for some of this, there is no doubt that the reduction has been noticeable. I am hopeful that our Safer Schools Partnership work with the staff at Smithdon will have a positive effect as a new cohort of leavers finish their studies.

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

BCllr Watson reported that judging for Anglia In Bloom would be on 9th July and 4th August for Britain In Bloom and a work experience student from Smithdon High School would be shadowing the judging as part of a journalism course. The route round the town had been finalised and there was a very tight schedule. The Hunstanton Charity Shop had raised over £12K which was a huge achievement. Cllr Devlin thought that some of the slopes needed cleaning prior to In Bloom judging and Cllr Murray suggested strimming round the newly moved cliff shelters.

BCllr Bird gave a lengthy report on second home ownership and extra funding that had been gained by BCKLWN from the new council tax charging regime. However the extra funds would be spent across the whole of the borough. There had been a cabinet decision to purchase social housing and to rent it out. However developers were negating the affordable housing policy by offering Sec 106 payments in exchange for not including affordable homes in their developments. The charitable status company set up to run the leisure facilities for BCKLWN would result in savings of approx £220K but there were set up costs and other funding arrangements that would eat into the savings quite considerably.

Cllr Murray reported that the development at Burnham Market had 6 affordable homes.

Cllr Maiden and Cllr Ruston asked how BCllr Bird had received confidential information about the Hopkins Homes proposal which had been given at a closed meeting. BCllr Bird stated that no-one present at the meeting had divulged the information which had been given to him separately. Cllr Ruston asked whether BCllr Bird had opposed the housing development at Old Hunstanton and BCllr Bird denied opposing the development.

5. Norfolk County Council

NCCllr Bird reported about LAG and the development of business opportunities. It was important to put forward opportunities to attract EU funding although NW Norfolk did not feature highly. There were no plans for Leisure, Tourism, Retirement or Care and it was an outrage that £4m p.a. was being spent on sending people out of the county for care. What was needed was a Care Village within the county.

The Wash Estuary Strategy Group would be meeting on 27th June to discuss different methods of localised funding for flood defence. The Heacham re-charge was being funded jointly by the EA & NCC for 2014/2015 but funding after that was not secure.

Regarding the A149 crossing to the recreation ground there was good news and the design had been moved slightly to avoid having to purchase land from le Strange Estate.

Cllr Bower queried the numbers of people being sent out of the county for care but was not given a direct answer.

Cllr Parton asked about the poor timing for the works on the A47 bypass at King's Lynn and in response NCCllr Bird explained that the works were now scheduled for 24 hrs working and completion in 4-6 weeks before the start of the school holidays.

Cllr Parton thought that there was no business development in the area yet residential development continued to grow. NCCllr Bird suggested that if there was a need for 200-400 new homes the infrastructure should be in place as well but this was not happening.

Cllr Maiden thought that the use of gabions or breakwaters etc would be a more permanent alternative to beach recharge. With regard to the Hopkins Homes proposed development what was the situation regarding the access/exit route? NCCllr Bird reported that NCC Highways had not been consulted since March 2014 and he could not see how the development could be progressed without input from NCC Highways as they were a statutory consultee.

6. Mayor's Remarks

The last month has gone very quickly and I've had a busy and enjoyable time in Hunstanton and beyond, attending civic occasions, meeting lots of people, talking; networking; learning.

The Town is as busy as ever. The Day Care Centre has just celebrated 35 years - what a fun occasion. I had a really good afternoon. The DCC exemplifies what is good in the Town. - a wonderful facility run by devoted volunteers for our Senior Citizens.

Even with a lovely meal, games, music, singing, dancing and most of all companionship it's a shame attendance has gone down. We need to publicise it more.

New councillors had settled quickly and taking an active part in Council affairs.

It is clear they are very actively contributing already and it is good to see that they are asking lots of questions.

I'd like to thank Councillor Ruston and the Deputy Mayor for stepping in so quickly when Lisa found herself without any office staff at all at a crucial stage of the financial year. Furthermore their streamlining of our accounting system to make it more manageable.

7. Minutes – Confirmation of

The minutes of the Meeting of the Annual Meeting of the Town Council held on 16th May 2014, a copy of which had been distributed to councillors prior to the meeting, were considered.

With regard to Minute 7 Cllr Murray reported that the membership of the Joint Management of the Green Committee needed amendment to read Cllr Ruston and not Cllr Murray.

RESOLVED (unanimous) with the amendment to Minute 7 being noted the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Town Council of 16th May 2014 were approved.

The minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council held on 16th May 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 16th May 2014 were approved.

8. Minutes – Matters Arising

The Clerk reported that a town litter pick would take place the day before the carnival.

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 4th June 2014, copies of the minutes, which had been distributed to councillors prior to the meeting, were considered. In a response to a query from Cllr Earnshaw the Town Clerk confirmed that only the General Purpose Committee had been granted Executive Powers to deal with matters requiring urgent attention. Cllr Earnshaw suggested clarifying Minute 13 of the General Purpose Committee minutes by amending the wording to read “Only the General Purpose Committee may use Executive Powers only to address matters requiring urgent attention”.

With regard to Minute 7 and writing to GVA the Town Clerk reported that as a matter of urgency she had already contacted GVA without waiting for authority from the Full Council. The action of the Town Clerk was unanimously approved.

RESOLVED (unanimous) with the amendment to Minute 13 being agreed the recommendations made at the meeting of the General Purpose Committee held on 4th June 2014 be adopted.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the recommendations made at the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 4th June 2014 be adopted.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the recommendations made at the meeting of the Quality Council Committee held on 4th June 2014 be adopted.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the recommendations made at the meeting of the Town Hall Management Committee held on 4th June 2014 be adopted.

11. Advertising of Annual Report

Consideration was given to how to advertise the Annual Report which must go to every household. Previously it had been done via the Hunstanton Town & Around magazine at a cost of £450.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the Annual Report be advertised in the Hunstanton Town & Around magazine as a 4 page article.

12. A47 King’s Lynn By Pass Road Works

At the request of Cllr Clutton consideration was given as to any action to be taken regarding the proposed re-waterproofing works to take place on the A47 in June. A copy of the programme of works and a response from NCllr Kemp had been distributed to members prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED (unanimous) write to Highways Agency objecting to the timing of the roadworks which would affect tourism traffic coming to Hunstanton.

13. Correspondence

1. NCC Temporary Restriction of Traffic Movement on 29th June 2014 for Hunstanton Carnival route.

2. **NRCC** Invitation to Norfolk RCC AGM 30th June 2014 @ Dereham 3:30 pm.
3. **CPRE** Notice of dissolution of CPRE Representation in West Norfolk.
4. **WNVCA** "In Touch" newsletter June 2014.
5. **WNVCA** Funding News June 2014.
6. **CQC** Care Quality Commission meeting 24th June 2014 King's Lynn.
7. **Mark Harriman** email dated 28th May 2014 re:- lack of work on the pedestrian crossing to Recreation Ground.
8. **Heacham Parish Council** letter dated 29th May 2014 re:- thanks for invitation to attend Hopkins Homes presentation.
9. **Maureen Minter** letter undated re:- McCarthy & Stone retirement flats.
10. **Dick Melton** letter dated 9th June 2014 re:-various matters inc. the footpath to Tesco car park, toilet opening hours, Cliff Parade shelters and dog bins.
11. **Chris Smith** email dated 10th June 2014 re:- Hopkins Homes proposed development and the Town Clerk's reply.

#9 At the request of Cllr Murray the Deputy Clerk read out the letter.

#8 At the request of Cllr Maiden the Deputy Clerk read out the letter.

#11 At the request of Cllr Maiden the Deputy Clerk read out the email and the Town Clerk's reply. Cllr Maiden congratulated the Town Clerk on the reply.

#10 At the request of Cllr Murray the Deputy Clerk read out the letter.

#7 At the request of Cllr Johnson the Deputy Clerk read out the email.

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

Meeting closed at 7:46 pm.