

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF HUNSTANTON HELD IN
HUNSTANTON TOWN HALL ON
MONDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2014 AT 6.30 PM

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

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

Also present:-

15 x members of the Public

BCllrs E Watson & P Beal

NClr & BCllr R Bird

Press x1 (p/t)

Town Clerk & Deputy Town Clerk

Prayers The Mayor led members in prayers.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Murray who was on vacation.

2. Public Question Time

The Mayor suspended Standing Orders to allow a 20 minutes period at the beginning of the meeting for members of the public to put questions to or bring matters to the attention of HTC and 10 minutes at the end of the meeting for members of the public to put questions to or bring matters to the attention of HTC that have taken place during the meeting.

Adrian Winnington asked why the agenda was not on the website and why some councillors did not speak at the 4th August meeting? They owed it to the residents to explain what substantive reasons they had for supporting the Hopkins Homes planning application.

3. Police Liaison Officer

In the absence of a police representative the Town Clerk read out the following report from Sgt. Curl; the period covering 11th July to 11th September has seen 54 crimes recorded in the town. This is 3 less than were recorded for the same period in 2013, despite some internal developments in the standards applied to crime recording, which have generally resulted in some increases across the county and doubtless the whole country.

With two months of peak season crime to look at I will try to pick out some of the more notable items.

A theft of shirts at a clothing store in the High Street led to an assault when the offenders were challenged outside the store by the owner. After conducting immediate enquiries officers attended an address in King's Lynn where a man and a woman were arrested and stolen property was recovered. Both were charged with theft and assault. A 53 year old woman from Willow Road was charged with assault and a public order offence resulting from two completely separate incidents and Boots and Tesco.

Three men previously released on police bail after their arrest for burglary at a holiday park caravan have been charged both with burglary and with the theft of the keys used in the course of that burglary while the victim was out in the town for the

evening. After a 999 call reporting damage to a residential flat in Glebe Avenue, officers found two men threatening one another with a knife and a claw hammer respectively. An officer used incapacitant spray to assist in the arrest of both men, who were subsequently charged with a public order offence.

Two search warrants were executed in the town, granted under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. At a premises in Chiltern Crescent a man found in possession of a small amount of heroin was arrested and later cautioned. A second 37 year old occupant of the address was later arrested and charged with the unlawful possession of Methadone and Cannabis. During the second search at an address in South Beach Road 157g of cannabis was seized. A 54 year old man voluntarily attended at the King's Lynn Police Investigation Centre at Saddlebow where he admitted unlawful possession of the drug and he was reported for the offence, to be summonsed to court.

A 35 year old man from Sedgeford was arrested after entering a bar whilst drunk and demanding to be served. This was in the presence of a Police Officer making visits in the run up to Tennis Week. He was later charged with a public order offence. A 25 year old man from King's Lynn smashed a caravan window whilst drunk and climbed into bed for the night. After being disturbed by neighbours he was located by police and security staff and was subsequently charged with causing criminal damage.

We have welcomed two new Sergeants to Hunstanton, replacing officers who have been posted to the Saddlebow Custody Centre. Sgt Nathan Franklin has worked at Hunstanton recently as a Constable and Sergeant Steve Smith joins us from the Custody Centre.

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

BCllr Watson reported Hunstanton's success at gaining a gold award for Anglia in Bloom. Recycling of waste would change on 1st October with glass and plastics now being able to be put into the re-cycling green bin. With regard to the Prince's Trust there were not enough youngsters coming forward to run the next team programme and it was worrying that there was no-one from Hunstanton. Please let the Town Clerk know if there were suitable candidates.

BCllr Beal reported that a 20 minute free parking zone was to be installed at Valentine Road. This would help alleviate some of the school parking problems. Toilet repairs/maintenance/refurbishment was going to be re-examined in time for next summer season. Cllr Maiden asked that pressure be brought to bear for BCKLWN to insist that the owner of the Pier Company, as tenant of the BCKLWN, be required to answer relevant questions. BCllr Bird said that it was not just a Pier Company problem as other authorities/utilities did not want to play the game and although it was frustrating there was little that could be done to force the issue. Cllr Maiden suggested that this was different as it was a tenant. The Town Clerk offered a contact for the BT hedging problem

BCllr Bird reported that after the successful move to charge second home owners 95% of the standard domestic rate BCKLWN was now looking into single person occupancy homes. With regard to Special Expenses levied on Hunstanton the moratorium on any increase would soon end and HTC needed to review those expenses. Cllr Smith responded that there would be a working party meeting soon.

5. Norfolk County Council

NCCllr R Bird reported that county wide growth forecast showed no increase for NW Norfolk which left Leisure /Tourism and Retirement/Care being the only elements where growth could occur.

A new dementia care home had been opened at Gorleston employing 1500 people and with a turn over of £11m Another centre was planned for Bowthorpe so why not here in Hunstanton. The EMP4 site could be used but BCllr Bird needed support to progress this. BCKLWN had had a verbal agreement for a retirement village of 120/150 persons on EMP4 but it needed completion of the LDF before it could be progressed.

It was agreed that the matter of supporting the use of EMP4 for a retirement village should be placed on a Committee meeting agenda.

BCllr Bird suggested that there were 4 options for development of the land south of Hunstanton they being, Harry's Way, Hunstanton Road, via old railway line and a roundabout on the A149. All were fraught with opposition. It was of little merit to just say no to the development as it would go to appeal and then HTC and others would have little input into the final decision. The Town Clerk suggested there was a 5th option that being through the Huggins land which had been offered 10 years earlier at a peppercorn rent for affordable homes but NCC Highways had objected to the access onto the A149.

6. Mayor's Remarks

The Mayor congratulated all involved in the "In Bloom" competition which had been a great success. The Henry le Strange Community Orchard was going from strength to strength winning several awards. It had been a busy time in Hunstanton during the summer with a successful Tennis Week, the children's book read at the library when 120 children took part with some having read 20 books throughout the summer. There was lots of enthusiasm for the Freedom of the Town event on 4th October. The allotments had a wonderful open day on 7th Sept and the quality of the allotments reflected the individual owner's personalities.

7. Minutes – confirmation of

Meeting of the Town Council held on 11th July 2014.

Special meeting of the Town Council held on 11th July 2014.

Extra-ordinary meeting of the Town Council held on 4th August 2014.

Copies of the minutes of those meetings had been distributed to members prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 11th July 2014 be signed as a true record.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the minutes of the Special meeting of the Town Council held on 11th July 2014 be signed as a true record.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the minutes of the Extra-ordinary meeting of the Town Council held on 4th August 2014 be signed as a true record.

8. Minutes-matters arising

A149 Puffin Crossing

The Clerk read out a letter from NCC Highways advising that the proposed construction of a puffin crossing on the A149, close to the junction with Westgate, will commence late February/early March 2015.

9. Questions

No questions had been submitted by Members in accordance with Standing Orders.

10. Committee Recommendations

Consideration was given to the adoption of Recommendations made at the meetings of Finance, Quality Council & Town Hall Management Committees held on 3rd September 2014. Copies of the minutes of these meetings had been distributed to members prior to the meeting.

Cllr Ruston suggested that recommendations at Minute 11 and 12 of the Finance Committee should be dealt with in isolation of the other recommendations.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the recommendations, with the exception of the recommendations at Minute 11 and Minute 12 made at the Finance Committee meeting held on 3rd September 2014 be adopted.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the recommendation, at Minute 11 of the Finance Committee meeting held on 3rd September 2014, concerning acceptance of the revisions outlined by Cllr Ruston for the revised budget as a working document for 2014/2015 be adopted.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the recommendation, at Minute 12 of the Finance Committee meeting held on 3rd September 2014, concerning acceptance of revised Financial Regulations be adopted.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the recommendations made at the Quality Council & Town Hall Management Committees held on 3rd September 2014 be adopted.

11. Accounts for Payment

To consider and authorise for payment Schedules of Accounts for Town Council No 15/06A, the Tourist Information Centre No T15/06A and the Community Centre No 15/06A. Copies of the schedules had been distributed to members prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED (unanimous) Schedules of Accounts for Town Council No 15/06A, the Tourist Information Centre No T15/06A and the Community Centre No 15/06A be approved for payment.

12. Freedom of the Town

Cllr Clutton gave a report regarding the Freedom of the Town to be held on 4th October 2014. Progress was going well and the parade would be led by 12 pipers and 60 American personnel. There was a possibility of a fly-past but this was not confirmed. Road closure details had been given to the town's businesses. Bunting, provided by BCKLWN would be going up round the town along with posters. There was heavy security and a Civic Reception afterwards. Members were reminded to reply to their invitations. The Town Band would be playing at the Spinney and there would be entertainment at the Princess Theatre. The BCKLWN had been very supportive.

13. Cllr Parton

Consideration was given to Cllr Parton joining the Finance Committee.

RESOLVED (unanimous) Cllr Parton be elected as a member of the Finance Committee.

14. Press Release Training

Consideration was given to anyone attending the Press release training being held on Wednesday 22 October at a cost of £35 per delegate. Details had been distributed to members prior to the meeting. Cllr Ruston was attending privately.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the Town Clerk to attend the training course at a cost to HTC of £35.

15. Chairmanship Training

Consideration was given to any members attending the Chairmanship Training course on Thursday 2 October at a cost of £70 per delegate. Details had been distributed to members prior to the meeting. Cllr Earnshaw thought the course had been very useful when she was Deputy Mayor.

RESOLVED (unanimous) Cllr Johnson to attend the training course at a cost to HTC of £70.

16. Change to Standing Orders

Due to the new "right to report" law, to remove point 3 (L) from HTC's Standing Orders.

RESOLVED (unanimous) Standing Order Point 3(L) be removed.

17. Development land South of Hunstanton

At the request of Cllr Parton, consideration was given to new evidence presented by the Highways Department and other independent expert bodies in relation to the Hopkins Homes development that was not available at the time of Hunstanton Town Council's extraordinary meeting on August the 4th 2014 and if deemed appropriate submit a revised opinion or new supporting statement.

The Town Clerk read out a letter from Hopkins Homes dated 9th September 2014 reiterating its rationale for progressing the development with access via Hunstanton Road in response to opposition to the Harry's Way access from residents of the Manorfields Estate.

The Town Clerk also read out a letter from Cruso Wilkin, as agents for le Strange Estate, addressed to Claire Dorgan at BCKLWN Planning Dept. stating that le Strange Estate would be willing to deliver Sites H1, H2 in a quicker timescale with both sites being developed together. EMP4 could be used for sheltered housing/retirement village and could be made available as soon as the LDF was adopted or in tandem with H1 & H2. A lengthy debate ensued with the majority of councillors stating why they had supported the application or otherwise. Again the debate centred on the access difficulties and why HTC had continued to support the application even when Sites H1 & H2 were available.

The Press left the meeting at 8:30 pm

Cllr Earnshaw proposed and was seconded by Cllr Clutton that HTC continued to support the application but recognising the objections about access.

Cllr Boardman called for a recorded vote.

RESOLVED (Cllrs Bower, Johnson, Ruston, Clutton, Davies, Gooderson, Devlin, Thomson, Harrington, Earnshaw and Smith voted for, Cllrs Maiden and Boardman voted against and Cllrs Parton and Ellis abstained. 11 for, 2 against, 2 abstentions.) **HTC to continue to support Hopkins Homes planning application for homes south of Hunstanton but share the concerns of the objectors to the proposed site accesses and trust that the Planning Authority, being the experts in this field, and the Applicant will successfully resolve the issue.**

Cllr Parton suggested a second submission to the planners relating to the number of affordable homes and their build schedule. This was seconded by Cllr Devlin.

RESOLVED (Cllrs Parton, Bower, Johnson, Ruston, Clutton, Davies, Gooderson, Devlin, Thomson, Harrington, Earnshaw and Smith voted for, Cllrs Maiden, Boardman and Ellis abstained. 12 for, 3 abstentions) **HTC wish to support the BCKLWN housing officers in their efforts to secure that affordable housing is delivered in the time scale that is appropriate for a site of this size and the mix is appropriate to the local need.**

18. Executive Management Committee

At the request of Cllr Ruston, consideration was given to forming an Executive Management Committee in order for sensible management issues to be dealt with quickly. Copies of Cllr Ruston's notes and a letter from Mrs J Webb, from the list of miscellaneous correspondence under consideration at Agenda Item 19, had been distributed to members prior to the meeting. Questions were raised about the need to review the composition annually and there was some disquiet at the name of the committee.

Cllr Clutton proposed the formation of the Executive Committee in accordance with Cllr Ruston's suggestion and was seconded by Cllr Harrington. Cllr Gooderson proposed an amendment to call the committee an Urgent Matters Committee. This became the substantive proposal and was voted upon.

RESOLVED (14 for and 1 abstention) the name of a proposed new committee to be the Urgent Matters Committee.

RESOLVED (14 for and 1 against) an Urgent Matters Committee consisting of the Mayor and the Chairman of the General Purpose, Finance, Quality Council, Town Hall Management Committees and the Audit Watchdogs Working Party. If the Mayor is also a committee chairman then the deputy chairman of that committee shall be a member of this committee. The Clerk or Deputy Clerk shall attend but not vote.

19. Correspondence

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

1. **BCKLWN** Hunstanton Promenade Repairs.
2. **NCC** Downs Road Waiting Restrictions.
3. **NCC** Temporary Restriction of Traffic Movement Sunny Hunny Friday.
4. **NC** SNAP Community Update June 2014 – previously circulated.
5. **NC** SNAP Community Update July 2014 – previously circulated.
6. **WNSC** West Norfolk Sports Council AGM Minutes 11th June 2014.
7. **WNVCA** Funding News August 2014.
8. **WNVCA** “In Touch” August 2014.
9. **WNVCA** Funding News September 2014.
10. **WNVCA** “In Touch” September 2014.
11. **CPRE** “Norfolk Voice” newsletter - Summer 2014.
12. **CPRE** “Field Work” - Summer 2014.
13. **Kickstart** Moped Hire Scheme.
14. **Dick Melton** letter dated 15th July 2014 re:- promenade problems and also the lack of beach lifeguards.
15. **Dick Melton** letter dated 22nd July 2014 re:- promenade new steps-v-old steps.
16. **BCKLWN** copy letter dated 22nd July 2014 from John Hussey to Dick Melton re:- dog mess bins.
17. **Maureen Minter** undated postcard re:- Sycamore seeds and gluten in vinegar.
18. **Joy Webb** letter dated 7th September 2014 re:- formation of an Executive Management committee – previously circulated.
19. **David & Canny Jones** letter dated 7th September 2014 re:- development of land south of Hunstanton and other matters.

#10 Cllr Devlin requested a copy of the Moped Hire Scheme.

- #14 At the request of Cllr Devlin the Deputy Clerk read out the letter.
- #15 At the request of Cllr Devlin the Deputy Clerk read out the letter.
- #2 Cllr Ellis requested a copy of the Waiting Restrictions
- #7 Cllr Ellis requested a copy of the funding news.
- #16 Cllr Ellis requested a copy of the letter.
- #11 At the request of Cllr Maiden the Deputy Clerk read out the letter and Cllr Parton requested a copy of the letter.
- #12 At the request of Cllr Maiden the Deputy Clerk read out the letter and Cllr Parton requested a copy of the letter.

20. Public Question Time

In accordance with Minute 2 above, an additional 10 minute period was granted for members of the public to put questions to or bring matters to the attention of HTC that have taken place during the meeting.

Sandra Dufton thought that the development of the Hopkins Homes would mean 500 extra people either walking through Harry's Way or trying to get out of the site. That amounts to a 10% increase in the population. If there were 166 houses where are all the people coming from; were they from Hunstanton or from the rest of Norfolk? Cllr Devlin remembered that the Manorfields site had been prime farm land and there was not a need for more homes at the time. Cllr Earnshaw thought the mix of house, bungalows and flats was better for the town.

Adrian Winnington thanked the council for making the meeting more accommodating for the public but wondered whether the homes would become part of the town. Tesco was the nearest papershop for residents of Manorfields and Tesco was classed as "out of town".

Chris Cooley wondered whether the schools and doctors could cope with such an increase in the population and was informed by Cllr Davies that attention to those sort of issues were covered in the LDF.

Marie Martin thought the news about re-cycling bottles and plastics was shocking as it would lead to more bins and more collection vehicles but BCllr Watson assured her that there were no extra collections, it all went into the green bin for collection as normal.

Maria Ricks asked where all the plastics were going and NCllr Bird informed her that there was a new plant at Costessey which separated the various plastics to be sold on, 90% of which stayed in this country.

Meeting Closed 9:22 pm