

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF HUNSTANTON HELD IN
HUNSTANTON TOWN HALL ON
FRIDAY 14th NOVEMBER 2014 AT 6.30 PM

Present: Mayor: Cllr C Bower (p/t) Deputy Mayor: J Johnson

Town Councillors:	C Earnshaw	J Maiden	G Smith	D Harrington
	E Clutton	A Boardman	B Devlin	M Ruston
	A Murray	D Parton	T Light	

Also present:-

2x members of the Public

BCllr E Watson

BCllr P Beal (p/t)

NClr & BCllr R Bird

Sgt R Curl (p/t)

Press x1

Town Clerk & Deputy Town Clerk

Prayers The Mayor led members in prayers.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from G Gooderson who was on vacation, Cllr R Davies who was moving house and Cllr S Ellis who was at work.

2. Public Question Time

Mr P Richardson remarked on the delight of Hunstanton winning the gold award at Britain in Bloom and also being the best coastal category winner. The prestige was huge and he paid tribute to the 100 people involved in that achievement.

Mr D Jones suggested that although Cllr Clutton had reported on Freedom of the Town event at the last Quality Council Committee meeting the working party should meet to examine what could be learnt from the event. It was expensive to organise and lessons need to be learnt and the electorate need to be shown that HTC and others had learnt those lessons. There was a need for a comprehensive briefing to be on file for future use.

The Mayor commented that HTC had learnt a lot from organising the Round Britain Cycle Race coming the Hunstanton in 2010, the Royal Wedding event in 2011 and the Diamond Jubilee celebration event in 2012.

The Mayor brought forward Item 7 as she had to leave the meeting early and would be handing over the chairmanship to the Deputy Mayor at that time.

3. Email Debate

Cllr Clutton referred to Standing Order 10, Section 11 and proposed that the agenda item should exclude the public as the matters raised could bring the Town Council into disrepute. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Boardman.

The Town Clerk stated that NALC advice was that although some of the emails had a confidential status the content was about HTC business and members of the public should be able to know what was going on and there was a need for openness.

RESOLVED(6 for & 7 against) the proposal to exclude the public for this item of the agenda was lost.

Cllr Ruston suggested that the HTC Email policy, the Good Councillors Guide and the numerous other guides should be sufficient to prevent the need for this item being on the agenda. Cllr Clutton suggested that the Email policy needed to be updated at the next Quality Council Committee meeting.

Cllr Devlin suggested that before the use of emails matters were debated openly in council and solved and then HTC moved on. Cllr Earnshaw thought the content of the emails was not HTC business and time should not be wasted upon the matter. Cllr Parton suggested that nothing could be resolved by email debate and the correct place for such discussions was the council chamber.

It was agreed to move on the next agenda item.

4. Police Liaison Officer

Sgt R Curl gave the following report.

We have recorded 22 offences since your October meeting this year compared to 23 in 2013.

Burglary. Window broken on the side of a High Street shop recorded as attempted burglary.

Violent Crime. Two sexual offences, both taking place in homes where the parties concerned were known to each other.

Three assaults without injury, all domestic in nature. A 44 year old man was cautioned for slapping his 18 year old daughter, a 47 year old woman was charged with assaulting her partner and a 49 year old man was released without charge after an allegation that he had assaulted his girlfriend.

Three more serious assaults were recorded. The first between elderly residents in a care home, both suffering from dementia. A further domestic assault that took place several weeks ago led to the arrest of a man from King's Lynn who was subsequently released without charge. The third offence led to the arrest of the victim of an assault already mentioned, after a consensual re-creation of that original offence led to her partner suffering a broken rib.

Theft. There have been three thefts from vehicles. A car left in a Southend Road car park had its window smashed and a Sat Nav stolen. A van parked overnight in Victoria Avenue had its exhaust system removed before the thieves were disturbed by the victim, making off empty handed. Whilst another vehicle parked overnight in Victoria Avenue has its number plates stolen, prior to being wrapped in cling film and sprayed with shaving foam.

Six other thefts took place. A guitar was grabbed from its owner on the promenade under the pier by a man who ran off towards the Funfair. A protective cover was stolen from a mobility scooter outside the owner's house in Austin Street. A gaming machine at a holiday park was also targeted by thieves who managed to steal coins from it during operating hours. A pay and display machine at Southend Road car park was targeted by drilling and £160 stolen from the cash box. This is believed to have taken place at 5.40pm on 11th November. £160 worth of meat was stolen from a supermarket and the following day a 49 year old man from Heacham was arrested. He admitted the offence and dealt with by means of a simple caution.

Finally a 40 year old man from Heacham is currently in custody having been arrested for theft of personal items from a dwelling where he had been invited to stay.

Three cars have also been damaged. One was walked over, one was scratched and one had lights smashed.

Cllr Devlin asked why the CCTV camera was being removed in Southend Road and was informed that it was because of tree cover.

Sgt Curl left the meeting at 6:52 pm.

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

BCllr Watson commented on the fantastic achievement in winning gold at Britain in Bloom and the huge amount of hard work that went into that win. There was to be a celebration at the Spinney on 6th December. Display of the trophy was still to be decided but displaying it in the new Butterfly Shelters was a possibility. There was to be an upgrade to the communication mast at the police station but it was not clear whether the height would be raised. The Tourism Forum was trying to push Hunstanton but there was some resistance. The 'In Bloom' win would be featured in new leaflets.

Cllr Earnshaw suggested that the trophy needed to be on display rather more urgently, as next year would be too late.

Cllr Maiden asked where the figure of 333 new homes that were needed had come from.

BCllr Watson explained that the figures were not set in stone and if there was a need for more then it could be increased and divided amongst the sites available.

There were various suggestions on where to house the Britain in Bloom trophy and it was agreed that the CoT be asked for its opinion after 6th December.

Cllr Maiden asked where the expression that Hunstanton was 'dying on its feet' had come from as 18.2% of the houses here were 2nd homes so why was there a need for more homes.

The Witley Press site had recently been acquired. However Cllr Light challenged Cllr Maiden or anyone to find a 2-3 bedroom property with a small garden anywhere within an 8 miles radius of Hunstanton. There was a real shortage.

With regard to the Tourism Forum meeting and the success of lighting up the old Custom House the Town Clerk asked that King's Lynn should not be the only place where buildings should be lit up and asked BCllr Watson to pursue the consideration of lighting up the Hunstanton Town Hall to which BCllr Watson replied, the Town Hall and the Golden Lion.

BCllr P Beal reported that the SNAP meeting had been very good. He was dismayed at the granting of planning permission for the McCarthy and Stone site. The local MP would be having his surgery tomorrow. With regard to the Parks for People initiative it was hoped some grant money would be made available. If HTC could put together a Neighbourhood Plan then it could be eligible for 25% of the Council Tax revenue. BCllr Beal confirmed that there would be no change to the height of the communication mast at the police station.

Cllr Bower left the meeting at 7:13 pm and the Deputy Mayor took over chairmanship of the meeting.

Cllr Murray congratulated SNAP as its pursuance of the street lighting between Tesco and Alexander Road had achieved a result and Tesco had admitted its liability to maintain.

Cllr Boardman explained that he had no pecuniary interest in the Hopkins Homes site the view from his property would not change, it was not near Harry's Way and what right did BCllr Beal have to question his integrity and honesty. Why ask the Town Clerk to help out when he was a Borough Councillor not a Town Councillor?

BCllr Beal reacted heatedly saying that he had the right to say whatever he wanted to say and Cllr Boardman and Cllr Maiden had a vested interest in the development of the site. They should both stand down.

The Chairman ceased the outburst.

BCllr Beal hurriedly left the meeting at 7:17 pm

BCllr R Bird reported that the 333 new homes figure was the remnant of the 700 that were highlighted in a 2002 report as being required some 367 having already been built. The Hastoe Housing application had been won on appeal and would be at the Old Hunstanton

end. The 30 minutes free parking slots at Valentine Road car park had been approved. It was up to HTC to decide on the Amiens project at Lincoln Square. The issue of parking on pavements was thought to be too trivial for the authorities to bother with although it was more of an issue in the town. The BCKLWN would begin issuing fines for waste bins being left out for long periods. and wondered why the churches were only issued with black bins and why not a green bin as well.

Raising money from caravans to help with the cost of beach recharge was being examined. Cllr Clutton had been on a 'mindfold' charity walk around the town and the cars parked on the pavements and other hazards were a real problem.

Cllr Harrington had seen the petition objecting to the Amiens Project although its existence was being questioned.

Cllr Boardman wondered why correspondence from the planning department about the Hopkins Homes site was being addressed to the Heacham PC Clerk and not Hunstanton.

6. Norfolk County Council

NCllr R Bird reported on various matters including a 'Slipper Swap' at the Community Centre, lack of white lining on the roads due to an industrial dispute, the dementia centre at Gorleston, a visit to Clacton-on-Sea to see the flood defence work and the dispute between NCC & BCKLWN over responsibility for the shrubbery at Styleman Close.

Cllr Smith suggested that the white lines at the zebra crossing in St Edmunds Terrace needed to be done urgently but NCllr Bird thought that the road had not been top surfaced yet.

Cllr Maiden wondered why the plans for a pathway through the Spinney and the felling of some trees had not gone ahead and thought the sending of the mail to Heacham PC was probably because the village would be more affected than Hunstanton. NCllr Bird had no knowledge of why the mail was going to Heacham PC but would investigate. There had been an impasse over the Spinney and the documentation was not signed off by NCC and therefore the work was not carried out.

Cllr Parton questioned the figures about the number of dementia sufferers and the need for so many care home facilities but NCllr Bird thought that differing reports gave different figures and he could only go by the reports that he was privy to.

Cllr Ruston thought that meetings had to be managed better as 90 minutes had elapsed and there were 16 more agenda items to deal with.

7. Mayor's Remarks

It's getting to be that traditional time of year and I'd like to thank the Round Table for the best Firework display ever. It was a perfect evening and a great family event.

I was invited to celebrate Dersingham Scouts and Guides 40th birthday. They had redecorated their scout hall for the occasion and we all had a lovely tea with wonderful displays of the scouts and guides activities over the last 4 decades.

The standard of entries to the HDFA photographic competition was impressive.

What a great idea it was to make the winners' entries into postcards which are being sold in the TIC.

The British Legion Remembrance Parade was impressive and the Ceremony was very well attended at the Cenotaph.

The next few weeks are going to be very busy in the run up to Christmas. Tonight we have the Children in Need Show in the Princess Theatre which I'll leap off to join my friends in the Community Choir.

8. Minutes – confirmation of

Meeting of the Town Council held on 10th October 2014.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 10th October 2014 be signed as a true record.

9. Minutes-matters arising
Cllr Ruston referred to Minute 18 and attendance at a meeting of Mattishall Parish Council and that its meetings on 1st December and 4th January were available as suitable dates.
10. Questions
No questions had been submitted by Members in accordance with Standing Orders.
11. Committee Recommendations
Consideration was given to the adoption of Recommendations made at the meetings of General Purpose, Finance & Quality Council Committees held on 5th November 2014. Copies of the minutes of these meetings had been distributed to members prior to the meeting.
RESOLVED (unanimous) the recommendations made at the General Purpose Committee meeting held on 5th November 2014 be adopted.
RESOLVED (unanimous) the recommendations of the Finance Committee meeting held on 5th November 2014 be adopted.
RESOLVED (unanimous) the recommendations made at the Quality Council Committee held on 5th November 2014 be adopted.
12. Accounts for Payment
To consider and authorise for payment Schedules of Accounts for the Town Council No. 15/08a, the Tourist Information Centre No. T15/08a and the Community Centre No. 15/08a. Copies of the schedules had been distributed to members prior to the meeting. With regard to T15/08a the Town Clerk advised on the speed of Epos Back-up if required.
RESOLVED (unanimous) Schedules of Accounts for the Town Council No. 15/08a, the Tourist Information Centre No. T15/08a and the Community Centre No. 15/08a be approved for payment.
13. Urgent Matters Committee Terms of Reference
Consideration was given to approving amended draft Terms of Reference for the Urgent Matters Committee a copy of which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.
RESOLVED (unanimous) the Terms of Reference for the Urgent Matters Committee be adopted.
14. Hunstanton Bowls Club Grant Application
Consideration was given to sending a letter of support for the Hunstanton Bowls Club's grant application for improvements to its club house and facilities. A copy of the request had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.
RESOLVED (unanimous) a letter be sent to the Hunstanton Bowls Club supporting its grant application.
15. Anglia In Bloom
As referred from the General Purpose Committee meeting of 5th November - Minute 9 to discuss how much of the remaining Anglia In Bloom money should be allocated to publically displaying the Britain In Bloom Award.
RESOLVED (unanimous) the remaining £1200 of the 'In Bloom' budget money be allocated to funding a suitable display for the Britain in Bloom winners trophy.

16. Amiens Project in Lincoln Square
 As referred from the General Purpose Committee meeting of 5th November - Minute 9 to advise the Anglia In Bloom Committee of HTC's view on whether to remove the Amiens Project installation in Lincoln Square or to improve it as there was divided opinion. There were several differing viewpoints in the chamber.
 Cllr Earnshaw proposed and was seconded by Cllr Devlin to leave the Amiens project in place for the full three years.
 Cllr Murray proposed an amendment and was seconded by Cllr Parton to revisit the decision in six months time.
 Cllr Harrington proposed a second amendment and was seconded by Cllr Maiden to remove the project straight away.
 Voting took place on the second amendment first which was lost by 10 votes to 2.
 The first amendment was voted on next and the voting was 6 for and 6 against and the chairman made a casting vote against so this proposal was also lost.
 Voting then took place on the original proposal.
RESOLVED (6 for, 4 against and 2 abstentions) the Amiens Project to remain in place for three years.
17. Neighbourhood Plan Working Party
 As referred from the General Purpose Committee meeting of 5th November - Minute 11 Consideration was given to reduce the number of members comprising the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party to make it more effective and to elect a chairman of the Working Party. Cllr Parton withdrew from the membership of the Working Party.
RESOLVED (unanimous) a letter be sent to the Civic Society to determine whether either T Ashworth or B Holmes wished to withdraw from membership of the Working Party.
RESOLVED (unanimous) Cllr Murray be elected as chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party.
18. Centenary Fields Programme
 At the request of Cllr Maiden to consider joining in with the commemorating World War 1 through the Centenary Fields programme and completing an application form, a copy of the details having been circulated to members prior to the meeting.
 It was agreed to defer this item to the next General Purpose Committee meeting.
19. Parks for People
 At the request of Cllr Maiden to consider Parks for People and projects relating to historic parks and cemeteries and the grant aid that was available a copy, of Cllr Maiden's email having been circulated to members prior to the meeting.
 It was agreed to defer this item to the next General Purpose Committee meeting.
19. Correspondence
 A summary of miscellaneous correspondence received since the last meeting was available for members at the meeting.
1. **BCKLWN** Nominations for Mayor's Civic Award previously circulated to councillors.
 2. **NCC** Copy of Notice advertising works to Puffin Crossing at recreation ground.
 3. **NCC** Temporary Road Closure 30th November for Christmas Lights switch on previously circulated to councillors
 4. **NCC** Norfolk's budget and services 2015-18

5. **NCC** 'Flu. vaccination campaign.
6. **EA** Flood warning information 2014-15 leaflet.
7. **NP** Norfolk Prepared - emergency planning leaflet.
8. **WNVCA** Funding News November 2014.
9. **WNVCA** Christmas Carol Service 18th December King's Lynn Minster
10. **WNVCA** Momentum's programme of events.
11. **FIT** Fields in Trust Autumn newsletter.
12. **CPRE** Field Work Winter 2014 magazine.
13. **CPRE** Countryside Voice magazine Winter 2014.
14. **SCOPE** Notification of house to house collection dates.
15. **Chris Durham** email dated 21st October re: thanks for Britain in Bloom.
16. **Dick Melton** letter dated 25th October 2014 re: Act of Remembrance at Cemetery.
17. **Lady Dannatt MBE** letter dated 5th October re: thanks for Freedom of the Town celebrations.
18. **Margaret Bullen** notelet dated 7th October re: thanks for Freedom of the Town celebrations.
19. **Mrs M Rhodes** notelet dated 12th October re: thanks for Freedom of the Town celebrations.

#18 At the request of Cllr Clutton Deputy Clerk read out the letter.

#19 At the request of Cllr Clutton Deputy Clerk read out the notelet.

#20 At the request of Cllr Clutton Deputy Clerk read out the notelet.

20. Public Question Time
There were no public questions or matters arising from the meeting.

Meeting Closed 8:40 pm