

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF HUNSTANTON HELD IN
HUNSTANTON TOWN HALL ON
FRIDAY 20th FEBRUARY 2015 AT 6.30 PM

Present: Mayor C. Bower Deputy Mayor: J Johnson

Town Councillors: C Earnshaw G Smith A Boardman M Ruston
A Murray D Parton S Ellis J Maiden
D Harrington T Light B Devlin E Clutton
G Gooderson(p/t)

Also present:-

5 x members of the Public
NCllr & BCllr R Bird
Town Clerk
Deputy Town Clerk

Prayers The Mayor led members in prayers.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Davies, Thomson and Bcllr Watson.

2. Public Question Time

Mr David Jones commented that he was not allowed to speak at the end of the last Full Council meeting as the 5 minutes allowed for the public to speak had all been used up. This he found surprising as at the Full Council meeting on 10 Oct 2014 the 10 minute period at the beginning of the meeting was allowed to run on for over 10 minutes – 12 minutes and 9 seconds to be precise - without any suggestion that time was up.

He had 2 comments arising from the last FC Mtg:

BCllr Beal in his written statement used the phrase: *'I am too busy to play along with little boys games'*. Mr Jones thought this to be an unusual comment to make to a Town Council and thought an explanation was required.

Mr Jones went on to say he sensed the presence of the ghost of George Orwell during the Mayor's Remarks as it appeared she wished to silence councillors who voted against particular issues. Mr Jones said he wished to make it clear, he expects, and is not alone in expecting, all councillors to vote according to their conscience and to be able to discuss their reasons with anyone at any time. It would not only be an insult to the electorate but dishonest to behave in any other manner.

We do not live in a one party state.

He then referred to the recent Committee Meetings.

The Town Team appears that it has not met recently. This does not seem to concern Cllr Clutton who was the spokesman at the meeting, yet the Terms of Reference state that the Group should meet on a quarterly cycle with additional meetings called as required. In fact, there have not been many meetings recently. It met in September 2013, then 6 months later in March 2014, and a 'Sub Committee' met in May 2014. There have not been any meetings since. So it is 11 months since the TT has met but a 'Sub Committee' whatever that is, met 9 months ago. This is not very impressive is it?

It was agreed that Cllr Earnshaw would talk to BCllr Beal. It is not known if she has 'talked' to BCllr Beal as yet. However, Mr Jones believed a thorough investigation needs to be carried out to establish:

- Why meetings have not been called in accordance with the Terms of Reference.
- Why the WiFi is not meeting expectations even though most, if not all, the Portas £10,000 has been spent, and also a further sum rumoured to be in the region of just under £10k has also been used to fund the project.

In the meantime, this is a formal FOI request to be provided with copies of the minutes and the accounts of the Town Team. This request is in accordance with the spirit, ethics and openness of the whole Portas Project.

Finally Mr Jones remarked that at a recent meeting of the *Freedom of the Town and Town Twinning Working Party* a comment was made at the end of the meeting which caused him to write (via email) to the Mayor and copied to all members of the WP. He wish it to be known that he is still waiting for a reply.

The Mayor said his comments were noted.

Mr Pat Richardson asked that Cllrs complete the survey forms that have been emailed to them regarding the Regeneration Project.

Mr Richard Webb noted that King's Lynn Civic Society had written to the BCKL&WN with a response to the Pre-Submission Document in which they say, "As King's Lynn has no Town Council and therefore no representative statutory consultee for planning that affects the town, our Society feels it is especially important to submit detailed comments on new planning documents." Their response is detailed and some thirteen pages long.

Hunstanton does have a representative statutory consultee body and it is greatly to be regretted that the town council has decided to make no response at all, so

1 Do you think the plan is sound, '*consistent with sustainable development*'?

The plan allows for large-scale developments at, for example, West Winch. With no provision for additional road schemes to assist through traffic, do you not agree that the additional congestion is likely to have an adverse effect on the tourism trade in Hunstanton and further round the coast? How sustainable is that for us?

2 Do you think the plan is sound, '*based on proportional evidence*'?

Our allocation is for 333 new homes, an increase of 50% on the draft document. We have discovered no evidence (proportional or otherwise) that would justify this increase.

(In Mr Ruston's reply to HELP he gives one possible explanation but he has not yet provided any further information that can be used to verify his assertion.)

In the HTC response made in October 2013, the possible areas for development were ranked in order of preference, first F2.3, then F2.2 and then land to the south of Bennetts estate (F2.4).

But the current plan gives the lion's share of new homes to the third site at a density of 26 homes per hectare whilst F2.2 has fewer homes allocated although it has the same area, a density of 19 homes per hectare. What proportional evidence was used to give that outcome?

The Mayor thanked Mr Webb for his comments and said they were noted.

RESOLVED (unanimous) this item be placed on the next General Purpose agenda for discussion.

3. Police Liaison Officer

No Police Liaison Officer was present and no report received.

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

BCllrs Beal & Watson

There was no report from Borough Councillors Beal or Watson:

BCllr R Bird

Cllr Bird gave a written report which he had distributed to members and is attached to these minutes.

In addition Cllr Bird reported: further to the survey which Mr Richardson had mentioned, this would exclude Boston Square, funding would be via a lottery grant, at least 10 local groups would be consulted.

Cllr Bird was asked if Borough Councillors are obliged to attend Parish/Town Council meetings, he confirmed they were not.

5. Norfolk County Council

Cllr Bird invited questions.

Cllr Smith asked why some street lights were turned off late at night and others were not.

Cllr Bird advised that the older style light could not be turned off.

Cllr Boardman complimented Norfolk County Council on their Slipper Swap initiative.

Cllr Earnshaw asked if there were any plans for the infant school. Cllr Bird said it was thought that NPS would put it on the market at £1 million - £1.1 million, but nothing had yet been confirmed. The Mayor suggested it could be used as a temporary youth facility. Cllr Maiden thought the library could be moved there but Cllr Bird advised that libraries are under attack with £80 million being taken from the budget.

6. Mayor's Remarks

James and I attended the first RAF Marham awards night at the Corn Exchange. We were royally entertained and hosted.

The 811th opening of the Mart was fun being full of pageantry and tradition and Simon and I had a thoroughly enjoyable time. Again I was so impressed with the hospitality of the showmen who, despite difficult times were filled with optimism and joie de vivre.

I've enjoyed renewing links with other chairs, officers and agencies I made in my previous stint as Mayor. We have very friendly and helpful group in West Norfolk. We have sent our condolences to Elizabeth Watson for the sudden loss of her son and also to Mrs Rose for Reg's equally sudden death last week.

I would remind all councillors to follow the guidelines of the Good Councillor's Guide.

7. Minutes – confirmation of

Meeting of the Town Council held on 23rd January 2015.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 23rd January 2015 be signed as a true record.

8. Minutes-matters arising

Full Council Meeting 12 December 2014 - Item 15.3

Amalgamation of bank accounts.

In amalgamating the bank accounts Barclays Bank gave assurance that all direct debits would automatically transfer and continue being paid. Instead this did not happen and all direct debits were cancelled. This has caused a lot of extra work as all direct debits will need to be renewed. Barclays have taken full responsibility and would like HTC to accept £50 by way of compensation.

The Clerk was offered a hamper to her personally but she thanked them and declined.

RESOLVED (unanimous) Accept the £50 compensation from Barclays.

Full Council Meeting 23rd January - Item 16

Letter from Mrs Leeder regarding dropped kerbs.

Sally Bettinson would be happy for a site meeting although she believes the kerbs in question are under the Borough Council's remit. She suggested the Clerk contact Cllr Richard Bird. The Clerk emailed Cllr Bird on 3rd February regarding the matter but is yet to receive a reply.

Mrs Leeder said she would be happy to attend a site visit with her disabled husband.

Full Council Meeting 23rd January - Item 17

Letter from Dick Melton re: resurfacing from Kit Kat site to Fairground.

The Clerk reported that neither the Borough or County Council had been aware of this as the work had been done privately.

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 General Purpose, Finance and Quality Council Committees held on

11th February 2015 Copies of the minutes of these meetings had been distributed to members prior to the meeting.

There were no recommendations from the General Purpose Committee.

Cllr Murray commented on two planning applications but was advised that this was not an agenda item so should be dealt with by E-panning.

Cllr Johnson recommended adoption of all Finance Committee recommendations, however Cllr Ruston objected to recommendation 10.2

RESOLVED (unanimous) the recommendations made at the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 11th February 2015 be adopted, with the exception of recommendation 10.2

With the sensitive nature of this item the public were requested to leave the meeting for this item only.

RESOLVED (9 for, 5 against, 1 abstention) item 10.2 be deferred back to the Finance Committee. Cllr Smith to prepare a summary for next Finance Committee meeting.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the recommendations of the Quality Council Committee meeting held on 11th February 2015 be adopted.

11. Accounts for Payment

Consideration was given to authorising for payment Schedules of Accounts for the Town Council No. 15/11a, the Tourist Information Centre No. T15/11a and the Community Centre No. 15/11a. Copies of the schedules had been distributed to members prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED (unanimous) Schedules of Accounts for the Town Council No. 15/11a, the Tourist Information Centre No. T15/11a and the Community Centre No. 15/11a be approved for payment.

12. Amendments to Financial Regulations

Subsequent to the adoption of alternative banking arrangements using the internet, consideration was given to amendments to HTC's Financial Regulations. A copy of the proposed amendments had been distributed to members prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED (unanimous) Item 6.10 to commence internet banking be adopted, other items to be deferred for clarification

13. Charging at some Recycling Centres

Consideration was given to information regarding proposals to charge the public to use some recycling centres in Norfolk. A copy of the information and the Clerk's response had been distributed to members prior to the meeting.

Cllr Boardman thought bringing in fees would encourage fly tipping.

Cllr Bird advised that each County has to have one tidy tip by law, the remainder are discretionary.

RESOLVED (unanimous) letter to NCC objecting to the proposed charging scheme at local recycling depots.

14. Correspondence

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

1. **WNVCA** Notice of merger with NRCC & re-titled Community Action Norfolk
2. **WNVCA** Funding News February 2015
3. **WNVCA** In Touch news-sheet February 2015
4. **EA** Hunstanton Heacham Beach re-charge 2015
5. **Dick Melton** letter dated 21 January 2015 re:- Cemetery rubbish bins and bus

shelters.

#4 At Cllr Maiden's request, the Deputy Clerk read this item in full
Cllr Maiden also requested a copy.

#5 At the request of Cllrs Johnson & Boardman, the Deputy Clerk read
this item in full
Cllr Earnshaw reported that Chris Durham had informed her that a lot
of domestic rubbish had been filling these bins so hence they had
been removed.
It was agreed that the latter part of the letter would be placed on the
Highways & Byways Working Party.

15. Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

Meeting Closed at 8.05pm

government is about to step in with legislation preventing any changes to the discretionary Tidy Tips, only time will tell if the legislation is in place before the charges happen. If there are to be changes this could happen in April.

The budget for the Boro' will be passed, called the financial plan 2014/2018 and council tax resolution 2015/2016 on 26th Feb 2015.

As expected the flooding issue that I have been reporting has gone through at the Boro' council with the introduction of a C.I.L. Community Interest Company. I am not convinced that this is a workable plan but it has now been passed by the Conservative led Boro' Council and unless they are defeated next May it will remain in place, I hope for all of us that it works, believe me I will continue to monitor its progress. This is another example of decisions being made at the Borough despite representations from the two Norfolk County Councillors representing this area, namely John Dobson and myself.

Its Budget time. On Monday the 16th of Jan the NCC budget was debated, for hours & hours. There were two amendments, the first from the Tories the second from the Green party. After much time consuming wrangling the outcome was that the budget was adopted, for my part I had been worried about two items especially.

The first was about people with learning difficulties being disadvantaged by changes to their travel costs with some pretty hefty revised increases. I was reassured by the leader George Nobbs that £100k was to be held over to overcome the immediate problem and he promised a complete review of the situation to commence with immediate effect.

The second concern I have is about Tidy Tip facilities, the prospective threat of closure, short and hours and charging.

It turns out that Norfolk has to have in law seven Tidy Tip facilities. The non-obligatory sites were under some threat - and that includes Heacham. The costs of keeping open the tips and maintaining them is quite huge. There is already a considerable cost to the authorities in clearing up fly tipping, although there is no evidence either way, concerns have been raised about a possible increase in fly tipping. I am being advised that the national

NEWS IN BRIEF

Consultation begins on residential caravan site licensing

Residents of park homes, park home site owners, and anyone living in residential caravans are being invited to take part in a consultation about site licensing conditions.

Sheila Farley, Housing Services Operations Manager, explained: "There have been a number of legislative changes in recent years in relation to residential caravans and park homes. These include introducing the ability for councils to charge fees for site licensing as well as being able to take action where site standards are poor. In relations to park homes there are also changes in respect of pitch fees, sales and site rules.

"The changes are all designed to help protect the health, safety and well being of residents which is why we really want their input before we finalise any proposals."

The changes are wide ranging and site licence conditions relate to the supply and storage of gas, electrical installations, drainage and sanitation, flooding, fire precautions as well as general conditions relating to site management and maintenance.

The consultation is open until 5pm on 22 May 2015.

Temporary Traffic Order

NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make a Temporary Traffic Order affecting the 1) U20052 Beach Terrace Road from a point 70m north of its junction with U20053 Seagate for 30m in a northerly direction; and 2) (a) U20052 Beach Terrace Road (northbound) for its entire length and (b) 20053 Seagate for its entire length in the TOWN OF HUNSTANTON because of works to replace Anglian Water manhole covers.

The road 1) will be temporarily closed (except for access) and roads 2)(a) and (b) will be temporarily subject to a suspension of the one-way restrictions from 9th March 2015 to 10th March 2015 for the duration of the works, expected to be about 2 days within the period.