

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF HUNSTANTON
HELD IN HUNSTANTON COUNCIL CHAMBER ON
FRIDAY 22nd May 2015 AT 7.32PM

Present: Mayor: Cllr A Murray Deputy Mayor: J Johnson
Town Councillors: D Harrington G Smith E Clutton K Dunbar
C Earnshaw S Tong W Croucher D
Jones
S Bower G Wilby M Large T Bishopp
N King R Bird A Winnington

Also present:-

Members of the Public x 5

Press x 2

BCllrs R Bird, P Beal & C Bower

Town Clerk Lisa Powell

Assistant Town Clerk Marian Horner

1. Public Question Time

Mr P Richardson thanked Cllr Bower for her time in office and congratulated Cllr Murray and the new council. He also reported that judging for Anglia in Bloom would be on 8th July 2015 at 10.30am.

2. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

3. Police Liaison Officer

L Powell read out a report on behalf of Sgt Baines. A Murray mentioned that there had been a break in at Bernard Crescent. A member of the public had been told that only 1 security camera works in the town. **L Powell to write to BCKLWN for clarification on the matter.**

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

BCllr Bower reported that she was still going through her induction period. She had been allocated to Planning and Environment and Communities. **BCllr Beal** congratulated Cllr Murray (Mayor) and J Johnson (Deputy Mayor) and went on to mention the £80,000 that had been allocated for the new toilets, he also commented on Foot Golf the new game that is taking off and wondered if the whole town could get involved in it. He reported that he was now a Cabinet member and would work hard for the Town for the next four years. **Cllr R Bird** reported the following, Hunstanton has had an election. We all had the chance to vote for the National, the KL&WNBC and the Town. We are one of the very few Towns and Parishes that were able to field enough candidates to allow an election; that in itself demands applause in my book. Democracy is alive and well in our

Town. So many Towns & Parishes did not have enough candidates, I blame the media and some who criticise others whilst not wanting to do such an important community job themselves. There will always be murmurings about things that might have been better, some residents advised that they had not been canvassed, some that there were too many leaflets, some that they didn't want to be bothered by either, some said not enough information others too much. It's a fine line and I have no doubts that they will all be voiced again in another 4 years.

Personally I should like to thank all the people who voted for me, the people who helped my campaign, the people who put up posters, my running companions and of course my long suffering wife without these people it just wouldn't happen. This campaign was about number ten for us; we have stood for every level of governance except Europeans for many, many years and I guess the outcome of this one at all levels was probably the most surprising. You can always write your thoughts and opinions for the T&A.

Back to work, at NCC some of us went on a field trip to see the progression of the flood defence works, we visited Heacham Beach and were met by Environment Agency Manager Nigel Woonton after his very full description of the recycle and recharge procedure, he told that after 35 years in the job he was retiring. We all wished him well for the future; he lives locally and will keep an eye on our local beaches.

We went on to The RSPB at Titchwell where the ranger explained the defence program there, a complex mix of fresh spring fed lakes were separated from brackish or sea water lagoons that in turn were protected from the sea, total works were in excess of £450k; most monies were supplied by the RSPB Itself. The facility there is just beautiful and the audience attending appeared to be really enjoying it, I sensed a real pride by all involved.

On to Wells to see their new retaining walls, new flood barriers and elaborate but relatively inexpensive defence scheme. It was noticeable that the scheme expected overtopping and that this in itself would be still of great benefit to the properties that are in very close proximity to the harbour.

Moving on to Blakeney Freshers we were met by a couple of Parish Councillors and they showed us how the nearly £500k defence wall was being extensively used as a walkway for a circular route of about three and a half miles and as part of the coastal path. They enthused about the benefits the wall had created, not least as a walkway for the audience they had wanted for tourism and for locals to enjoy. The shape of the wall was the all-important factor here as the previous defences when overtopped had eroded from the landward or dry side with

devastating effect. This defence wall would still protect even when overtopped and would remain stable after floods subsided. Two major things were learned (A) overtopping in itself, while not wanted, has now become less devastating to the surrounding assets and that the controlled weir effect will do much less damage than a failure of the sea wall. (B) Cheap is not an option, proper defences cost a lot of money, making the case for the works and funding them is all important. More on this soon.

Smithdon School is to close and demolish its swimming pool, full details are unfolding, but clearly arrangements for the feeder schools who have been using this pool plus the Smithdon students themselves and of course any clubs etc. will have to be arranged elsewhere. Alive Leisure's 'Oasis' pool may not be really suitable and has little opportunity for lane training or any great depth for diving usage. The only other pools in the area are at CITB Gt Bircham and I am told this is nearly at capacity and Glebe House School that has a 25 metre pool with a diving depth. This could be brought up to the standards required for all-year-round usage with relatively low investment, I'm told. The prospect of a seaside area without the ability to teach and develop swimming skills within its standard curriculum to its youngsters is, in my opinion, unacceptable.

NCC tells me that this decision has been made locally and that it is the responsibility of the Governors and a symptom of the changes to school funding moving towards 'pupil-led funding'. Watch for further developments, what do you think?

The Town and Boro' will be 'Mayor Making' shortly and at Boro the leader will be setting out his or her plans for the coming term; it will be interesting to see what if anything is planned for Hunstanton and District, What would you like to see? I am sure that even if the Leader doesn't read T&A he will be advised of any comments written by it's readers and groups.

Tennis week meetings have now taken place with the consensus that last year was quite a triumph in terms of behaviour from visitors to the event the whole psyche seems to be improving year on year. Hopefully gone are the days of extra police officers, bouncers protecting the buses and their users and guardians handing out condoms and advice on alcohol problems. As my old dad would say all the P's: poor planning promotes poor performance. The group handling all parts of the tennis tournament appear to have covered all aspects of the event, I certainly hope so.

5. Norfolk County Council

B Cllr R Bird gave a brief report and mentioned flooding as an issue and stated that engineers are working hard on this and that it is an improving curve. He also

stated that Great Yarmouth are using a new water management system on their defences, he thought it may be pertinent for our cliff side. He also mentioned that Smithdon School are to close and demolish their pool. County Hall have no say in this. Redgate are liaising with Oasis. BCllr Bird is trying to find out why Smithdon's pool has got to go. Cllr C Bower is a governor at Smithdon and stated that it is purely for financial reasons. Cllr A Murray wondered if the idea could be mothballed. BCllr Bird talked about the scrutiny team and a wait and see was agreed. BCllr W Croucher voiced her concerns on the safety of children being delivered to the tennis. BCllr Bird answered that all members were written to before attending the tennis plus there is now a crossing for added safety. BCllr R Bird stated that he would raise it at his next meeting. Cllr G Smith asked if anything could be done about the unsightly caravan at the top of Lincoln Square. Cllr C Earnshaw stated that this had been addressed, she also wondered if it would be worth producing a plan on Redgate School i.e. is it closing down or being demolished?

6. Carnival Update

The Carnival is due to take place on Sunday 28th June 2015. Cllr A Murray read out a report on the carnival. Bunting was mentioned as the BCKLWN's could not be found. Cllr E Clutton stated that it was in the bottom of her wardrobe.

7. Mayor's Remarks

A Murray (Mayor) thanked everyone for their votes of confidence and stated that he was looking forward to working for the benefit of the town.

8. Minutes – confirmation of

Annual Town Meeting held on 17th April 2015. The minutes of this meeting had been distributed to members prior to the meeting.

Cllr S Bower did not think these minutes should be discussed until 2016.

The Town Clerk stated that you cannot wait a year to discuss them, as she had learnt on a relevant minute taking course she had recently attended. Cllr S Bower stated that he would put it in writing to L Powell Town Clerk. Cllr E Clutton wanted it brought to the meeting's attention that she should be recorded as Counsellor Clutton on minutes. The Clerk explained that she cannot alter a report given by a Committee Chairman.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 17th April 2015 be signed as a true record.

An Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 17th April 2015. The minutes of this meeting had been distributed to members prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the minutes of the Full Town Council Meeting held on 17th April 2015 be signed as a true record.

9. Minutes, Matters Arising

L Powell Town Clerk reminded the Council that they need to submit their Expense Returns forms by the 4th June 2015, regardless of whether they have incurred expenditure or not.

10. Questions
No Questions had been submitted.
11. Accounts for Payment
Consideration was given to payment of Schedules of Accounts No16/02a for the Town Council, No 16/02a Tourist Information Centre, No T16/02a for the Community Centre.
Copies of these schedules were distributed to member prior to the meeting. Cllr J Johnson went through the accounts. Cllr S Bower asked about the Deputy Clerk's absence. L Powell Town Clerk updated HTC but declined to discuss the Deputy Clerk's contract details.
RESOLVED: Accounts 16/02a HTC, 16/02a TIC and 16/02a Community Centre, be approved for payment
12. General Power of Competence
L Powell Town Clerk informed members of the background and workings of this.
RESOLVED: *The Town Council resolves from 22 May 2015 until the next relevant Annual Meeting of the Council, that having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence)(Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012, to adopt the General Power of Competence.*
13. Correspondence
L Powell informed the Chamber how this section works:
1. **BCKLWN** – Wide Skies newsletter of the Norfolk Coast Partnership.
 2. **CAN** – Community Action Norfolk e-bulletin
14. Public Question Time
E Bird asked if she could take photographs of all the new councillor's for the website. Agreed.

Meeting Closed 8.45pm