

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF HUNSTANTON
HELD IN HUNSTANTON COUNCIL CHAMBER ON
FRIDAY 14th JUNE 2013 AT 6:30 PM

Present: Mayor: Cllr E Clutton Deputy Mayor: Cllr C Bower

Town Councillors: R Bird C Earnshaw J Maiden G Smith L Brister
B Devlin

Also present:-

1 x member of the Press
14 x members of the Public
1 x Police (p/t)
BCllrs P Beal, A Beales.
Town Clerk & Deputy Town Clerk

1. Apologies For Absence

Apologies for absence were received from A Murray, J Johnson, R Davies, J Smith, N Godfrey-Cole, C Allman & BCllr E Watson.

2. BCllr A Beales by Invitation

BCllr A Beales was critical of the Turnstone articles in the Lynn News for a very negative view on many issues.

There was some £2-3K of money remaining in the old regeneration partnership accounts and it was suggested that this should be used in a joint venture to be agreed with HTC. BCllr Beales apologised for the lack of communication over the Wednesday Market re-instatement and suggested that in the future what the community as a whole wanted would be supported. With regard to HTC's Regeneration Working Party it was questioned how its findings would be integrated into the whole regeneration process but Cllr Bower agreed for the need to confer with BCKLWN.

Cllr Maiden thought that the negativity was one-way and that was from Kings Lynn. There was still no positive response about the QEII Fields. Referring to the Garage site it was understood that the prospective developer had looked at an alternative site .

At 6:45 pm there was a short disruption until 6:55 pm for a fire alarm test and all persons were evacuated to the assembly point on The Green and a role call taken.

BCllr Beales offered to get an answer about the QEII Fields and noted that the Garage site was the BCKLWN's preferred option but wished to hear Hunstanton's views.

3. Residents Question Time

Mr P Richardson asked that the Town Community notice board be given some attention before the "In Bloom" judging and was given an assurance that it was being dealt with within the next few days.

Mrs L Corp asked that the trees at the Piazza Gateway be given some attention and offered to pay for a replacement tree and a plaque. An assurance was also given that consultation would take place when the planning application for the WiFi aerial was made.

4. Police Liaison Officer

Sgt R Curl gave the following report:

There have been 34 crimes recorded since the last meeting of the Town Council. It has been a busy period, following a promising first few weeks of the financial year. This is an increase on the last 2 years (28 + 21). However, the lower the overall crime level the more significant such spikes in crime can seem. It has certainly been a busy month in Hunstanton.

Priority crime is still extremely low.

Burglary – 1 offence where the window of a bedsit from which the resident had been evicted was forced from the outside.

Vehicle crime – None

Violence. The most significant assault was occurred when a 13 year old was punched and kicked by two boys aged 13 and 15. Both offenders were named and have admitted assault, receiving Youth cautions for the offence. One other assault with an injury took place when a man struck his partner in Oasis Way. He was charged with the offence and refused bail. He was subsequently released after his court appearance and assaulted the woman a second time by grabbing her. He was further arrested and charged with a second assault. There was a further assault reported on a Parking Enforcement Officer in Seagate Road. Included in the total are 3 historic child sexual abuse allegations, two relating to visitors on holiday in the town and one to residents.

One particular crime of note was the snatch of a handbag from a woman near the funfair on Friday 31st May at about 3.15pm. Two young men ran past and snatched the bag. Unfortunately we have been unable to identify either. This is an extremely unusual event in Hunstanton and I am pleased to say that no similar incidents have occurred in the last 2 weeks.

2 minor public order matters are being investigated. Both involve adults known to each other.

There has also been an allegation of theft from a dwelling where the offender is known and has been charged.

The remaining crimes relate to shoplifting and damage to property.

Five shoplifting offences reported by the major supermarkets have all been investigated and offenders identified and dealt with. A burst of BBQ weather can often seem to drive up demand for meat which can doubtless be sold fairly easily once stolen.

There are 17 reports of damage to property, either buildings or vehicles in the main. Half of these were reported on the morning of 14th May and so it would seem likely that all of those took place on the night of the 13th. These are often the most difficult offences for us to detect, and at present no offenders have been identified. We will often be aware of groups of young people known to us, causing concern in the town. Our powers to deal with them are varied depending on the circumstances and it is very often not possible to simply require them to be somewhere else. Calls from the public are helpful to try and prevent these offences, but evidence of their behaviour is the thing we need in order to take prompt action.

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

BCllr P Beal reported on the SNAP meeting which had focused on an assault in Heacham and the metal debris left by the "Travellers" behind the Searles site. He disagreed that the Town Team was usurping the role of HTC in deciding how to spend the £10K Portas money. Cllr Maiden asked that the land adjacent to O'Quigleys be looked into and BCllr Beal agreed to do so. With regard to why the Town Team meetings were not public meetings BCllr Beal had always assumed that the meetings were private.

BCllr R Bird reported on the problems of parking at the infant's school in Valentine Road and a possible voucher system being put into operation. There were a number of issues at the Recreation Ground which were being addressed by the various officers. The new food waste bag replacements were available at the Valentine Road office and the Cookware shop on the High

Street. With regard to the matter of sports in the town, the BCKLWN Sports Officer had been extended an invitation to come to the town to discuss issues.

The Town Clerk reported that the food waste bags were also available at the Oasis and will be at the TIC. Cllr Bower reported that the playground at the Recreation Ground was well maintained.

6. Norfolk County Council

NCllr R Bird reported that the Highways Dept was examining the installation of 20 mph timed speed restrictions near schools and the A149 crossing at the Recreation Ground would go ahead. £62K had been allocated to the clean-up of the High Street pavements etc. Highways were also suggesting a solution to the Smithdon parking problems by extending the “Clearway” designation from the A149 along Downs Road, thus alleviating the need for lots of signage and yellow lines. Highways would also be interested to attending any volunteer gritting initiative meeting being promoted by HTC. There had been some discussion about the amalgamation of the Infant and Junior schools and the possible sale of the Infant School site to fund a new Infant School on the Redgate site.

7. Mayor’s Remarks

The Mayor was pleased to see how well the Town was looking with its freshly painted areas. It had been a particularly busy time with attendance at a number of Civic Services.

8. Minutes – Confirmation of

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Full Council held on 10 May 2013 a copy of which had been distributed to councillors prior to the meeting, were considered.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the minutes of Annual Meeting of 10th May 2013 be approved.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Full Council held on 10 May 2013 a copy of which had been distributed to councillors prior to the meeting, were considered.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the minutes of Ordinary Meeting of 10th May 2013 be approved.

9. Minutes – Matters Arising

The Town Clerk reported on the receipt of an email from NCC Highways that HTC’s application for partnership funding for the crossing over Southend Road had not been successful, however, the A149 crossing to the Recreation Ground would go ahead and would be fully funded up to a maximum of £130K. A survey would be undertaken as to the type of crossing required even up to a fully light controlled crossing. The work would be undertaken during the current financial year.

10. Questions

No questions had been submitted.

11. Committee Recommendations

The Recommendations made at the General Purposes, Finance, Quality Council & Town Hall Management Committee meetings held on 5 June 2012, copies of the minutes, which had been distributed to councillors prior to the meeting, were considered.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the recommendations made at the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 5 June 2012 be adopted.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the recommendations made at the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 5 June 2012 be adopted.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the recommendations made at the meeting of the Quality Council Committee held on 5 June 2012 be adopted.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the recommendations made at the meeting of the Town Hall Management Committee held on 5 June 2012 be adopted.

12. Bank Mandate Signatories
 Consideration was given to amending the bank mandate signatories to remove the former Deputy Mayor and insert the new Deputy Mayor.
RESOLVED (unanimous) former Cllr C Dunbar be removed from the list of bank mandate signatories and Cllr C Bower be inserted on the list.
13. Annual Statement of Accounts 2012/2013
 Consideration was given to the Annual Statement of Accounts for 2012/2013 which was tabled at the meeting.
RESOLVED (unanimous) the Annual Statement of Accounts for 2012/2013 be received and approved.
14. Annual Governance Statement for 2012/2013
 Consideration was given to the Annual Governance Statement for 2012/2013 a copy of which had been distributed to members prior to the meeting.
RESOLVED (unanimous) the Annual Governance Statement for 2012/2013 be approved and signed.
15. HTC Tourist Information Centre Accounts 2012/2013
 Consideration was given to the Tourist Information Centre Accounts for 2012/2013 a copy of which had been distributed to members prior to the meeting.
RESOLVED (unanimous) the Tourist Information Centre Accounts for 2012/2013 be approved.
16. Correspondence
1. **BCKLWN** West Norfolk Sports Council Annual Meeting 20 June at Lynnsport
 2. **BCKLWN** Sports Council Festival 2014 – call for expressions of interest.
 3. **WNVCA** “In Touch” newsletter June 2013.
 4. **Momentum** Members magazine.
 5. **Churchill Park School** letters dated 17th May 2013 re:- thanks for use of Town Hall.
 6. **Brian Hallard** letter dated 14th May 2013 re:- thanks to Town Hall staff for help with senior citizens’ lunch.
 7. **Rita Caldicott** letter dated 5th June 2013 to Festival Committee & Town Council re:- resignation of Carnival Committee.
 8. **Wroth Silver** email dated 9th June 2013 re:- biker parking.
 9. **Chris Chandler** email dated 8th June 2013 re:- location of skateboard & Clerk’s reply.
 10. **Mr R Melton** letter dated 18th May 2013 re:- Footpath between Willow Road & Chatsworth Road and list of previous unsettled problems notified to Town Council on June 2011.
 11. **Mr R Melton** undated - “The Spinney” - a short poem by Dick Melton

- #11 At the request of Cllr Brister the Deputy Clerk read out the poem.
- #9 At the request of Cllr Maiden the Deputy Clerk read out the email and provided Cllr Maiden with a copy.
- #5 At the request of Cllr Bird the Deputy Clerk read out the covering letter.
- #6 At the request of Cllr Bird the Deputy Clerk read out the letter.
- #8 At the request of Cllr Maiden the Deputy Clerk read out the email.
- #7 At the request of Cllr Clutton the Deputy Clerk read out the letter.

17. Additional Residents Question Time

Mr D Jones was concerned at the personal remarks made by BCllr Beales about “Turnstone” at this meeting as there we have a “Free Press” in the UK and without that we would live in a very poor society.

Mr B Holmes regretted the loss of three excellent councillors and also gave his backing to the remarks made by Mr Jones about “Turnstone”.

18. Casual Vacancy for Town Councillor

5 candidates had expressed a wish to stand and all candidates were present and given the opportunity to make a presentation to the Council. This they did in alphabetical order and then all candidates, Borough Councillors and members of the public left the room. Members voted for each candidate by show of hands and Mr S Ellis received the majority of votes. Candidates and others returned to the room and the Town Clerk announced that Mr S Ellis had been duly co-opted as a member of the Town Council. The Mayor thanked the other candidates for their interest in the work of the Town Council.

Meeting closed at 8:12 pm.