

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF HUNSTANTON
HELD IN HUNSTANTON COUNCIL CHAMBER ON
FRIDAY 15th MARCH 2012 AT 6:30 PM

Present: Mayor: Cllr. E Clutton

Town Councillors: R Bird J Maiden R Davies L Brister R Webb
G Smith D Jones A Murray J Johnson C Bower
C Earnshaw J Smith C Dunbar N Godfrey-Cole

Also present:-

4 x members of the Public
BCllr E Watson & BCllr P Beal
Sgt R Curl (p/t)
Deputy Town Clerk

In the absence of the Mayor's Chaplin the Mayor led prayers.

1. Apologies For Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr B Devlin and the Town Clerk.

2. Election of a New Deputy Mayor

Two councillors had expressed an interest in standing for Deputy Mayor for the remainder of the 2012/2013 term of office. Both candidates were given the opportunity to speak in alphabetical order. Cllr Bower gave a commitment to work hard for the town as she had done in the past. Cllr Maiden declared that he would not be standing for election in 2014 and wished to take on the Deputy Mayor's role.

Voting took place by a show of hands.

RESOLVED (11 votes for & 4 votes against) Cllr Bower be elected as Deputy Mayor for the remainder of the 2012/2013 term of office.

The Deputy Mayor signed and read out the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3. Residents Question Time

Mr P Richardson thanked the Town Council for the Mayor's gala evening and also for the new website which he found very good.

4. Police Liaison Officer

Sgt R Curl gave the following report including the following from the Chief Constable;

"It is with extreme sadness that I have to announce the sudden and tragic death of a member of staff, PCSO Sandra Greenacre, who worked at Hunstanton. Sandra was involved in a fatal road traffic collision on the A149 near Sandringham this morning (Monday 11 March) whilst on her way to work. Investigations into the cause of the collision are on-going."

A total of 23 crimes have been recorded in the last month. The number recorded last year was 18.

Burglary. Two house burglaries have been reported, both with elderly victims, although different in nature. There is no suggestion that older people have been targeted. One house was at Harry's Way where the back door lock was snapped while the occupants were out.

The second was at the home of a 96 years old lady who was awoken in the night to find someone in her lounge searching with a torch. Entry was gained via an unlocked door.

Both offences are currently being investigated by King's Lynn CID.

The only other burglary was at the recreation ground where an offender seems to have walked into the changing rooms of the pavilion and stole money, jewellery and personal effects during a football match.

Vehicle Crime. The only vehicle crime we have recorded was the theft of a Volkswagen Golf from Crescent Road. This vehicle was recovered in Ringstead Road, Heacham after an attempt had been made to set it on fire.

Violent Crime. An assault took place in Church Street involving two men, known to each other. One was alleged to have hit the other in the face with a brick, causing an injury. The suspect was arrested and is currently on police bail.

An assault was recorded between a 17 and 15 year old boy in Waveney Road. This received no further investigation after the victim refused to substantiate the allegation.

A member of staff at an amusement arcade was head-butted after escorting a customer off the premises. The suspect, from Wisbech, has been bailed after denying the offence.

There have also been two domestic assaults, one of which took place between a couple in their 70's.

There have been 6 minor thefts recorded. Two of these are shoplifting and two relate to staff coats being taken from a bar while they were working.

The majority of criminal damage recorded in the town has been vandalism. Stones being thrown at windows has been common recently and a youth was seen to kick down a fire hydrant in Greevegate. We have good reason for thinking that many of these offences are being committed by the same small group of youths.

At the recent Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel Meeting, priorities were adopted that reflected some of this vandalism, especially in areas such as Esplanade Gardens and Seagate Road.

Cllr Murray asked whether the CCTV cameras gave value for money and Sgt Curl confirmed that more effort went into the system than came out but the Control Room guidance was very positive. **Cllr Bird** asked whether there was an underlying trend of an increase in crime and was assured that there was not and the area was a very low crime area and small spikes of increase were much more noticeable as a consequence. **Cllr Murray** asked whether it was worthwhile spending more on extra CCTV cameras and Sgt Curl thought it a good idea to review the usage.

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

BCllr P Beal reported on the pressure from Redgate School to have Collingwood Road made a higher priority for gritting. HTC were congratulated on its new website but were criticised for not using the basement for youth activities when public money had been raised to re-furbish the basement for the youth of the town. Cllr Clutton responded that the Youth Working Party would be addressing the issues and it was not possible to run events without volunteers and despite advertising none had come forward. Cllr Bird reminded those present that money had been raised to renovate the building for the youth and others and he was prepared to answer any criticism at anytime.

BCllr E Watson congratulated Mr P Richardson on his recent award and reported that a tourism meeting in Norwich was trying to gain more recognition for North & West Norfolk as a tourist destination. It was noted that HTC had objected to the signage on the roundabouts.

BCllr R Bird reported on the new council tax rates for empty homes. BCKLWN had adopted a Warm Home Policy. Lifestyles had been cancelled for 2013 due to lack of sponsorship.

Cllr Earnshaw asked BCllr Watson if there was anything more that HTC could do about the

roundabout signage but was not given any assurances. Cllr Webb was informed that the BCKLWN would consult once again about the Spinney proposals. Cllr Murray questioned the wisdom of some of the delegated powers to planning officers over advertising ice cream cones. Cllr Maiden wanted assurances that something was being done about the O'Quigley planning application and BCllr Beal agreed to look into the matter.

6. Mayor's Remarks

The Mayor gave the following report:-

I would first of all like to publicly thank Cllr. Dunbar for her work as Deputy Mayor and for all the support she gave during that time to the Council, by attendance at working parties and to me, both at events with me and on my behalf. Thank you Kate.

This month there has been a heavy schedule of events including the Mayor's Gala Concert which raised £300 for Hunstanton Youth Café. Particular thanks to the three councillors and Lisa who supported the event. I am involved with Youth project in a committee and fundraising capacity and am delighted to report that it has now been open for two weeks.

The Business Evening held this had tremendous support from Councillors, Chamber of Trade and Borough Councillors - thank you. There was a disappointing turnout from the business community but we have a number of suggestions and ideas which we can bring forward for further discussion.

I have attended a number of events recently including the Civic Service and St Winnold's Horse Fair in Downham Market, the Justices Service in King's Lynn.

I am looking forward to our Policy Meeting on Wednesday and hope to see you all there.

7. Minutes – Confirmation of

The minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held on 15th February 2013, copies of which had been distributed to councillors prior to the meeting, were considered.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the minutes of 15th February 2013 were approved.

8. Minutes – Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

9. Questions

No questions had been submitted.

10. Committee Recommendations

The Recommendations made at the General Purpose, Quality Council, Town Hall Management & Finance Committee meetings held on 6th March 2013, copies of the minutes, which had been distributed to councillors prior to the meeting, were considered.

Cllr Dunbar asked that her address, recommended at Minute 3 of the meeting of the General Purpose Committee meeting not be sent to BCllr A Beals.

RESOLVED (unanimous) that the recommendations, with the exception of the recommendation at Minute 3, made at the meeting of the General Purpose Committee held on 6th March 2013 be adopted.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the recommendation made at the meeting of the Quality Council Committee held on 6th March 2013 be adopted.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the recommendation made at the meeting of the Town Hall Management Committee held on 6th March 2013 be adopted.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the recommendations made at the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 6th March 2013 be adopted.

11. Anglia In Bloom Representative
No action required as Cllr Dunbar was a representative appointed by the Orchard Committee and not HTC.
12. Town Team Representative
RESOLVED (10 for, 5 against, 1 abstention) Cllr Bower be appointed as the HTC representative on the Town Team following the resignation of Cllr Dunbar.
13. The Spinney Regeneration Public Consultation
Members had considerable concerns about the loss of free parking in Westgate, access for refuge vehicles into St Edmunds Terrace and the installation of a pathway through the Spinney as well as the loss of some trees.
RESOLVED (13 for, 2 against, 1 abstention) the proposed informal crossing points to have parking demarcation.
A proposal to allow shared access to St Edmund's Terrace was lost by 9 votes to 7.
RESOLVED (9 for, 7 against) there should be no pathway through the Spinney and HTC reiterates its objection to the removal of any trees.
14. Correspondence
 1. **NCC** letter re: NCC's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
 2. **NALC** Norfolk Link Magazine Issue 190 February 2013
 3. **WNVCA** Funding News March 2013
 4. **Momentum** Members magazine 1st March 2013.
 5. **Debs Davis** email dated 20th February 2013 re:- Grit bins and overgrown hedge undergrowth Waveney Road cemetery
 6. Unsigned, undated letter and petition re:- Spinney development –v- High Street
 - #1 Cllr Bird requested that the letter be addressed by the Footpaths & Streetlights Working Party and Cllr Murray requested a copy of the letter.
 - #6 Cllr Jones requested the petition be read out but Cllr Bird reminded members that HTC policy was not to read out un-signed correspondence. Cllrs Jones and Webb requested copies of the petition
 - #4 Cllr Clutton requested a copy of the Momentum magazine.
13. Additional Residents Question Time
P Richardson thanked HTC for its congratulations for his Civic Award.
M Ruston complemented the Town Council on its new website.

Meeting closed at 7:51 pm.