

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ST NEOTS TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE MOOT, THE PRIORY CENTRE, ST NEOTS
ON THURSDAY 7 OCTOBER 2010

PRESENT: Cllr G Thorpe – Chairman
Cllr B Chapman
Cllr Mrs D Collins
Cllr Mrs K Cooper
Cllr J Cooper-Marsh
Cllr A Cummings
Cllr D Giles
Cllr D Harty
Cllr Mrs J Hayward
Cllr Mrs L Ottolangu
Cllr L Roberts
Cllr D Terry
Cllr P K Ursell
Cllr S van de Kerkhove

Mike Huntington, Urban Designer at Huntingdonshire District Council, was present.

50. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs B Arnold (unwell), Cllr R Eaton (prior engagement), Cllr Mrs J Bird (family commitment). Cllr O Reynolds was not present.

51. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr S van de Kerkhove declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 7 (Eynesbury Village Association and Friends of Sudbury Meadow grant applications).

Cllr B Chapman declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 7 (Friends of Sudbury Meadow grant application).

52. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor reported that the mayoral team had attended 40 engagements since the last full Council meeting on 29 July and 31 engagements had been confirmed so far up to the meeting on 2 December.

The Mayor congratulated the Town Clerk, Mrs Helen King, on completing the Certificate in Local Council Administration.

He announced that three new employees had begun working for the Council during the last month. Daren Perry, Eatons Community Centre Buildings Custodian, Karen Pollecutt, Administration Assistant/Mayor's Secretary and Kelly Hinkley, Deputy Town Clerk.

*Meeting of St Neots Town Council
Thursday 7 October 2010*

The next Community Coffee Morning would be held on Saturday 13 November and representatives from all local community groups were invited.

A Remembrance Parade and Service would be held in town on Sunday 14 November. Also on that day, the Town Mayor would be hosting a presentation by the 1st Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment – D Company, following their recent return from Afghanistan. This would take place in the Priory Centre Great Hall.

53. MINUTES

- (i) The Minutes of the Special Town Council Meeting held on 13 September were **APPROVED**;
- (ii) The Minutes of the Special Town Council Meeting held on 30 September were **APPROVED**.
- (iii) The Minutes of the Personnel Meeting held on 30 September were **RECEIVED**.

54. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs Peggy Thorpe thanked the Town Council for arranging the Sunfest over the Bank Holiday weekend. She particularly thanked Cllrs Mrs K Cooper, Mrs D Collins, L Roberts, S van de Kerkhove and B Chapman for their help in selling programmes and marshalling at the event and the Town Clerk, Deputy Mayor and all Council staff involved.

Mrs Thorpe also thanked Cllr R Eaton and Mrs D Collins for attending the Proms in the Park event and for their help in informing people that the event had been moved from the Riverside Park to the Priory Centre.

55. PRESENTATION FROM MIKE HUNTINGTON, URBAN DESIGNER, HDC

Mike Huntington gave a presentation on the development of St Neots Eastern Expansion. He updated members on progress since he last addressed them at the Annual Town Meeting. The consultation process had been started and the outcome of this would be reported to the District Cabinet in November.

A display would be set up in the Priory Centre showing the main elements of the expansion project and residents and Councillors were encouraged to put forward their comments and ideas for the development of this area.

*Meeting of St Neots Town Council
Thursday 7 October 2010*

Mr Huntington said that the area of development was not dissimilar to the size of the Eatons and would take place over 25 years. Constraints included the balancing pond on Fox Brook which was a well established ecological resource, field drains and electricity pylons and gas pipes.

Services which should be considered included allotment land, burial grounds, shopping facilities and vehicular and pedestrian access to the town.

Members thanked Mr Huntington for providing a full update on the Eastern Expansion.

56. GRANTS

Cllrs S van de Kerkhove B Chapman left the room for this item.

The Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee reported that further information had been requested on these two grant applications. This had been provided for the last meeting but, as the meeting had been inquorate, no decision could be made.

Members **RESOLVED**

- (i) to **APPROVE** the grant application of £300 for Sudbury Meadows, and
- (ii) to **APPROVE** a capital grant of £700 to Eynesbury Village Association for the purchase of a generator and lights. Invoices to be supplied before funds are released.

57. STATEMENT OF INTENT AS TO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Town Clerk reported that a Statement of Intent as to Community Engagement was required for the town's Quality Status.

Members **APPROVED** the adoption of the Statement of Intent as to Community Engagement.

58. TRAINING STATEMENT OF INTENT

This was also required for Quality Status.

Members **APPROVED** the adoption of the Training Statement of Intent.

*Meeting of St Neots Town Council
Thursday 7 October 2010*

59. PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION INFORMATION PACK AND INDUCTION PACK FOR NEW TOWN COUNCILLORS

The Town Clerk had prepared these packs in advance of the May 2011 elections.

Members **APPROVED** the Election Information Pack and Induction Pack.

60. FARMERS MARKET

The Town Clerk reported that St Neots Farmers Market had been reviewed and reaccredited by FARMA. The new Deputy Town Clerk would be looking at increasing footfall and suppliers for the market and also the invitation to continental markets to come to St Neots.

61. BUDGET PROCESS

The Responsible Finance Officer asked Members to provide instruction on the preparation of the budget for 2011-12.

It was **AGREED** that

The Responsible Finance Officer would present a draft budget to the Finance and General Purposes meeting on 25 November, results of which would be forwarded to all Town Councillors prior to the December full Council meeting.

62. FORWARD PLAN

The Town Clerk asked Members to consider the review of the Council's Forward Plan which would set out the Council's aspirations for the next 5-10 years.

Members **RESOLVED**

that the existing Working Party review the current Forward Plan by mid November.

63. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

The Town Clerk had received notification from First Capital Connect that, under a new scheme entitled More Seats for You, additional seating would be provided to alleviate overcrowding at peak times on their trains.

Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council have jointly prepared a Minerals and Waste Plan which could be viewed on the Cambridgeshire County Council website.

Cambridgeshire County Council had notified local Clerks and Residents' Associations of a Flood Memorials survey they were conducting.

The Town Clerk had received correspondence from the Local Taxation Manager at HDC advising timings for total precept requirements for the forthcoming financial year.

The latest Council Employee Newsletter, prepared by the new Deputy Town Clerk, was circulated to Members.

The funds made available by Tesco for the car park at Eaton Socon church would be released by the end of next week.

The Town Clerk had received confirmation that the Section 106 Bushmead Road monies would be available for the refurbishment of Dukes Road, Eaton Socon.

The meeting closed at 9.47.pm

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CHAIRMAN
07.10.10

*Meeting of St Neots Town Council
Thursday 7 October 2010*