

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ST NEOTS TOWN COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN THE MOOT, THE PRIORY CENTRE, ST NEOTS**  
**ON WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER 2009**

**PRESENT:** Cllr A Cummings - Chairman

Cllr Mrs B Arnold	
Cllr Mrs J Bird	Cllr D Giles
Cllr Ms Birks	Cllr D Harty
Cllr B Chapman	Cllr Mrs J Hayward
Cllr Mrs D Collins	Cllr L Roberts
Cllr Mrs K Cooper	Cllr D Terry
Cllr J Cooper-Marsh	Cllr P K Ursell
Cllr R W J Eaton	Cllr S van de Kerkhove

**92. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs L Ottolangui (work commitments) and Cllr G Thorpe (holiday).

**93. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr D Harty declared an interest in Item 6 as a County Councillor.

Cllr P Ursell declared a prejudicial interest in Item 7 (Presentation on Old Fire Station Site) as Vice-Chairman of Huntingdonshire District Council's Development Management Panel.

**94. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Deputy Town Mayor reported that he and the Town Mayor had attended 16 events this past month and had 12 confirmed engagements for the next month.

**94. MINUTES**

- (i) The Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 9 and 23 September 2009 were **RECEIVED**;
- (ii) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 9 September 2009 were **APPROVED** with an amendment to Item 87 that the following be added to the Resolution:

The lease to include maintenance of the fixtures and fittings to the pre-school play area.

- (iii) The Minutes of the Special Town Council meeting held on 30 September 2009 were **APPROVED**.
- (iii) The Minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 5 October were **RECEIVED**.
- (iv) Policy & Resources Committee – 23 September

The Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee presented the Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 September and members considered the following Recommendations:

- a) Members **APPROVED** the adoption of the Forward Plan and to review the Plan in December.
- b) Members **APPROVED** the adoption of the Performance Plan.
- c) Community Centres Manager Update, Toddlers' Gym. Members **APPROVED** the recommendation that the Manager change the activities held during the sessions and continue to offer the service for three days a week.

Finance Officer's Update, The Acting Clerk reported that these items would have been reported on later in the evening under the Finance Officer's Reports but as the Responsible Finance Officer was unable to attend the meeting, these items would be deferred.

It was **AGREED** that the clarification of the Mayoral Allowance Budget would be brought back to the next Town Council meeting.

- d) Memorial Bench Requests. Members **APPROVED** these applications subject to sufficient space being available in the Cemetery.
- e) Sidney Banks Field. Members **APPROVED** the recommendation that the present situation continue as it stands this year only and that the Responsible Finance Officer arrange a Lease Agreement, including Terms of Reference, for the financial year 2010-2011.

## **95. PRESENTATION ON BARGROVES**

Carol Way and Darryl McMurray of CYPS outlined the current situation with the Bargroves building in Cromwell Road.

At present the Children and Young People's Services is based at the Marshall Road building in St Neots. The CYPS is run by Cambridgeshire County Council and exists to offer services and other facilities to children in St Neots and surrounding area. They include welfare officers, Connexions staff and youth workers.

The Group are due to move into Bargroves within the next 12 months. There will be three projects running there, the first of which will start operating shortly. This is a joint venture between Longsands College and St Neots Community College giving support to children who do not attend school and are in danger of dropping out of the system. This part of the building is now complete and the project is already underway. There will be an official opening to which all Councillors will be invited.

The next stage will commence operation next summer and this will be when CYPs and Cambridgeshire Social Services move into the building. There is a lot of work taking place at present to convert the building and make it suitable for them. There is also a Sixth Form extension being built at Samuel Pepys School.

Bargroves will also be used as a Youth Centre for young people and an additional room will be available for meetings.

Darryl McMurray then outlined the current youth services activities taking place in St Neots and advised Members that numbers were rising for many of the groups. These included the Longsands Lunch Time Drop-In Club, the Loves Farm Youth Club, Proud to be Loud Management Group which meets at the Town Coffee Bar and a new project "Green Fingers" which has received a grant of £900 to develop a gardening project.

Members asked how this would affect the Town Coffee Bar which is supported financially by the Town Council. Mrs Way reported that Cambridgeshire County Council were in the process of drafting a Shared Level Agreement with the Town Council for the use of the Coffee Bar but that they did not know at this time how they would use it, if at all, in the future. She asked Members to consider whether the financial support they gave may be used in another area of children's services.

Cllr Giles asked if the facility could be used as a venue for St Neots Boxing Club as there were many people in the town keen on starting this Club but no venue seemed to be available. Mr McMurray said that if children wanted this, it was possible but would depend on the type of equipment required and whether it was static or portable as the room would need to be used for other functions.

Members asked if the venue could be used by other community groups at other times. Mr McMurray said that this could be possible but that it is intended to be used primarily for young people. Councillors suggested that CYPs contact Sgt Griffin at St Neots Police Station as he is organising a youth group for Eynesbury in the Whitehall Walk area. Eynesbury Village Association may also be interested in helping to set up or support youth groups.

**96. PRESENTATION ON OLD FIRE STATION**

Cllr Ursell left the room.

Mike Huntington of Huntingdonshire District Council outlined the proposals for the old Fire Station site in Huntingdon Street.

He told members that the area in consideration comprised the old Fire Station (depot), waste recycling centre and the car park at the back of Lidl's. There was also the possibility of obtaining land behind Cressener House, which is a residents' parking area and land at Shady Walk. The trees around the site have Tree Preservation Orders and would be designed within the brief as they cannot be removed.

Planners agree that the car park site has potential for a cinema although there may be some impact on local residents. Access would have to be either from Huntingdon Street or past Lidl's on Cambridge Street. This would be the better location as the present recycling centre exit onto Huntingdon Street is difficult. Initial talks with Lidl's had not been very positive as they felt the sharing of an access road would be detrimental to their customers.

Mr Huntington informed members that a consultation process was due to start shortly and he asked for their views on how and where this should be conducted. Members suggested holding the consultation on a Thursday market day and another day in the week, as this would give feedback from local people and those travelling in from out of town for the weekly market.

Members thanked Mr Huntington for his presentation.

**97. FINANCIAL REPORT**

This Item was deferred as the Responsible Finance Officer was unable to be present for the meeting.

**98. MAYORAL BUDGET**

This item was deferred to the absence of the Responsible Finance Officer.

**99. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

The Acting Town Clerk reported that, due to a recent resignation, there was now a vacancy on the Personnel Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Mrs J Hayward be elected onto the Personnel Committee.

## 100. OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr B Chapman reported that he had attended meetings of the Museum Committee and St Neots in Bloom.

Cllr D Giles reported that there would be a Litter Picking Day on the Pightle this Saturday if anyone would like to come along.

## 101. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

The Acting Town Clerk reported that she had received notification of the following items:

- 1) HDC Operations Division would be carrying out tree works in Priory Park on 8 and 9 October.
- 2) Launch of an NHS public consultation on the Future of Primary Care Out of Hours Services for Residents in Cambridgeshire.
- 3) Planning Advice Notes of the Draft Development Management Panel Agendas; and Town/Parish Council Forums.
- 4) Co-option of Independent Members to District Council Overview and Scrutiny Panels.
- 5) Proposed Visit to the New Recycling Centre on Friday 9 October.

## 102. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 - EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

To resolve that in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

## 103. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

The Acting Town Clerk updated members on a recent Freedom of Information request.

Members **RESOLVED** to defer this item until a future meeting

The meeting ended at 9.23pm.

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CHAIRMAN  
08.10.09