

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF ST NEOTS TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE MOOT, THE PRIORY CENTRE, ST NEOTS
ON WEDNESDAY 6 JANUARY 2010

PRESENT: Cllr G Thorpe – Chairman

Cllr Mrs J Bird	Cllr D Harty
Cllr B Chapman	Cllr Mrs J Hayward
Cllr Mrs D Collins	Cllr L Roberts
Cllr Mrs K Cooper	Cllr P K Ursell
Cllr A Cummings	Cllr S van de Kerkhove
Cllr R W Eaton	

151. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs B Arnold (unwell), Cllr Ms F Birks (prior engagement), Cllr J Cooper-Marsh (unwell), Cllr D Giles (holiday), Cllr Mrs L Ottolangui (work commitments) and Cllr D Terry (unwell).

152. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A personal and prejudicial declaration of interest was received from Cllr S van de Kerkhove in respect of Item 4(iv) – Minutes of Playground Committee meeting held on 15 December 2009.

153. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayoral Team had attended 27 engagements during December and had 8 confirmed engagements so far for January. The Mayor wished members a Happy New Year.

154. MINUTES

- (i) The Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 2 and 16 December 2009 were **RECEIVED**.
- (ii) The Minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 7 December 2009 were **RECEIVED**.
- (iii) The Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on 10 December 2009 were **RECEIVED**.

Cllr S van de Kerkhove left the room for the following item.

- (iv) The Chairman of the Playground Committee presented the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2009. Members **APPROVED** the following Recommendations:

- 1) The new play area is sited alongside St Mary's School

- 2) The area is designed for children under the age of 11 years
 - 3) That tender letters are sent out in January to Monster Play, Wicksteed Playscapes and Kompan Playful Living for each company to design a scheme
 - 4) Members review the designs and receive a presentation in February and make Recommendations to Full Council
 - 5) Scheme to be chosen by 31st March 2009.
- (v) The Minutes of the Special Town Council meeting held on 15 December 2009 were **APPROVED**.
- (vi) The Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee presented the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2009.

Members **RESOLVED** that the updates proposed at the meeting of 18 November be **REJECTED** as subsequent amendments had been proposed and would be considered under Item 6 – 2010-11 Budget.

- (vii) The Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee then presented the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2009.

Memorial Bench

Members **APPROVED** the application for a memorial bench.

Rent Increase – Ex-Servicemen’s Club

The Recommendation that the Responsible Finance Officer write to the Ex-Servicemen’s Club advising of the increase in rent which would be calculated at the annual rate of inflation for the past 6 years was **REJECTED**.

Members **RESOLVED** to instruct the Responsible Finance Officer to obtain an independent valuation of the market rent on the property to bring back to full Council when completed.

Rent Increase – St Neots Museum

The Recommendation that the Responsible Finance Officer write to the Museum Trust advising of a rent increase at the current rate of inflation was **REJECTED**.

Members **RESOLVED** to undertake an independent valuation of the property and consider the rent review on completion.

Dyson Airblades

Members **APPROVED** the Recommendation that the current contract for hand driers is terminated on expiry and replaced with paper towel units.

October/November Financial Report

This report was noted.

Forward Plan

The Recommendation that the Acting Town Clerk amend the document by 24 December 2009 was withdrawn.

155. EATON SOCON VILLAGE GREEN

The Acting Town Clerk presented five options available to resurface Eaton Socon Green.

- 1) Tarmac the complete surface to use for parking facilities
- 2) Grass crete surfacing to have minimal use
- 3) Return to a village green allowing a right of way access for the church and occasion use by a neighbouring property
- 4) Gravel the area to use car parking facilities
- 5) To stay as is; resurfacing with plannings and level (remedial action)

Members **APPROVED** Option 3, to return the area to a Village Green with rights of access for church and occasion use by a neighbouring properties.

156. 2010/11 BUDGET

The Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee informed members that two budget options had been prepared for consideration and recommended Option 2 as the preferred budget for 2010-11.

Members **RESOLVED** to adopt Option 2 as the Town Council budget for 2010-11. The Council precept of £858,727 was set making an estimated charge for a band D property at £84.19.

A Recorded Vote was taken on this item.

157. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

The Acting Town Clerk reported that she had received a letter from Highways Division inviting the Town Council to purchase grit bins at a reduced rate. As members had resolved not to supply grit bins, no purchases will be made.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

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CHAIRMAN
06.01.10

ST NEOTS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Date: 6 January 2010
Proposal: to adopt Option 2 as Council Budget for 2010-11

RECORDED VOTE

	<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Mrs B Arnold	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mrs J E Bird	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B S Chapman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D Harty	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms F L Birks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D A Giles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mrs J M Hayward	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G Thorpe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
S Van de Kerkhove	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mrs D E Collins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
J C Cooper-Marsh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
L Roberts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D Terry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P K Ursell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms K E Cooper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A Cummings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
R W J Eaton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mrs L Ottolangui	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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 PROPER OFFICER