

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ST NEOTS TOWN COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN THE MOOT, THE PRIORY CENTRE, ST NEOTS**  
**ON WEDNESDAY 21 JANUARY 2009**

**PRESENT:** Cllr R W Eaton - Chairman

Cllr Mrs B Arnold	Cllr D Harty
Cllr Mrs J Bird	Cllr Mrs J Hayward
Cllr Ms F Birks	Cllr D Terry
Cllr B Chapman	Cllr G Thorpe
Cllr Mrs D Collins	Cllr S Van de Kerkhove
Cllr Mrs K Cooper	
Cllr A Cummings	
Cllr D Giles	

**122. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs J Cooper-Marsh and Mrs L Ottolangui (family commitments) and Cllr P Ursell (work commitments).

**123. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**124. MEMBERSHIP ON POLICY & RESOURCES, EMERGENCY PLANNING AND GRANTS COMMITTEES**

The Acting Town Clerk reported that, due to the resignation of Cllr Andrew Boulton, there were now vacancies on the Policy & Resources, Emergency Planning and Grants Committees.

The vacancy on the Policy and Resources Committee will be taken by Cllr Steve Van de Kerkhove and the vacancies on the Emergency Planning and Grants Committees will be taken by Cllr Mrs Diana Collins.

**125. BUDGET STRATEGY 2009-10**

The Responsible Finance Officer reported that the General Reserves are depleted to an all time low and that the External Auditor could at the end of 2008-09 require this Council to increase its Reserves.

The Leader of the Council then presented a report on the proposed budget strategy for the forthcoming year 2009-10 and drew members' attention to the virements proposed during this time:

- 1) £30,000 from office refurbishment to General Reserves;
- 2) £20,000 from office refurbishment to EEC fitting out;

- 3) £30,000 from the Town Plan to be transferred to General Reserves;
- 4) £2,000 from electronic communications for the new vehicle fund;
- 5) £10,000 earmarked for the Town Lottery to be transferred to environmental measures;
- 6) £5,000 from market stalls to the EEC project
- 7) £1,000 from lighting schemes to go towards new environmental measures (ie grit bins).

Cllr Giles reported that this would result in the Council Tax rise next year for a Band D property being increased by £4.05, or 33 pence per month.

After a debate, a Recorded Vote was taken to agree the budget and propose the virement, which resulted in 9 for, 3 against and one abstention. Cllr B Chapman left the room before the Vote was taken.

## **125. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

(i) Local Development Framework – Gypsy and Traveller Sites DPD

The Acting Town Clerk had received correspondence from HDC informing members that they are preparing a Development Plan Document which will allocate sites for Gypsies and Travellers.

(ii) Monarch Road, St Neots

The Acting Town Clerk had received notification from Cambridgeshire County Council outlining the above scheme. Comments are requested in writing back to Cambridgeshire County Council by no later than 2 February 2009.

(iii) Huntingdonshire Traffic Management Area Joint Committee

The next meeting of the Traffic Management Area Joint Committee will be held at Huntingdon Leisure Centre on Thursday 22 January 2009 at 2.30pm.

Cllr B Chapman requested that a grant from Screen East be investigated.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

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**CHAIRMAN**  
**21.01.09**