

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF ST NEOTS TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE MOOT HALL, THE PRIORY CENTRE, ST NEOTS
ON THURSDAY 29 JULY 2010

Present: Cllr G Thorpe – Chairman
Cllr Mrs B Arnold
Cllr Mrs J Bird
Cllr B Chapman
Cllr Mrs D Collins
Cllr Mrs K Cooper
Cllr A Cummings
Cllr R W Eaton
Cllr D Giles

Cllr D Harty
Cllr Mrs J Hayward
Cllr Mrs L Ottolangui
Cllr O Reynolds
Cllr D Terry
Cllr P K Ursell
Cllr S van de Kerkhove

Cllrs J Cooper-Marsh and L Roberts were not present.

Sharon Piper and Ross Hamilton of Cambridgeshire County Council, Highways Department, were also present.

31. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were received from:

Cllr G Thorpe declared a personal interest in item 6 (Jointly Funded Minor Improvement Schemes) and personal and prejudicial interest in item 9 (Local Development Framework) as a District Councillor.

Cllr P K Ursell declared a personal interest in item 6 and a personal and prejudicial interest in item 9 as a District Councillor.

Cllrs Mrs K Cooper, S van de Kerkhove and B Chapman declared a personal interest in items 6 and 9.

Cllr D Harty declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 5 (Highways presentation) as a County Councillor and items 6 and 9 as a District Councillor.

33. MINUTES

- (i) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 30 June were **APPROVED**.
- (ii) The Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 1 and 15 July were **RECEIVED**.

- (iii) The Finance & General Purposes Committee meetings to be held on 21 and 22 July were inquorate.
- (iv) The Minutes of the Operations & Amenities Committee meeting held on 22 July were **RECEIVED**.

34. PRESENTATION FROM CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT

The Town Clerk introduced Sharon Piper and Ross Hamilton who had been invited to answer members' questions on the proposed Mill Hill road traffic management scheme.

At the Town Council meeting held in April, members had considered the scheme drawn up by Cambridgeshire County Council and requested that representatives attend the meeting to discuss ways to improve the scheme put forward.

The Town Clerk reminded members that funds had been held in the Earmarked Reserves for this project. Sharon Piper advised that there were no funds available from the County Council.

As the Town Council's funding was limited and there were no additional funds available from other sources at present, it was

RESOLVED to reject the Mill Hill road traffic management scheme already drawn up as it was not fit for purpose, and

that a working party consisting of Cllrs Chapman, Reynolds and Thorpe work be formed to design a more appropriate scheme.

35. HUNTINGDONSHIRE JOINTLY FUNDED MINOR IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES 2010/11

The Town Clerk had received two submissions for consideration under this scheme.

The first was for flashing speed lights on Huntingdon Street to reduce speeding traffic. The speed restriction at present is 40mph but as Huntingdon Street changes into Huntingdon Road the speed limit is reduced to 30mph. Reducing the limit for the whole of Huntingdon Street would help to increase safety.

The second proposed scheme was for double yellow lines on the corner of Montagu Street, leading into River Terrace as parked vehicles were obstructing the road.

Each Parish could submit 2 bids but would only be entitled to one successful bid per financial year.

Members **RESOLVED**

to submit both schemes for consideration.

36. PRIORY CENTRE BUSINESS PLAN

The Town Clerk advised members that the Community Centres Manager was on leave so was unable to present his plan to Councillors.

Members felt that the revised report was an improvement but were disappointed that the Centres Manager had still not included a forecast for the Centre.

Members **RESOLVED**

to reject the current Business Plan and to instruct the Community Centres Manager to revise the Plan to include future forecasts. The revised Plan will be submitted to the next Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting and then to full Council in October.

37. 2009/10 PERFORMANCE PLAN

The Town Clerk presented the Council's Performance Plan for 2009/10. This had been revised to highlight the services the Town Council offered to residents to show what their Council Tax paid for.

Members **RESOLVED**

to accept the Performance Plan Report for 2009/10 with amendments.

38. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Huntingdonshire District Council had submitted a Public Consultation Document on Site Assessments for Gypsy & Traveller Sites. Comments to be sent to them by 30 July.

Two sites in St Neots had been suggested for additional gypsy and traveller pitches. These were land to the east of Loves Farm and south of Cambridge Road.

St Neots has an existing site with 20 pitches. Councillors recognised the need for additional pitches, particularly within the existing site, but were concerned that at least one of the two areas chosen by

Huntingdonshire District Council was not suitable to locate a gypsy and traveller site as it was within an established housing estate.

Members **RESOLVED**

that the Town Clerk forward the following reply to
Huntingdonshire District Council

Please see below the comments from St Neots Town Council

“We as the Town Council recognise that there are needs for additional sites across the district and disagree that St Neots is to provide 19 additional pitches up to 2021.

The Town Council does recognise that additional pitches are required at the current site and would propose that any additional sites within our town are considered within the current site. The Town Council can review any new sites when an outline permission is applied for to ensure the impacts that it may have on the residents of St Neots

The residents of the two communities have different life styles and therefore we feel it would not be suitable to incorporate the travelling community within a housing development with new sites.”

39. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

The Town Clerk had received a letter from Sir Peter Brown advising on changes to the library services and access points. The Town Council had not received the documentation on this so the Town Clerk would contact Cambridgeshire Libraries and request another copy.

The Town Clerk had received a request from ESCA to park their trailer on Eaton Socon Green for their May Day celebrations. She had also received a letter from the CPP who had requested right of way through the car park. Members would be updated on these matters.

Further to the water tap being shut off on the Priory pontoon, several complaints had been received from the boating community. The Town Clerk advised members she would keep them updated if further complaints were received.

Meeting ended at 9.55pm.

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CHAIRMAN
29.07.10

*Town Council Meeting
Thursday 29 July 2010
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