

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ST NEOTS TOWN COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN THE MOOT, THE PRIORY CENTRE, ST NEOTS**  
**ON WEDNESDAY 30 JULY 2008**

**PRESENT:** Cllr R W J Eaton – Town Mayor – in the Chair

Cllr Ms B Arnold	
Cllr Mrs J Bird	Cllr D Harty
Cllr A Boulton	Cllr Mrs J Hayward
Cllr B Chapman	Cllr Mrs L Ottolangui
Cllr Mrs D Collins	Cllr L Roberts
Cllr J C Cooper-Marsh	Cllr D Terry
Cllr A Cummings	Cllr G Thorpe
Cllr D Giles	Cllr P K Ursell

**35. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for Absence were received from Cllr Ms F Birks who was unwell and Cllr Mrs K Cooper who was on holiday.

**36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declaration of interest.

**37. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Mayor reported that he and his Deputy had represented St Neots on 28 occasions since the last Council meeting. These included:

- Wisbech at Home
- Reception hosted by the Mayor of Sandy
- American Independence Day Celebrations at RAF Alconbury
- Wisbech and Huntingdon Civic Services
- St Neots Infant Music Festival at the Priory Centre  
(attended by the Mayoress)
- Post Office Closure Briefing at Huntingdonshire District Council.  
(The Mayor report that there would be no further closures in St Neots.)
- A Civic Reception at Fenland District Council
- Stageworks Graduation
- RAF Wyton Open Day
- Regatta Presentation for St Neots Rowing Club
- St Neots Town Council Grant Aid Presentation Evening

He then asked members to note the following diary dates:-

21 August 2008 – Mayor’s Charity Golf Day at Wyboston (team entries were complete)

August Bank Holiday Weekend - St Neots Riverside Festival. The Mayor asked that Councillors contact him if they would like to help.

19 December 2008 – Carol Concert on St Neots Market Square.

### **38. MINUTES**

(i) The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 2 July 2008 were approved with the following amendments:

- a) That Cllrs P K Ursell, L Roberts and Mrs J Bird be recorded as present under Item 15.
- b) Cllr B Chapman declared an interest in Item 4(v) in his capacity as a member of the Citizen’s Advice Bureau, not the Joint Project Group.

(ii) The Minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on 2 and 16 were received.

(iii) The Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee held on 16 July 2008 were approved, subject to the following amendments:

**The Flag Flying Policy** – Council resolved to adopt the policy with the addition of 27 June, Veteran’s Day, and St Georges Flag and Union Jack to be flown when flag poles are empty. The words “Metropolitan Borough” should be removed.

(iv) The Minutes of the Meeting of the Audit Committee meeting held on 21 July 2008 were received. Cllr B Chapman requested that it be recorded that the location of the meeting had been changed from that on the agenda, and that he felt the meeting had started too early.

### **39. TOWN TWINNING**

The Town Council received a presentation from Ian Taylor, the Chairman of the Town Twinning Association. Mr Taylor gave a brief background to the Town Twinning Association which was established in 1990 as a friendship link between St Neots and Faches Theumesnil in France and included annual exchange visits.

In November 2007, Faches majorettes visited St Neots where a show was put on in the Priory Centre including St Neots Sentinels. They also visited Ernulf Community College and Buckden Towers.

In May of this year, St Neots Town Twinning Association then took 80 people to Faches for a cultural/sporting weekend. The group included Priory Parkside Under 11B's, St Neots Sentinels and representatives from the Langdale Academy.

In future, they would like to increase cultural and commercial links, perhaps by arranging an English market to go to France.

The Council then put questions forward.

One Councillor asked whether they had put in an application for a grant and if not they can apply before the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 for any pending future projects.

Following a short debate, it was

**RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk to investigate twinning with other towns and bring back a report in the autumn.

Mr Taylor was thanked for his presentation.

#### **40. EATON SOCON LOCK-UP**

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that the ownership of the lock up in Eaton Socon is unknown. The Lockup was built in 1825 and the Council are currently investigating the history to establish ownership.

The Deputy Clerk reported that the lockup is now in need of repairs which it is thought it would not be expensive.

Following a debate, it was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) Ownership to be established and a further report brought back to Council in the autumn.

#### **41. PARISH CHARTER**

The Deputy Town Clerk reported on a letter received from Huntingdon District Council on the panel recommendation not to enter into a charter arrangement with Town and parish councils,

Following a debate, it was resolved that:

- (i). The letter is noted with great disappointment
- (ii). To approach Huntingdon District Council to consider double devolution for St Neots Town Council

## **42. OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr G Thorpe reported that he and Cllr Mrs D Collins had attended a meeting of the Jubilee Hall Management Committee.

Cllr P K Ursell asked if the Sports Association had been notified of their Council representatives as there was a general lack of communication and their AGM had taken place and Constitution changed without involvement of the Council representative. He requested that a letter be sent to the association from the Town Clerk

Cllr Mrs J Bird reported a request from Churches Together for the Mayor to support a carol concert to be held on the market square on 19 December 2008. The event was expected to be bigger than last year. The Mayor was in full support of the event.

Cllr B Chapman attended a Museum Management Committee meeting. The Museum is still awaiting their flower container to be installed outside the building. They would like to note their thanks for the grant aid cheque.

## **43. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

### **1. CALC Training and Update**

The Deputy Town Clerk advised members that the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils were continuing with their workshop courses for Councillors' professional development into the new Civic year. She advised that any Councillor who would like to have training should contact the Town Clerk.

### **2. East Anglia's Children Hospices Newsletter**

The Deputy Town Clerk brought to the attention of the Councillors the latest newsletter from the East Anglia's Children Hospices for information.

### **3. Relate**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed members that she had received a letter from Sarah Maddocks, the Centre Director of Relate explaining how the Grant Aid for 2007-08 had been spent.

She added that a response from Eaton Socon Pre-School was still awaited.

**44. 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.

**45. DISPUTE WITH MILLENIUM QUEST**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed members that Council had not heard from the solicitors and hopefully awaited a response early next week. This item was not on the agenda to make a decision but to seek members' approval for the start of the tender process for installation of the Christmas lights for this year.

If the members agreed, the tender process would start in August to avoid losing time.

Following a short debate, it was **RESOLVED:**

that the Deputy Town Clerk start the tender process for the safe erection of Christmas lights for 2008.

**46. TABLE TENNIS CLUB**

The Deputy Town Clerk reported on the latest position on St Neots Table Tennis Club.

Following a long debate, it was **RESOLVED:**

that a deadline would be given to complete the purchase unconditionally and, at the same time, serve a Section 25 Notice formally bringing the lease to an end in six months' time.

**47. REPORT FROM THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

The Chairman of the Personnel Committee gave a verbal report updating members on a sensitive staffing matter.

It was **RESOLVED:**

that a further report by the Chairman of the Personnel Committee would be brought back to the next Council meeting on 10 September 2008.

The meeting closed at 9.34pm.

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**CHAIRMAN**  
**31.07.08**