

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
ST NEOTS TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE MOOT AT THE PRIORY CENTRE, ST NEOTS
ON THURSDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2011

PRESENT: Cllr B Chapman – Chairman
Cllr B Allen
Cllr S Davison
Cllr C Duck
Cllr B Farrer
Cllr I Gardener
Cllr A Hansard
Cllr R Harrison
Cllr D Harty
Cllr C Hutton
Cllr A Jennings
Cllr A Ruck
Cllr D Ruck
Cllr C Thompson
Cllr P Ursell
Cllr A Usher
Cllr K Wainwright
Cllr G Welton
Cllr Neal Weston

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Jill Winter and Elaine Dean spoke regarding the decision made at the Planning Committee meeting of 15 September to recommend refusal of the cinema application at Shady Walk.

Mrs Winter said that, although some people had petitioned against this application, there were many more in the town who wanted a cinema and that she was starting a petition for the cinema application to go ahead.

The Chairman explained to members of the public that the Town Council's Planning Committee were only consultees who made recommendations to Huntingdonshire District Council. The planning application would now go to HDC's Development Control Panel where the Committee's comments would be considered.

32. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr R Hooper and Cllr C Jones.

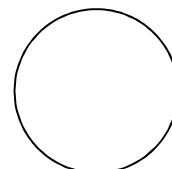
33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A declaration of personal interest was received from Cllr C Hutton for agenda item 4 (Market Town Strategy Scheme Update).

34. MINUTES

- (i) Minutes of St Neots Town Council meeting held on 21 July were **APPROVED**.

Proposed by Cllr B Allen and seconded by Cllr I Gardener.



- (ii) The Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 21 July, 4 and 18 August and 1 September were **RECEIVED**.
- (iii) The Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 25 August were **RECEIVED**.
- (iv) The Chairman of the Personnel Committee presented the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 September and the following recommendations were **APPROVED**.

- a) that the combined Responsible Finance Officer/Deputy Town Clerk post be formalised and that a Town Centre/Development Manager be employed. Salary to be vired from existing Deputy Town Clerk budget.

Proposed by Cllr A Ruck, seconded by Cllr N Weston.
Voting – unanimous.

- b) the employment of one apprentice, with the possibility of employing a second next year should the scheme prove successful. The first apprentice to work in the Finance Department.

Proposed by Cllr A Ruck and seconded by Cllr C Thompson.
Voting – unanimous.

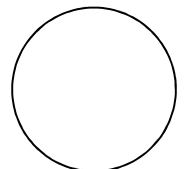
- (v) The Minutes of the Operations & Amenities Committee meeting held on 5 September were **RECEIVED**.
- (vi) The Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee presented the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 September with the following recommendation to Council:

that the Swimming Pool Trust Accounts for 2010-11 be **APPROVED**.

Proposed by Cllr A Jennings, seconded by Cllr I Gardener.
Voting – unanimous.

35. MARKET TOWN STRATEGY SCHEME UPDATE

Emma Murden, Area Manager for Traffic at Cambridgeshire County Council, updated Members on the proposed upgrade of the existing Urban Traffic Control system. Councillors were invited to comment on the scheme before the next Traffic Management Area Joint Committee meeting in October.



It is envisaged that the system will control the traffic passing through town to reduce the congestion experienced at peak travel times. Traffic lights at the four main junctions will be upgraded and linked to respond to fluctuations in traffic.

Cllr Thompson asked for clarification on how the scheme would work. Ms Murden explained that, although each signal worked on its own, at times of greater capacity the junctions would be linked to alleviate congestion at each signal.

Cllr Welton asked if the traffic flowed more freely through town, would this cause it to stack up further out of town. Ms Murden said that, although this could not be predicted on a day to day basis, traffic modelling had provided peak times such as the morning rush hour and Thursday due to the weekly market.

Cllr Jennings asked what other ways of reducing congestion had been considered, for instance opening Priory Lane. Ms Murden said that there were several issues with re-opening Priory Lane and she believed this had been considered about four years ago and rejected.

Cllr D Ruck asked if any consideration had been given to shutting the High Street to traffic. Ms Murden replied that St Neots was an historic market town in which transport routes had developed in a particular way. There were many constraints within the town at present and it would be difficult to pedestrianise the High Street.

Emma Murden finished by explaining to Members that some congestion was inevitable but that this system would manage the traffic and alleviate problems more quickly.

The Chairman thanked Ms Murden for her presentation.

It was **PROPOSED** to endorse the scheme in principle.

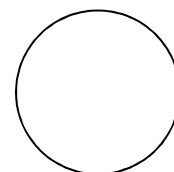
Proposed by Cllr P Ursell and seconded by Cllr B Farrer.
Voting – 16 for, 3 abstained.

36. PLANNING COMMITTEE VACANCY

The Chairman informed Members that, due to the resignation of Cllr R Hooper, a vacancy now existed on the Planning Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** to defer the appointment of another Member to the Planning Committee until the next full Council meeting.

Proposed by Cllr Chapman and seconded by Cllr Gardener.



37. CONSULTATION ON SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICE FUNDING

The Acting Town Clerk had received notification from Cambridgeshire County Council on a review of the decision to remove all subsidised bus service funding. Councillors' comments were requested by Friday 9 December 2011.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Wainwright would look into the impact of this on the town and report back to the November meeting.

Proposed by Cllr Allen and seconded by Cllr Gardener.

The meeting ended at 8.23pm.

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CHAIRMAN
29.09.2011