

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
ST NEOTS TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE MOOT AT THE PRIORY CENTRE, ST NEOTS
ON THURSDAY 19 JANUARY 2012

PRESENT: Cllr A Hansard – Chair
Cllr S Davison
Cllr C Duck
Cllr B Farrer
Cllr I Gardener
Cllr R Harrison
Cllr D Harty
Cllr C Hutton
Cllr A Jennings

Cllr C Jones
Cllr A Ruck
Cllr D Ruck
Cllr C Thompson
Cllr P Ursell
Cllr A Usher
Cllr G Welton
Cllr N Weston

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

District Councillor S van de Kerkhove asked the Council what steps would be taken to ensure that the New Homes Bonus is spent in St Neots. The Chairman confirmed that a written response would be provided.

47. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs B Chapman, R Hooper, K Wainwright and B Allen.

48. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr B Farrer declared a personal interest in item 6 (Black Cat Radio) as landlord of the radio station.

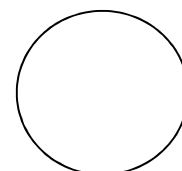
49. MINUTES

(i) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 24 November 2011 were **APPROVED**.

(ii) Audit & Risk Committee – 8 December 2011

Cllr Hutton, Chairman of the Audit & Risk Committee, presented the minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2011. At this meeting, Members had considered the adoption of the Model Standing Orders as recommended by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils.

Cllr Hutton thanked the Acting Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer for the advice they had given the Committee during the modification of this document.



RESOLVED – that the Town Council adopt the NALC Model Standing Orders with modifications.

Proposed by Cllr Hutton and seconded by Cllr Harty. Voting - 17 for and 1 abstention.

- (iii) The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 24 November, 8 and 22 December were **RECEIVED**.
- (iv) Planning Committee – 5 January 2012

Cllr Farrer, Chairman of the Planning Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 5 January 2012 at which the Planning Committee had recommended that the start time of Planning Committee meetings be changed to 7.15pm. They also recommended that membership of the Committee be increased to 10.

The Committee felt that these changes would allow representation from each ward and also allow Councillors, previously unavailable due to the earlier start time, to consider joining the Committee.

RESOLVED – Future Planning Committee meetings to start at 7.15pm and membership of the Committee be increased to 10 Councillors.

Proposed by Cllr Farrer and seconded by Cllr Gardener. The vote was unanimous.

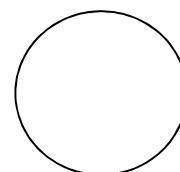
- (v) Finance & General Purposes – 22 December 2011

Cllr Jennings, Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, presented the minutes of the meeting held on 22 December.

He drew Members' attention to the second round of grant aid awards. The Committee had provided funds for the four main community associations to give to smaller groups in their area who were not eligible for the Town Council's grant aid scheme. The monies had now been distributed to these four associations and the Responsible Finance Officer would advise the groups of the terms and conditions of these grants.

Cllr A Ruck had received an email from Eynesbury Village Association thanking the Town Council for the grant. Cllr Harrison had also been asked to convey the thanks of the Eatons Community Association and the Camera Club (who had also volunteered their services for the Diamond Jubilee event).

The Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 22 December were **RECEIVED**.



- (vi) Cllr Harrison, Chairman of the Operation & Amenities Committee, presented the minutes of the meeting held on 6 December and advised Members that an agreement had now been signed with St Neots Town Youth Football Club for the use of Sidney Banks Field.

The Minutes of the meeting of 6 December and 3 January were **RECEIVED**.

50. Budget

The Acting Town Clerk confirmed a final tax base figure of 10,820 houses and a precept request of £911,369 for 2012-13. This reduced the amount funded from the General Reserves by £10,107.

51. Black Cat Radio

The Acting Town Clerk had received a request from the Black Cat Radio for the Town Council to write a letter of support to accompany their license application.

RESOLVED – that the Chairman of Council write a letter of support to Black Cat Radio.

Proposed by Cllr Hutton and seconded by Cllr A Ruck. Voting – unanimous.

The meeting ended at 7.44 pm.

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CHAIRMAN
19.01.2012