

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ST NEOTS TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE GUEST HALL AT THE PRIORY CENTRE, ST NEOTS
22nd JUNE 2017

Present:	Cllr D Giles (Chairman)	Cllr C Bober (Vice Chairman)
	Cllr J Corley	Cllr Mrs D Collins
	Cllr B Banks	Cllr Mrs D Johnson
	Cllr B Chapman	Cllr B Hicks
	Cllr Miss C Green	Cllr J Dunford
	Cllr A Usher	Cllr A Hansard
	Cllr Mrs Simone Taylor	Cllr B Farrer

Also present: Ed Reilly (Town Clerk), Teodora Kostova (Finance Manager), Sharon Coe (Minutes)

Public Participation

One member of the public was present.

9. Town Mayors Statements and Announcements

In the last month there has been a vast amount of internal paperwork. We are reviewing several of policies which we will discuss later in the meeting. New legislation, General Protection\Data Regulation comes into effect May 2018. Can I remind all to update your Register of Interest. It is a criminal offence if this is not kept up to date or declared.

10. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr's Harrison, Wells, Wainwright, Thorpe, Maslen and Cllr Mrs Sophie Taylor.

11. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

12. Minutes of Full Council Meetings

Minutes of Town Council held on 21 March 2017.

It was proposed by Cllr Dunford and seconded by Cllr Banks that the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 21st March were accepted as a true and accurate record.

RESOLVED: unanimously to accept the proposal.



Minutes of Extraordinary Town Council meeting held on 18th April 2017

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs D Johnson and seconded by Cllr Bober that the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 21st March were accepted as a true and accurate record.

RESOLVED: 13 votes for and 1 abstention to accept the proposal.

13.

Minutes of Committee Meetings

Cllr Dunford presented the minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings.

The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 16th March 2017 were RECEIVED.

The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 30th March 2017 were RECEIVED.

The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 20th April 2017 were RECEIVED.

The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 4th May 2017 were RECEIVED.

Cllr Chapman presented the minutes of the Finance & Governance Committee Meetings.

The minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Meeting held on 28th March 2017 were RECEIVED.

The Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Meeting held on 25th April 2017 were RECEIVED.

The Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Meeting held on 23rd May 2017 were RECEIVED.

Cllr Dunford presented the minutes of the Development & Transport Committee Meetings.

The minutes of the Development & Transport Committee Meeting held on 11th April 2017 were RECEIVED.

The Minutes of the Development & Transport held on 9th May 2017 were RECEIVED.

Cllr Banks presented the minutes of the Operations & Maintenance Committee Meetings.

The minutes of the Operations & Maintenance Committee Meeting held on 6th April 2017 were RECEIVED.

The Minutes of the Operations & Maintenance Committee Meeting held on 11th May 2017 were RECEIVED.

Cllr Farrer stated that he sat at the Committee table and was not asked to leave at the 6th April 2017 meeting.



Town Clerk commented that it states that you sat in the public area. You were not permitted to sit at the Committee table.

A member of public spoke from the public area and stated that Cllr Giles was speaking to him in a sarcastic manner and it had been noted. He was quite aggressive in his manner.

Cllr Dunford proposed that this member of the public be removed from the meeting as he is not permitted to speak to the Chairman like that.

Chairman thanked Cllr Dunford for his support but stated he would choose to ignore the individual's outburst.

Cllr Corley presented the minutes of the Promotions & Events Committee Meetings.

The minutes of the Promotion & Events Committee Meeting held on 4th April 2017 were RECEIVED.

The minutes of the Promotion & Events Committee Meeting held on 2nd May 20 17 were RECEIVED.

Cllr Chapman asked that he would like it recorded the Council's thanks to the Town Development Manager for all the good work as it is a prestigious theme for the Town.

14. Annual Governance Statement 2016/17

Town Clerk brought the Annual Governance Statement 2016/17 to the attention of the Town Council. He highlighted that the Internal Auditors had signed the report.

Cllr Corley proposed to accept the Annual Governance Statement 2016/17. This was second by Cllr Banks.

RESOLVED: 13 votes for and 1 abstention to accept the proposal.

15. Accounting Statements 2016/17 & Annual Internal Audit Report 2016/17

Town Clerk brought the Annual Statements 2016/17 & Annual Internal Audit Report 2016/17 to the attention of the Town Council. He highlighted that the Internal Auditors has signed the report.

Cllr Mrs Johnson proposed that the Report be sent to an External Auditor. This was seconded by Cllr Banks.

RESOLVED: 11 votes for and 3 abstentions to accept the proposal.

The Finance Manager left the meeting at 7:54pm.



16. Update Report from Cambridgeshire County Council Members

Cllr Simone Taylor stated that she has been re-elected but at the moment doesn't have a lot to report. She stated that Cambridgeshire County Council has created a new committee and it is called Communities in Partnership Committee. She is hoping this is going to be supportive.

17. Update Report from Huntingdonshire District Council Members

Cllr Corley attended a Council meeting this week. He is a little concerned about communication between our Council and HDC, even though we have been assured this will improve.

Cllr Bober attended an Employment Committee. There is a Scrutiny Panel to overview local planning 2036. He commented to his colleagues that it is imperative they look through this plan as it affects all four main towns.

18. St Neots Town Council Media Policy

Town Clerk brought the Media Policy to the attention of the Council. Some months ago this was submitted to the Finance Committee, it is an exact copy of the NALC Model.

Cllr Green who fully supports this policy stated this is something to protect us and not gag us. It's about the council business decisions and actions and no point should be individually operated outside of this Council. This will protect the council as a whole.

The Council debated.

Cllr Chapman proposed to defer this item to Personnel Committee. This was seconded by Cllr Dunford.

RESOLVED: unanimously to accept the proposal.

19. Scheme of Delegation – version 9

Cllr Chapman – proposed that one planning committee member **MUST** attend HDC Development Management Committee. The Clerk advised that members cannot be "ordered to" go to these.

Suggested that it doesn't necessarily need to be someone on the planning committee, it just needs to be someone who is representing the views of the council.

Cllr Bober proposed that the Town Clerk write to HDC and ask that the policy be amended so that either members or officers can attend DMC meetings to put the Council's views on at Neots Planning Applications.

Cllr Giles seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED: Unanimously to accept the proposal.



Cllr Giles that the Scheme of Delegation be approved, seconded by Cllr Bober.

RESOLVED: Unanimously to accept the proposal

20. St Neots Town Council Harassment & Bullying Policy

Cllr Chapman proposed to accept the policy. This was seconded by Cllr Banks.

RESOLVED: 13 votes for and 1 abstention to accept the proposal.

21. Approval of a Vexatious Complaints

Cllr Giles proposed to adopt the policy. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs Johnson.

RESOLVED: 13 votes for and 1 abstention to accept the proposal.

22. Request from Cllr B Farrer to address the Town Council

Cllr Farrer stated that certain disputes have been going on for three years and has been totally taken out of contexts. He is now at a stage where has received recommendations from legal parties. He asked the Chairman whether he could distribute a letter to all Councillors. This was agreed by the Chairman.

Meeting closed at 9:00pm.



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CHAIRMAN

