MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE GUEST HALL AT THE PRIORY CENTRE, ST NEOTS
ON TUESDAY 23rd OCTOBER 2018

Present: Cllrs Chapman (Chairman ) Johnson (Deputy Chairman), Banks, Pitt, Christine Green, Maslen, Diana Collins, Speed, Derek Giles, Sandie Giles, Terry, Cooper-Marsh,

Also present: Deputy Town Clerk, Civic Officer

Public Participation
There were 6 members of the public present.
Mr Churchill approached the Chairman who reminded him that his complaint on behalf of Mr Farrer is still under review by the HDC Monitoring Officer and therefore cannot be discussed at this meeting. Mr Churchill requested an update on the investigation into the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held in March 2018 as resolved by full council in September 2018 page 35 item 2. The Chairman reminded Mr Churchill that the public session was for residents to address the Council and make them aware of issues and not for him to answer these questions and that these minutes are on the agenda for discussion by members during the meeting. Mr Churchill thanked the Chairman and sat down.

Mr Farrer addressed the Chairman who also requested an update on the investigation into the accuracy of the minutes of the March 2018 meeting. He then went on to make further accusations which the Chairman asked him to refrain from. Mr Farrer continued and the Chairman responded by adjourning the meeting at 7.26pm. Mr Farrer then sat down.

The Chairman opened the meeting again at 7.27pm and reminded those present that no members of staff should be identified in a public forum as it is in direct contravention of the Data Protection Act and Employment Legislation.

Cllr Sandie Giles left the meeting at 7.28pm.

51. Apologies
Apologies with valid reasons were received from Cllrs Caroline Green, Caroline Gregson, Rogers, Thorpe, Davies, Slade and Ferguson all with valid reasons.

Cllrs Eyre and Hook were recorded as absent.

52. Declarations of Interest
Cllr Chapman declared as a resident in the land up for auction off of Crosshall Road.

Before going any further the Chairman conveyed to members the sad news that Peggy Thorpe had passed away at the weekend. She was Mayoress during Cllr Thorpes term of office and all who met Peggy would definitely agree that she was a wonderful lady and will be missed by all.

The Chairman proposed a Motion without Notice that our new Cllr Hook who is unfortunately not here should have been made a member of some committees. A request had been received for Cllr Hook to sit on the Planning Committee.
It was proposed and seconded that the Planning Committee is extended to 9 members and that Cllr Hook becomes part of that Committee.  
**RESOLVED to accept the proposal.**

53. **St Neots Town Foot & Cycle Bridge**

The consultation had now been completed and the favoured design was the Suspension Bridge. The Operations and Amenities Committee have asked this Council to endorse this decision.

Cllr Sandie Giles returned to the meeting at 19.35pm.

It was proposed and seconded to accept the motion made by the Operations Committee that Full Council endorses the Suspension Bridge design subject to and provided any proposed changes in the footpath or cycleway design have minimal impact on Regatta Meadow, as protected Green Open Space, and has no impact on use and events held on Regatta Meadow other than those which are acceptably mitigated as part of the project.

**RESOLVED to accept the proposal.**

Stuart Rushby who is part of the CCC Major Infrastructure Delivery Team confirmed that a report would be made to CCC at a meeting being held on 15th November 2018. It was requested that he forward the full report to the Deputy Town Clerk and that this will then be sent to all Town Councillors.

54. **Sgt Adam Bagulay from Cambridgeshire Constabulary**

Sgt Bagulay updated members on changes being made to the neighbourhood policing within St Neots and the county as a whole. Currently the team consists of him and 4 PCSOs, 1 of which is part-time. This is causing concerns with residents particularly regarding parking offences and theft from vehicles. He also confirmed that his team cover St Neots, Kimbolton, Gransdens, Buckden and the Offords. He also expressed that it is key that members of the public log any crimes they believe to have taken place through Crime Stoppers as this helps add weight to issues and therefore prompts a review. He suggested a social media campaign could help get the message across.

It was proposed and seconded that the Town Council is horrified to learn that the neighbourhood policing levels in St Neots the largest town in Cambridgeshire has had the police presence to be cut by 50%. The effect of this is that at times there is no neighbourhood police cover in St Neots and surrounding areas. Therefore this Council calls upon the Chief Constable to review this situation urgently and reassure residents that neighbourhood policing will be increased. A copy of this to also be sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Peterborough and Cambridge.

**RESOLVED unanimously to accept the proposal.**

55. **Minutes**

It was proposed and seconded to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 30th July 2018 as a true and accurate record.

**RESOLVED to accept the proposal.**

It was proposed and seconded to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 25th September as a true and accurate record of that meeting

**RESOLVED to accept the proposal.**

The draft minutes of the Development and Promotion meeting held on 2nd October 2018 were
The minutes of the Finance & Governance meeting held on 11th September 2018 were presented. The draft minutes of the Finance & Governance meeting held on 9th October 2018 were presented. There was a recommended to full council under item 40 which was read out. It was proposed and seconded that item 2 on the Virement Payments made is reduced from £61,500 to £57,500 as the correct calculation of 2.5% of the 2.3 million allocated by the Combined Authority.

**RESOLVED to accept the proposal**

The minutes of the Operations and Amenities meeting held on 18th September 2018 were presented.

The minutes of the Planning meetings held on 4th and 18th September and 2nd October were presented.

56. **Red Cross Building**

It was proposed and seconded at the Operations & Amenities meeting held on 16th October 2018 that the Council purchase the Red Cross Porta-cabin and the freehold to the land for the sum of £1000.00.

**RESOLVED to accept the proposal.**

57. **Land at Crosshall Road**

Chairman updated members on the Poets and Painters estate off of Crosshall Road where green land is currently up for auction by a private owner. A Town Green Order to try and protect the land has been prepared with 130 evidence forms behind it.

It was proposed and seconded that the HDC are requested to value the green land as a matter of urgency.

**Resolved to accept the proposal.**

58. **Memorial Inspection**

The Town Council are required to hold regular safety inspections on all memorials within it’s cemeteries. These should take place every 5 years, the last one carried out was in 2004. An inspection has now been scheduled for w/c 12th November 2018 with an estimated cost of £14,000. In addition to this there may be costs of repairs but this will become clear after the inspections have taken place.

It was proposed and seconded that up to the sum of £15,000 of the Cemetery Ear Marked Reserves be allocated towards the initial inspection of memorials and the Town Clerk to report back to the Operations and Amenities committee with the outcome of the cost.

**RESOLVED to accept the proposal.**

59. **Charity Dragon Boat Race 2019**

It was proposed and seconded the sum of £3,000 is taken from the Outdoor Cinema budget to pay the deposit to secure Gable Events to run the racing for the Charity Dragon Boat Race in 2019.

**RESOLVED to accept the proposal.**

Closed meeting at 9.15pm

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Chairman