

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 28th October 2008 at 7.00 pm at the Council Chamber, Wayland Hall, Watton

Councillors Present: B Anderson R Ivory
R Crabtree J P McCarthy - Chairman
B Freeman L McCarthy
K Gilbert A Osborn
A Harvey R Rudling
M Holmes – Vice Chairman B Wykes

Officers Present: J Seal - Town Clerk

Others Present: County Councillor Rogers, District Councillor Bowes, PC Hinchliffe, Reverend Geoff Garrett and Julian Horn – Project Rainbow

Members of the Public Present: one

51 APOLOGIES

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors: J Carr, C Walls

52 INTERESTS

Item 63a - Councillor Wykes declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a Member of the Queens Hall Committee and withdrew from the meeting.

Item 63c – Councillor Crabtree declared a personal interest as a Member of the Committee.

53 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was agreed by Members that the Minutes be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record with amendment to the minutes of Tuesday 30th September 2008 with the amendment to item 41e paragraph 3 to read Councillor Rudling named the two Councillors.

54 COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT

PC Hinchliffe reported that crime rates were down 14% with a 35% detection rate. The overall rate was affected by Swaffham, which had a higher rate. Extra police would be on duty on Friday 31st being Halloween.

55 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Councillor Rogers reported that due to financial problems with the developer the road works on the Norwich Road would be abandoned until December. He had asked Breckland to take enforcement action.

Members expressed concern about the barriers and requested that these be removed and the road made safe.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Rogers for attending Council meetings and for the walk round with Highways.

Members expressed concerns that there seemed to be a lot of publicity relating to investment in Thetford but not in Watton. It was agreed that all Members give their suggestions to the Clerk and that an Agenda be put together by the Policy Committee and a meeting be arranged with Breckland to discuss the issues.

56 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

APPENDIX ‘A’ Councillor David Myers

APPENDIX 'B' Councillor Claire Bowes

Councillor Bowes was asked to look at the problem with the fence at Lovell Garden playground and the problem at the Queens Hall car park, which were hot spots for anti social behaviour.

57 MATTERS ARISING

Item 41e – Members discussed acceptance of apologies. It was felt by some Members that the work which was carried out in the Town was just as important as attending meetings.

58 CHAIRMANS REPORT

APPENDIX 'C'

59 CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk reported that the time had lapsed for the calling of an election and that the Council would now go through the co-option period.

60 PRESENTATION

The Chairman expressed his disappointment that the representatives from Project Rainbow had not attended the beginning of the meeting as had been arranged.

The Council presented the Chairman of Project Rainbow with a cheque for £10,000 for the Drop - In Centre part of the project.

61 COMMITTEE REPORTS

61a Planning & Forward Development

It was agreed that the minutes of Tuesday 7th October 2008 be accepted

61b Premises

Members agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to the Fire Brigade for cleaning the Public Toilets.

It was agreed that the minutes of Tuesday 21st October 2008 be accepted

61c Environment

It was agreed that the Market Rents should be discussed further by the Committee in view of new information.

The Chairman gave a report on the meeting with Highways stating that they had discussed problems of resurfacing at Chaston Place, flooding at Langmere Road, yellow lines at Merton Road and co-ordinating the traffic lights, speeding on Harvey Street and Akrotiri Square and signs and cones obscuring lights on Norwich Road.

It was agreed that the minutes of Tuesday 14th October 2008 be accepted excluding Item 30.

61d Policy & Resources

Item 26 (- Item23) - Councillor Wykes reported that RAFA had presented the trophy to the Council to award annually. Councillor Crabtree had given the Clerk the Crabtree cup, which needed to be cleaned and re-plated.

Members felt that the Council should not clash with other organisations that also gave cups and trophies.

Item 27a – The Clerk reported that the Bank Bonds were Treasury Bonds.

It was agreed that the minutes of Thursday 23rd October 2008 be accepted

61e Festive Christmas Market

Councillor Anderson asked that the budget for the "Festive Christmas Market" be increased so that it did not rely on begging for favours and borrowing.

She also asked for volunteers to hand out leaflets at the Firework display and on Wednesdays and Saturdays in the town.

Councillor Ivory also asked for volunteers to help put up the lights when they arrived which was expected on 17th November 2008.

62 CORRESPONDENCE

62a Defence Estates

Letter from Defence Estates stating that the Training Area is about to undergo an intensive period of operational training preparing soldiers to operate in Afghanistan from 1 November to 19 December and 5 January to 23 January 2009.

62b Quiz Night

Letter from the Watton Society requesting a team of four for their Quiz Night on Wednesday 12th November 2008.

It was agreed that Councillors Anderson, L McCarthy, J P McCarthy and the Clerk would make up the team for the Council.

Councillor Harvey offered if there were any problems.

62c Busking

Letter asking Council for their views on Busking within town and city areas. Members felt that unlicensed Buskers would face prosecution and cause problems.

62d The Royal British Legion

Invitation to the Mayor and Councillors to the Remembrance Parade on Sunday 9 November 2008 commencing at 2.15 pm in the Thetford Road car park.

63 GRANTS

63a Queens Hall

A Grant application had been received from the Queen Hall Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Gilbert, seconded by Councillor Osborn and

RESOLVED

That a grant of £750 be given to the Queens Hall.

63b S.I.M.P.L.E.

A grant application had been received from S.I.M.P.L.E

It was proposed by Councillor Freeman, seconded by Councillor Gilbert and

RESOLVED

(Voting: 11 for with 1 Abstention)

That a grant of £250 be given to S.I.M.P.L.E.

Mr Baretto thanked the Council and explained that the object of the group was promoting the integration of all sectors of the community.

63c Watton Senior Citizens Party

It was proposed by Councillor J P McCarthy, seconded by Councillor Harvey and

RESOLVED

That a grant of £250 be given to the Watton Senior Citizens Christmas Party.

64 PAYMENTS & DONATION

64a Payments

It was proposed by Councillor Crabtree, seconded by Councillor Rudling and

RESOLVED

That payments for September 2008 be approved.

64b Donation Royal British Legion

It was proposed by Councillor Crabtree, seconded by Councillor Rudling and

RESOLVED

That £30 be given to the Royal British Legion for the Council Poppy Wreath.

65a REPRESENTATIVE ORGANISATION REPORTS

Councillor Holmes – The Day Care Centre had gained Charity Status. The replacement for Gayle Adcock was enjoying her role.

- Geoff Alms Houses were starting on refurbishment work on the houses

Councillor Wykes – Sports Centre report tabled.

Councillor Crabtree – Youth Focus Group - informed that Project Rainbow would be showing Ghost Busters film at Wayland Hall on Halloween.

Councillor Osborn – Citizens Advice Bureau report tabled.

- CAG Meeting – Frustrated that no action had been taken on the problem with anti social behaviour, the Queens Hall Car Park with it being used as a racetrack and the damaged fence at Lovell Gardens.

65b Representative Youth Council and Youth Focus Group

It was proposed by Councillor L McCarthy, seconded by Councillor Osborn and

RESOLVED

That Councillor Crabtree represent the Council on the Youth Council and Youth Focus Group

65 BUDGET 2009/2010

Members discussed various issues on the budget and agreed that the Clerk prepare a draft budget for the next meeting.

66 STAFFING

It was Proposed by Councillor Rudling, seconded by Councillor Crabtree

in accordance with Standing Order No 66 and

RESOLVED

That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw

The Meeting ended 9.40 pm

JS