

MINUTES OF THE CEREMONIAL MEETING OF THETFORD TOWN COUNCIL, HELD IN  
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, KING'S HOUSE, THETFORD,  
ON WEDNESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2009,  
STARTING AT 7.00 P.M. WITH THE OPEN FORUM

Present:

The Mayor, Councillor J A Harding, Chairman

Councillors:

G P Balaam	D G Mortimer
R F W Brame	A Paines
Mrs M P Chapman-Allen	Mrs T I Paines
R G Kybird	P J Pearson
T J Jermy	M G Spencer
T J Lamb	Mrs P A Spencer

Open Forum

P C Keith Kenny from the Thetford Safer Neighbourhood Team spoke of the identified need for a 'Street Wall' somewhere in the town, the prime purpose of which would be to attract 'graffiti artists', who might otherwise be tempted to make use of spaces in other, less appropriate locations. Breckland Council had already expressed support for such an idea, and was proposing the hoardings around the Anchor site as suitably located surfaces. PC Kenny was seeking Town Council support for such a venture.

It was agreed to add this to the agenda for the next meeting (scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> March 2009).

\* \* \* \*

It being a Ceremonial Meeting, the Mayor's Chaplain, David Freeman, led the Council in prayers.

\* \* \* \*

Before the formal start of the meeting, Past Mayor's Medals were presented by the Mayor to County Councillor C W Armes and Mr R S Key.

\* \* \* \*

369/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors G P Balaam and T J Jermy declared prejudicial interests in item 377/08a owing to their respective involvements with Thetford Community Association. They were not present for the discussion or vote on this item.

Councillor R G Kybird declared a precautionary personal interest as a local builder in any Local Development Framework matters that might give rise to discussion or debate.

See also under item 382/08 below for further declarations of prejudicial interest.

### 370/08 MINUTES

#### Town Council Meeting: 28<sup>th</sup> January 2009

The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting had been included in the agenda papers. Proposed by Councillor D G Mortimer and seconded by Councillor G P Balaam, it was:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2009 - allowing for correction of two minor typos in the wording of the first Resolution under minute 313/08 - be approved and signed/initialled by the Chairman as a true record.

### 371/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were presented on behalf of Councillors S H Chapman-Allen, Mrs P P Quadling and S N H Wright.

### 372/08 COMMITTEE REPORTS

The unconfirmed minutes of the following meetings had been included in the agenda papers.

#### (a) Planning Committee: 4<sup>th</sup> February 2009

Proposed by Councillor R G Kybird and seconded by Councillor D G Mortimer, it was:

RESOLVED that the report of the meeting of the Planning Committee, held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2009, be received and adopted.

#### (b) Markets Committee: 11<sup>th</sup> February 2009

Proposed by Councillor R F W Brame and seconded by Councillor D G Mortimer, it was:

RESOLVED that the report of the meeting of the Markets Committee, held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2009, be received and – save for the Recommendations included under item 348/08, which would be addressed later in the meeting under item 381/08c below – adopted.

#### (c) Planning Committee: 18<sup>th</sup> February 2009

Proposed by Councillor R G Kybird and seconded by Councillor G P Balaam, it was:

RESOLVED that the report of the meeting of the Planning Committee, held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2009, be received and adopted.

### 373/08 MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor, Councillor J A Harding, referred members to the lists of Events Attended and Forthcoming Events included in the agenda papers, commenting on these in turn.

### Events attended since the last meeting

Friday	30 <sup>th</sup> January	Launch of Castle Park Play Park
Saturday	31 <sup>st</sup> January	Unveiling of the Replica Town Sign
Saturday	31 <sup>st</sup> January	Thomas Paine Dinner- Bell Hotel
Saturday	14 <sup>th</sup> February	Ceremonial opening of King's Lynn Mart

### Deputy Mayor

Monday	23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Launch of <i>YMCA in Breckland</i> , held at Elizabeth House, Dereham
--------	---------------------------	---

## 374/08 REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

### Moving Thetford Forward

Councillor R G Kybird reported on the last Board Meeting, confirming the date of the Thetford Area Action Plan consultation event in the Carnegie Room, scheduled for the following week (3<sup>rd</sup> March 2009). This prompted comments from other members, who relayed the reported sense of irritation and/or disappointment felt by some local residents groups, who had arranged to host separate meetings in their respective areas with the Principal Planning Officer (Growth Point), only to learn that, with little notice given, these had now all been shelved and a single town-wide event substituted.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk report to Breckland Council's Executive Member – Planning and the Environment the comments passed.

Councillor Kybird went on to point to the availability of places on the *Building in Context* training seminar being organised by Shape East on 11<sup>th</sup> March. Noting that there was a £30 per head registration cost, it was:

RESOLVED that the Town Council cover the registration cost of any member wishing to attend the seminar for even part of the day.

## 375/08 COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Following on from the brief discussion under the previous item, County Councillor C W Armes reported that Norfolk County Council's Planning Delegations Committee had resolved to object to the buffer zone proposal.

## 376/08 NOMINATION OF MAYOR-ELECT FOR MAYORAL YEAR 2009/10

The Mayor invited nominations. There was only one, who was given the unanimous support of those present.

Proposed by Councillor D G Mortimer and seconded by Councillor R G Kybird, it was:

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs P A Spencer be nominated Mayor-Elect for Mayoral Year 2009/10.

Mrs Spencer thanked her fellow members for their support, which she would endeavour to live up to.

### 377/08 BONFIRE/FIREWORK EVENT

The Town Manager had prepared a report, which had been included in the agenda papers. The Mayor invited her to speak to this. She confirmed that, if it was decided to work on a 2009 event with the company she had contacted, then a £2,500 non-returnable deposit would have to be paid, albeit not until May. She also made clear that, all the Council was being asked to decide that evening was, firstly, to agree to Barnham Cross Common being the approved site and, secondly, to agree to acting in due course as banker of any funds raised. A discussion ensued.

Councillor T J Jermy once more expressed his appreciation of the Town Manager's efforts in obtaining and providing relevant information. Councillor R F W Brame pointed out that the Group established to plan an event would be meeting once more ahead of the next Council meeting (latter scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> March 2009). Therefore, it should be known well before May whether 2009 was possible. Following further exchanges, it was eventually:

RESOLVED that Thetford Town Council

- (a) give permission for the use of an area of Barnham Cross Common for a future bonfire and/or fireworks event;
- (b) agree to act as the banker of any funds collected in support of any such future event.

### 378/08 REQUESTS FOR DONATIONS

#### (a) Thetford Community Association

A letter from the Association Chair, dated 13<sup>th</sup> January 2009, referred.

RESOLVED that Thetford Community Association be awarded £100 financial support out of the 2009/10 operating budget, subject to a financial statement of some description first being presented to the Town Clerk, who would stress that this was a one-off, discretionary payment and in no sense setting a precedent for subsequent years.

#### (b) Norfolk Accident Rescue Service

A letter from the Service's Managing Director, received in early February 2009, referred.

RESOLVED that Norfolk Accident Rescue Service be awarded £100 financial support out of the 2009/10 operating budget, subject to a financial statement of some description first being presented to the Town Clerk, who would stress that this was a one-off, discretionary payment and in no sense setting a precedent for subsequent years.

### 379/08 FINANCIAL MATTERS

#### (a) Monthly Report

RESOLVED that, in accordance with the recommendation of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, agreed at its meeting earlier that evening under

item 363/08, the Monthly Financial Report for the Ten Months Ending 31<sup>st</sup> January 2009 be received.

(b) Other Matters

RESOLVED that any other recommendations from the Finance & General Purposes Committee be addressed following the exclusion of press and public.

380/08 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded for the remaining items of business on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

381/08 MINUTES

(a) Council Meeting: 28<sup>th</sup> January 2009

Proposed by Councillor D G Mortimer and seconded by Councillor G P Balaam, it was:

RESOLVED that the minutes of those items dealt with following the exclusion of press and public at the Council Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2009 be approved and signed/initialled by the Chairman as a true record.

(b) Personnel Committee: 4<sup>th</sup> February 2009

Proposed by Councillor P J Pearson and seconded by Councillor D G Mortimer, it was:

RESOLVED that the report of the meeting of the Personnel Committee, held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2009, be received.

A discussion ensued regarding the adoption of every element of the report, with the Town Clerk first clarifying some points of detail.

(c) Markets Committee: 11<sup>th</sup> February 2009

RESOLVED that the Recommendation made by the Committee under item 348/08 be received and adopted, the view reached by the Finance & General Purposes Committee under its item 367/08 having also been noted.

382/08 TENANCY MATTERS

RESOLVED that the courses of action recommended by the Finance & General Purposes Committee under its items 368/08(a) and (b) be adopted.

383/08 ST PETER'S CHURCH

Chairman