

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THETFORD TOWN COUNCIL, HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, KING'S HOUSE, THETFORD,
ON WEDNESDAY 25TH MARCH 2009,
STARTING AT 7.00 P.M. WITH THE OPEN FORUM

Present:

The Town Mayor, Councillor J A Harding, Chairman

Councillors:

G P Balaam	D G Mortimer
R F W Brame	A Paines
Mrs M P Chapman-Allen	P J Pearson
S H Chapman -Allen	Mrs P P Quadling
T J Jermy	M G Spencer
R G Kybird	Mrs P A Spencer
T J Lamb	S N H Wright

Open Forum

In the Open Forum, Norfolk County Council's Youth Worker, Mr M Wilkinson, raised an allotment matter, which it was agreed would be referred to Allotments Committee members.

412/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors T J Jermy and Mrs P P Quadling declared prejudicial interests in respect of their respective memberships of the A.N.C.H.O.R. Committee (see under item 416/08 below). They were not present for the discussion and vote.

Councillor S N H Wright declared an interest in item 421/08, given his involvement, as Chairman of the Thetford Society in preparing the Abbey Barns proposal. In light of the Council's decision to refer the matter to its Planning Committee, he did not have to consider where this was a prejudicial interest, warranting his absence from the Chamber.

Note: See under item 430/08 below for a further declaration.

413/08 MINUTES

Town Council Meeting: 25th February 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 25th February 2009 be approved and signed/initialled by the Chairman as a true record.

414/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillor Mrs T I Paines.

415/08 COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

(a) Guildhall Committee: 18th March 2009

Proposed by Councillor D G Mortimer and seconded by Councillor Mrs M P Chapman-Allen, it was:

RESOLVED that the report of the meeting of the Guildhall Committee held on 18th March 2009 be received and adopted, with approval given specifically to the contents of the paper referred to in minute 386/08(a).

(b) Planning Committee: 18th March 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 18th March 2009 be received and adopted.

416/08 MAYOR'S REPORT

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

Funding Request received from A.N.C.H.O.R. (Abbey Neighbourhood Centre Helping Our Residents)

The Town Mayor referred to this.

RESOLVED that any decision be referred until the Council had had an opportunity for a more general discussion on donations at its next meeting (scheduled for 29th April 2009).

He also referred to the Open Day at Fir Road, which would be taking place on 23rd April 2009 and to which Councillors were invited.

417/08 REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

The Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor R G Kybird, reported on progress made by the *Tom Paine 200* organising group and relayed the request received for town councillors to consider volunteering to 'man' the Town Bridge on one of the main June event days.

RESOLVED that Councillor Kybird liaise with the Town Mayor-Elect over this.

418/08 COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

County Councillor C W Armes was present to express his continued concern over the prospects for the mini-roundabout off the Market Place, where no steps had yet been taken to improve its appearance.

RESOLVED that Town Councillors give consideration to discussing this ahead of the next meeting of the Thetford Task Force.

419/08 BONFIRE/FIREWORK EVENT

A report from the Town Manager had been included in the agenda papers. Issue was taken with the minutes of a recent meeting, which had misrepresented or at least made assumptions about the Town Council's commitment at this stage to supporting an event. What the Council was receptive to in principle was the proposal that a 'Thetford Community Committee' (hereinafter TCC) be formed, with a fireworks event its first venture, albeit not before 2010. That said, Councillors wanted a firm proposal to be presented at a future Council meeting before committing itself but, were such a commitment given, then proponents of a TCC could appeal to all residents groups in the town with the backing of the Town Council. Concerns were expressed over the prospect of unreasonable demands being made on the Town Manager's time, whose role – it was suggested by one Councillor – should perhaps be limited to advising on health and safety matters.

RESOLVED that:

- (a) the Town Council make its willingness to support the 'concept' of a TCC known to interested parties, subject to a formal proposition being presented at a future meeting and:
- (b) the Town Council fund the purchase of collection tins (cost slightly in excess of £100).

420/08 STREET WALL PROPOSAL

Having received a briefing, Councillors expressed one or two misgivings and agreed to defer any final decision until the Thetford LAG had had an opportunity to comment.

RESOLVED that any expression of support be deferred.

421/08 FUTURE OF ABBEY BARNS

Having been apprised that the Thetford Society had now prepared an 'alternative scheme' for the site, based on a previous English Heritage proposal, Councillors:

RESOLVED to refer the matter to its Planning Committee, which would review the proposals at its meeting on 8th April 2009 and consider, under the delegated authority it enjoyed, offering an expression of support.

422/08 REMOVAL OF REDUNDANT SIGN ON EDGE OF SCHOOL LANE CAR PARK

RESOLVED that the highway authority (Norfolk County Council) be informed that the Town Council had no objection to the revocation of a Traffic Regulation Order, which would permit the removal of a redundant sign.

423/08 REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

RESOLVED that it be noted that, in conformity with existing Standing Order 67, consideration of the Town Clerk's proposed presentation of revised sets of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations for adoption stand adjourned without discussion to the meeting of the Council scheduled for the end of April 2009.

424/08 FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Monthly Report

RESOLVED that the recommendation from the Finance & General Purposes Committee to receive the Monthly Financial Report for the Eleven Months Ending 28th February 2009 (as annexed hereto) be accepted.

(b) Other Matters

RESOLVED that the view of the Finance & General Purposes Committee be endorsed that it not address any potential budgetary implications stemming from possible changes to the management of the public toilet operation and any staff restructuring until after the Personnel Committee had had a chance to review options from its perspective.

425/08 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.

426/08 MINUTES

(a) Council Meeting: 25th February 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 25th February 2009 be approved and signed/initialled by the Chairman as a true record.

(b) Finance & General Purposes Committee: 25th February 2009

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

RESOLVED that the report of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, held on 25th February 2009, be received and adopted.

427/08 THETFORD FORUM

428/08 FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE: ANY RECOMMENDATIONS NOT ALREADY ADDRESSED

429/08 TENANCY MATTERS

430/08 STAFF MATTERS

Chairman