

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THETFORD TOWN COUNCIL, HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, KING'S HOUSE, THETFORD,
ON WEDNESDAY, 27TH MAY 2009,
STARTING AT 7.00 P.M. WITH THE OPEN FORUM

Present:

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs P A Spencer, Chairman

Councillors:

G P Balaam
R F W Brame
Mrs M P Chapman-Allen
J A Harding

T J Jermy
R G Kybird
D G Mortimer
A Paines

Open Forum

County Councillor C W Armes reported a stench from the Bus Station toilets, which local residents were commenting on.

He also asked for thought to be given to fixing a noticeboard to the Cage Lane toilet building to advertise events.

35/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor T J Jermy declared a prejudicial interest in Concession 14, listed for ratification on the paper supporting agenda item 49/09c and relating to the Keystone Development Trust, his employer. He absented himself from the Chamber for the durations of the discussion and vote on this item.

Councillor T J Jermy declared a precautionary prejudicial interest in agenda item 52/09 (see further details under that item below).

36/09 MINUTES

To confirm the minutes of the following meetings:

(a) Council Meeting: 30th April 2009

Proposed by Councillor A Paines and seconded by Councillor G P Balaam, it was:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30th April 2009 be confirmed as a true record and signed/initialled by the Chairman.

(b) Mayor-Making: 13th May 2009

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of Mayor-Making, held on 13th May 2009, be confirmed as a true record and signed/initialled by the Chairman. The Town Clerk confirmed that the roles performed by those named under item 07/09 conformed to what had been set out in the agenda.

37/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors S H Chapman-Allen (work-related absence), T J Lamb, Mrs P P Quadling, M G Spencer (work-related absence) and S N H Wright (on holiday).

38/09 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning Committee: 20th May 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 20th May 2009 be received and adopted.

39/09 MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs P A Spencer, presented her first Report, referring members first to the lists of Events Attended and Forthcoming Events included in the agenda papers.

Events attended since the last meeting

Mayor of Thetford, Councillor John Harding

Wednesday	6 th May	Lord Mayor of Norwich's Civic Reception, City Hall
Friday	8 th May	Watton Town Council Civic Reception
Sunday	10 th May	East of England Infants Ju Jitsu Awards, Leisure Centre
Tuesday	12 th May	Afternoon tea in Council Chamber with visiting international journalists

Deputy Mayor, Councillor Robert Kybird

Sunday	10 th May	East of England Infants Ju Jitsu Awards, Leisure Centre
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Mayor of Thetford, Councillor Mrs Pam Spencer

Friday	15 th May	RAF Mildenhall 75 th Anniversary celebration
Saturday	16 th May	Carnegie Room presentation of trophies to South Norfolk Youth Football League
Sunday	17 th May	Thetford Breckland Lions Club Lunch at the Wereham House Hotel

Thursday 21st May Duleep Singh book launch, Ancient House
Museum
Sunday 24th May Mayor's Parade & Civic Service, Aldeburgh

She went on to indicate her intended approach to the chairmanship of the Council, which would require Committee Chairmen to establish work programmes for their respective committees. Once the latter were in post, she would talk further about this.

40/09 TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

(a) Diss, Thetford & District Citizens Advice Bureau

Councillor Mrs M P Chapman-Allen was sure her fellow councillors were all looking forward to the official opening of the Bureau, whose relocation to Breckland House had heralded the start of an improved service to the benefit of both clients and staff. The official opening would take place on 16th June 2009 and be marked by the holding of a 'Money Fair'.

(b) Moving Thetford Forward Board

Councillor R G Kybird reported on the most recent Board Meeting and on the new Bus Station project, in particular. A decision had been arrived at in support of the most expensive option.

The Mayor expressed a wish for the Town Council, in its representative capacity, to be given an opportunity to comment on the design, given the high level of local community interest in providing the right answer to current problems. Councillor Kybird would enquire as to how this might be made possible.

(c) Filling of Representative Vacancies

The Town Clerk referred to Annex Document D, adopted at Mayor-Making under item 11/09. Vacancies in respect of *Thetford Access Group* and the *Thetford Safer Schools Partnership* needed to be filled.

RESOLVED that the Mayor, Councillor Mrs P A Spencer, be nominated to attend future meetings of Thetford Access Group and that the Town Clerk enquire as to the operational set-up of the Thetford Safer Schools Partnership, given that a previously named Council representative had never had any contact from said body in the course of an entire year.

41/09 COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

There were no reports received.

42/09 REVIEW OF COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Town Clerk referred to an updated Annex Document C which, in its original form, had been adopted at Mayor-Making under item 10/09. He went through each Committee, in the order listed, with a revised schedule resulting, as annexed hereto.

RESOLVED that final Committee memberships be agreed, once two new Councillors had been elected at the by-elections scheduled for 4th June 2009 and given an opportunity to state their Committee preference(s).

Councillor Mrs M P Chapman-Allen asked the Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor R G Kybird, to give some thought to providing those members with other regular Wednesday commitments alternative means of passing comment on planning applications.

RESOLVED that the agenda for the Planning Committee meeting on 10th June 2009 include an item on this (attendance optional).

43/09 RIVER VALLEY PARK PROJECT

RESOLVED that the Mayor and Town Clerk be authorised to sign the Service Level Agreement with Breckland Council.

44/09 ST PETER'S CHURCH

RESOLVED that the draft 'Church Building Disposal' documentation, received under cover of an e-mail from the Church Commissioners' Case Officer, dated 9th May 2009, be noted without comment, no changes being deemed necessary

45/09 MARKET PLACE ROUNDABOUT

RESOLVED that the options report received from Norfolk County Council be referred to the Road Safety Committee for further comment.

46/09 TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTERS

RESOLVED that receipt of the following from Breckland Council be noted, with the Town Clerk asked to refrain in future from including hard copies in the agenda papers and either send a copy through electronically or place one in a leaflet dispenser, accessible to councillors:

- (a) Standards Committee's second newsletter (April 2009)
- (b) Forum Newsletter (April 2009)

47/09 NORFOLK POLICE AUTHORITY POLICING PLAN 2009/12

RESOLVED that receipt of the Policing Plan be noted without further comment being passed.

48/09 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT

RESOLVED that the letters and supporting financial information, received from the following two organisations, be acknowledged:

- (a) Thetford Music Project (letter dated 4th May 2009)
- (b) Norfolk Accident Rescue Service (letter dated 5th May 2009).

49/09 OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

- (a) Financial Report for Month Ended 30th April 2009

RESOLVED that the above report, as annexed hereto, be received and adopted.

- (b) Minuting the appointment of the Castle Park Play Area Contractor

In conformity with a requirement set out in the Draft Internal Audit Report 2008/9, it was:

RESOLVED that the appointment by Thetford Town Council of Kompan Ltd to attend to the installation of the Castle Park play equipment in 2008/9 be duly confirmed, said appointment having resulted from a competitive tendering process.

- (c) Guildhall Concessions: 3 Ratifications

RESOLVED that the granting of the three concessions highlighted on the paper annexed hereto be duly ratified.

50/09 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.

51/09 MINUTES

- (a) Council Meeting: 30th April 2009

Proposed by Councillor A Paines and seconded by Councillor G P Balaam, it was:

RESOLVED that the minutes of those items addressed following the exclusion of press and public at the meeting of the Council held on 30th April 2009

(b) Finance & General Purposes Committee: 30th April 2009

(c) Personnel Committee: 1st May 2009

52/09 FLAGSHIP HOUSING GROUP PROPOSAL

Note regarding the precautionary Declaration of Prejudicial Interest by Councillor T J Jermy, made under item 35/09 above

Councillor T J Jermy was deemed to be under no requirement to absent himself, given that the discussion was essentially about proposing a date for a Special Meeting with Flagship representatives.

In light of what the Town Clerk indicated by way of introductory briefing, it was quickly:

RESOLVED that a Special Briefing be convened on 10th June 2009 at 6 p.m., subject to Flagship representatives' confirming their availability.

Chairman