

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THETFORD TOWN COUNCIL, HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, KING'S HOUSE, THETFORD,
ON WEDNESDAY, 30TH SEPTEMBER 2009,
STARTING AT 7 P.M. WITH THE OPEN FORUM

Present:

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs P A Spencer, Chairman

Councillors:

G P Balaam
R F W Brame
M Brindle
T J Jermy
R G Kybird

T J Lamb
D G Mortimer
Mrs P P Quadling
B J Skull
M G Spencer

Open Forum

There were no matters raised in the Forum, scheduled to take place immediately before the start of the meeting.

225/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs P P Quadling declared a precautionary prejudicial interest in agenda item 238/09 owing to her personal circumstances. In the event, she absented herself from the Chamber whilst this item was being considered.

226/09 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 29th July 2009, excepting those items dealt with following the exclusion of press and public (addressed under item 240/09a below), be confirmed as a true record and signed/initialled by the Mayor as Chairman.

227/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs M P Chapman-Allen, S H Chapman-Allen (work-related absence), J A Harding, A Paines and S N H Wright.

228/09 COMMITTEE REPORTS

RESOLVED that the following reports be duly received and adopted:

- (a) Planning Committee: 12th August 2009
- (b) Road Safety Committee: 26th August 2009
- (c) Planning Committee: 2nd September 2009

(d) Planning Committee: 23rd September 2009

(e) Guildhall Committee: 24th September 2009 - including Recommendations under minutes 214/09, 215/09 and 216/09, but these to be subject to the following provisos:

Carnegie Room Booking Period Guarantee (214/09 referred)

It must be understood that, in accepting the guaranteeing of booking up to 31st March 2013, sight was not thereby being lost of the need for a re-built facility.

Bar Provision: Tendering Exercise (215/09 referred)

The following clauses must be written into any agreement agreed with any third party agreed in due course:

- a percentage of annual profits arising from any bar operation must be given to charity;
- certain charity event organisers, at the Council's discretion, to be permitted to organise their own bars at those events.

229/09 MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs P A Spencer, referred members to the schedules of Events Attended and Forthcoming Events, included in the agenda papers.

Events attended since the last meeting

August

3 rd	Town Twinning meeting
4 th	AGM & Dinner for FEPOWS
7 th	Arts Centre: Event Preview in the Guildhall
9 th	Town Twinning Lunch at Barrie Nutt's
14 th	Presentation of House Front Gardens awards (Council Chamber)
20 th	Chairman of Breckland's Reception at Wayland Community Centre (Cllr John Rogers)
29 th	South West Norfolk District Scouts: Summer Activity Weekend

September

2 nd	Riversdale AGM
11 th	Thetford Grammar School: Lunch & Speech Day
11 th	Riversdale Garden Party

- 13th Civic Service & Reception for the Mayor of Watton
(Cllr Margaret Holmes)
- 14th Chairman of Norfolk County Council's Reception
for the Battle of Britain at County Hall (Cllr Shelagh Gurney)
- 16th Margaret Ashmore-Daws' Funeral Service
- 18th Received Polish students at the Council Chamber to view
Regalia with the assistance of Councillor Pauline Quadling
- 19th Mayor's Tea Dance in King's House Gardens (in aid of
St Nicholas' Hospice)
- 20th Thetford's Battle of Britain Service and Reception
- 22nd Visit to Hethel Engineering Centre: Exhibition of
Advanced Engineering
- 23rd The Mayor of Haverhill At Home (Cllr Elaine Mc Manus)
- 27th Civic Service for the Mayor of Needham Market
(Cllr Peter Smith)
- 29th Anglo Sikh Heritage Trust's 10th "Annual Portraits of Courage"
Lecture: Imperial War Museum in London

Deputy Mayor

- 6th Band Concert: King's House Gardens

Note: Cllr Derek Mortimer accompanied the Mayor to the 20th August and 14th September events indicated above.

230/09 TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

There were no reports.

231/09 COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

County Councillor M Brindle reported and commented on the change of stance being adopted by Norfolk County Council as regards unitary status. There appeared now to be only an extremely slim chance of larger towns being given additional responsibilities under devolved powers.

232/09 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURAL ISSUES

Mr Neil Featherstone, the Brecks Partnership Manager and Chairman of the Barnham Cross Common Management Committee, was present to explain how the SSSI area of the Common perhaps needed from now on to be seen increasingly in a wider context.

It was possible that a future call would be made on Town Council funds to contribute to the cost of commissioning study reports, which could well have a bearing on site management. This was tied in with the whole Growth Point process. Monies currently held by the Barnham Cross Common Management Committee could not be used for report-writing, but had to be committed to improving the site's physical profile.

The Mayor thanked Mr Featherstone for his thought-provoking presentation.

233/09 CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS ENFORCEMENT

It had been envisaged that Breckland Council's Clean Neighbourhoods Enforcement Officer would be in attendance to outline his remit, but this had not proved possible.

RESOLVED that this item be added to a future agenda.

234/09 MOVING THETFORD FORWARD GOVERNANCE UPDATE

A new organisation chart had been included in the agenda papers. Members were unimpressed.

RESOLVED that Breckland Council's Deputy Chief Executive be invited to attend a future meeting of either the Planning Committee or the full Council to explain how he saw the restructuring working to the benefit of Thetford people.

235/09 REQUESTS FOR DONATIONS

Requests had been received from the following organisations:

- (a) Thetford Brownies, Guides and Scouts
- (b) St Cuthbert's Church
- (c) The Norfolk and Norwich Association for the Blind.

RESOLVED to make no commitments to any of the above ahead of financial year 2010/11, by when an overall review of the Town Council's donations policy should have been carried out.

236/09 CASTLE STREET CROSSING POINT: ACCESS IMPROVEMENT

There was general support for an improved crossing arrangement, catering for the needs of younger and less mobile residents, in particular. What was not altogether clear was whether Town Council land would be directly affected by any Norfolk County Council scheme.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk seek clarification on what precisely was envisaged.

237/09 FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) 2009/10 Financial Report for the Five Months to 31st August 2009

RESOLVED that the recommendation from the Finance & General Purposes Committee to receive the above report (as annexed to the minutes of that Committee's meeting, held earlier in the evening) be accepted.

(b) Alternative Investment Vehicle

RESOLVED that it be noted that, with the approval of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, certain monies were now invested in a new Barclays Bank Bond.

(c) Service Level Agreement: River Valley Park Project

RESOLVED that note be taken of there now being no need for the Town Council to be party to any agreement. The district and county councils had come up with an alternative approach that would work just as well. What mattered now was speedy completion of the project.

(d) Guildhall Concessions

RESOLVED that concessions agreed to the benefit of Street Vibe and Breckland Council (Planning Appeal) be noted.

238/09 FESTIVE PERIOD STAFFING ARRANGEMENTS

RESOLVED that proposals presented by the Town Clerk in his paper, dated 25th September 2009, be approved.

239/09 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.

240/09 MINUTES

- (a) Council Meeting: 29th July 2009 – items addressed following the exclusion of press and public

RESOLVED that the minutes of these items be confirmed as a true record and signed/initialled by the Mayor as Chairman.

- (b) Special Council Meeting: 2nd September 2009

RESOLVED that the minutes of this meeting be confirmed as a true record and signed/initialled by the Mayor as Chairman.

- (c) Finance & General Purposes Committee: 29th July 2009

RESOLVED that the report of this meeting, including the Recommendations at minutes 143/09(a) and (b), be duly received and adopted.

241/09 RED LION RENT REVIEW UPDATE

RESOLVED that the meeting note the update provided by the Town Clerk.

Chairman