

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THETFORD TOWN COUNCIL,
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, KING'S HOUSE, THETFORD,
ON WEDNESDAY, 17TH FEBRUARY 2010,
STARTING AT 7 P.M.

Present:

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs P A Spencer, Chairman

Councillors:

G P Balaam	R G Kybird
R F W Brame	T J Lamb
M Brindle	D G Mortimer
Mrs M P Chapman-Allen	A Paines
S H Chapman-Allen	B J Skull
J A Harding	M G Spencer
T J Jermy	

423/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

424/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Councillor Mrs P P Quadling. It was noted that Councillor S N H Wright had been intending to be present, but had possibly been delayed. In the event, he did not attend.

425/09 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.

426/09 THETFORD FORUM: PUBLIC VENUE

Before any discussion took place, the Town Clerk reminded members that the meeting had been scheduled to follow the visit to Easton College, which had now taken place (as agreed under minute 349/09 at the 6th January 2010 Special Meeting).

He confirmed that, to date, the Town Council had expressed support for the vision and commitment enshrined in the Forum/Academy 'concept', but had yet to make any financial commitment to funding any part of the intended complex of buildings.

The discussion that ensued gave rise to a wide range of comments. No member present denied the educational potential of the concept; what remained an issue was the desirability of including a public venue, financed by the Town Council.

An eventual vote was called for on the following agreed Resolution, which was supported by 7 members and opposed by 5, there being 2 abstentions:

RESOLVED that the incorporation of a public hall within an educational facility would not be the best means of meeting the needs of the townspeople.

427/09

FORMAL CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF CHARLES BURRELL AND ROSEMARY MUSKER HIGH SCHOOLS IN THETFORD

The Town Clerk had included this item on the agenda in light of the evident linkage to the previous item. He was nonetheless mindful that the Town Council was correctly referred to in the consultation document as a supporter of the proposals and that there was perhaps little to add by way of comment through any further discussion at this stage.

RESOLVED that there was no need for the Town Council to express support through this particular consultation process, given that its support had already been made clear.

428/09

CARNEGIE ROOM ROOF REPAIRS

Chairman

