

MINUTES OF A CEREMONIAL MEETING OF THETFORD TOWN COUNCIL,
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, KING'S HOUSE, THETFORD,
ON WEDNESDAY, 24TH FEBRUARY 2010,
STARTING AT 7 P.M. WITH THE OPEN FORUM

Present:

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs P A Spencer, Chairman

Councillors:

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

In attendance (for Item 448/09): Mr Tony Trotman, Project Officer,
HealthyTown Initiative.

Before the Open Forum, the Mayor's Chaplain, Canon Bob Baker, said prayers.

Open Forum

Leanne Ehren from the *Bury Free Press* asked whether any of the decisions agreed at the Special Meeting held on 17th February 2010 (agenda item 451/09b below referred) would be made known before the exclusion of press and public.

It was made clear by way of response that her question would be given consideration once the meeting was underway under item 450/09 below.

440/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Later in the meeting, Councillor Mrs P P Quadling declared a prejudicial interest in items 453/09(a) and (c) owing to her personal situation and was not present for the discussion of or votes on these items.

441/09 MINUTES

Council meeting held on 27th January 2010

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 27th January 2010, excepting those items dealt with following the exclusion of press and public (addressed under item 451/09a below) be confirmed as a true record and signed/initialled by the Mayor as Chairman. Minutes 379/09 to 393/09 inclusive referred.

442/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All members were present.

443/09 COMMITTEE REPORTS

RESOLVED that the following reports be duly received and adopted:

(a) Planning Committee: 10th February 2010

Minutes 402/09 to 409/09D inclusive referred.

(b) Amenities Committee: 11th February 2010

Minutes 410/09A to 422/09 inclusive referred

444/09 MAYOR'S REPORT

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

Events attended since the last meeting

January

27th The Lord Mayor of Norwich Cllr Evelyn Collishaw
Holocaust Memorial Service

28th Carnegie Room: Public Consultation

February

5th Mayor of Watton: Councillor Margaret Holmes' Charity Supper
Dance

6th Mayor of Haverhill: Councillor Elaine McManus's Charity Dance

10th Redcastle Furze: Restoration of new café carried out by the Light
Dragoons of Swanton Morley

13th Mayor of Hadleigh: Councillor Laurie Munson's Valentine Dance

20th Mayor of St Edmundbury: Councillor Pat Warby's Chinese New
Year Dinner

21st The Chairman of South Norfolk: Councillor Beverley Spratt's Civic
Service

24th Charles Burrell Humanities School: Opening of Hair & Beauty
Suite

445/09 TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

Bishop's School (Abbey Estate)

Councillor A Paines reported on the recent Ofsted visit, which had proved a very pleasing experience, although the resultant rating was awaited still.

Participatory Budgeting

Councillor T J Jermy reported that he and Councillor R G Kybird were both members of a panel, formed by Breckland Council to advise on funding allocations as part of an exercise that would culminate in a public session on 26th March 2010.

446/09 COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

County Councillors M P Brindle and Mrs M P Chapman-Allen presented a united front when it came to commenting on road repairs in the town, particularly potholes. They were both doing what they could to bring about an improved response from the County Council. It was pointed out that town councillors could assist by reporting problem locations as soon as possible.

Councillor Mrs Chapman-Allen also expressed disappointment at the disruption caused to pedestrians while dropped kerbs were being installed in the immediate vicinity of the Mundford Road/Norwich Road/Hürth Way roundabout.

Finally, she reported that the consultation exercise at Rosemary Musker High School would be starting soon.

447/09 NOMINATION OF MAYOR-ELECT FOR MAYORAL YEAR 2010/11

Proposed by Councillor B J Skull and seconded by Councillor G P Balaam and there being no other nominees, it was:

RESOLVED that, in line with established convention and practice,
Councillor Mrs P P Quadling be nominated Mayor-Elect for Mayoral
Year 2010/11

448/09 HEALTHY TOWN INITIATIVE

The Mayor invited Mr Tony Trotman to address the meeting. He briefly set out the genesis of the Healthy Town Project, which had been a joint initiative by Breckland Council and NHS Norfolk.

In updating members on the significant progress made to date and the pleasing receptivity of the local community, he mentioned the £40k that had been earmarked for additional allotment provision and the ongoing involvement of the Town Manager in seeking suitable locations.

The Town Manager would also be involved in the organisation of a 'Sports Day' idea, which would be a major event aimed at all age-groups.

Mr Trotman concluded by emphasising that, when it came to allocating the monies that had yet to be committed to particular projects, he wanted a 'bottom up' approach to be adopted.

The Mayor thanked Mr Trotman for his attendance.

449/09 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Recommendations were received from the Finance & General Purposes Committee, resulting in the following:

i) 2010/11 Financial Report for 10 months ended 31st January 2010

RESOLVED that the above Report (to be annexed to the minutes of the Committee's meeting held earlier that evening), be received.

ii) OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

Urgent VAT Matter: Opting to Tax the Carnegie Room Operation

RESOLVED that the Council support the approach to be set out in minute 438/09 from the Committee's meeting held earlier that evening.

Hirers 'Inconvenienced' by the Carnegie Room Roof Repair

RESOLVED that the Council support the approach to 'compensation' to be set out in minute 438/09 from the Committee's meeting held earlier that evening.

450/09 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded for part of item 451/09b and all of item 452/09 below on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

451/09 MINUTES

(a) Council Meeting: 27th January 2010 – 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. Minutes 394/09 to 396/09 inclusive referred.

(b) Special Council: 17th February 2010

RESOLVED that the minutes of this meeting be confirmed as a true record and signed/initialled by the Mayor as Chairman. Minutes 423/09 to 428/09 inclusive referred.

Resolution agreed under Minute 426/09

At this point, the Town Clerk announced that, the previous day, he had received the signed requests from seven Town Councillors, requesting rescission of this Resolution.

He went on to confirm that, in conformity with the provisions set out in Standing Order 50, he was in a position to put a Special Resolution before the Council, albeit not before Wednesday 3rd March 2010 owing to the 'seven-day-notice' requirement of agenda items.

That said, it would be up to the Council to decide that it wanted to have a Special Meeting then. If not, then consideration of the Special Resolution might have to await the next scheduled Council meeting, which would take place on 31st March 2010.

In the event, it was:

RESOLVED to convene a Special Meeting on the evening of 3rd March 2010, to follow on from the meeting of the Planning Committee, which was scheduled to start at 7p.m.

On the agenda would be consideration of the Special Resolution referred to above and it was hoped that, depending in part on the outcome, further discussion might take place that evening on the Thetford Academy (including Forum) Project. The Town Clerk would make enquiries regarding the availability of the Easton College Principal.

It was at this point that the press and public were asked to leave the meeting in conformity with the decision reached under item 450/09 above.

Following their departure, there was further brief consideration given to the Carnegie Room roof repair. For reasons of commercial confidentiality, it had been agreed to keep this 'below the line'.

452/09 COMMITTEE REPORTS

RESOLVED that the following reports be received and adopted:

(a) Personnel Committee: 27th January 2010

Minutes 367/09 to 372/09 inclusive referred, including Recommendations at Minute 372/09.

(b) Finance & General Purposes Committee: 27th January 2010

Minutes 373/09 to 378/09 inclusive referred, including Recommendations at Minutes 376/09, 377/09(a), 377/09(b), 377/09(c) and 377/09(d).

(c) Personnel Committee: 8th February 2010

Minutes 397/09 to 401/09 inclusive referred.

453/09 PERSONNEL MATTERS

The Chairman of the Personnel Committee, Councillor R F W Brame, reported briefly on the Committee's meeting held on 22nd February 2010, confirming that the next meeting was scheduled for 1st March 2010.

RESOLVED that this be noted.

Chairman