

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THETFORD TOWN COUNCIL,
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, KING'S HOUSE, THETFORD, ON
WEDNESDAY, 30TH JUNE 2010, STARTING AT 7 P.M. WITH THE OPEN FORUM

Present:

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs P P Quadling

Councillors:

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

Open Forum

Mr Waple, Secretary of the Barnham Action Group, raised the 'part night lighting' issue, alerting the Council to the preparation by residents of a petition. He was referred to item 91/10 on that evening's agenda and remained in attendance for that discussion.

83/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

County and Town Councillor M P Brindle advised the Council that he had a firm view on the part night lighting proposals presented by Norfolk County Council and asked for that to be put on record.

Councillor G P Balaam declared a personal interest in any views that might be presented on behalf of the Barnham Action Group in his capacity as Vice-Chairman of the Group.

84/10 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26th May 2010, excepting the items dealt with following the exclusion of press and public (addressed under item 102/10 below), be confirmed as a true record and signed/initialled by the Mayor as Chairman. Minutes 32/10 to 45/10 inclusive referred.

85/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors S H Chapman-Allen (work-related absence) and T J Lamb.

86/10 COMMITTEE REPORTS

RESOLVED that the following reports be duly received and adopted:

(a) Allotments Committee: 9th June 2010

Minutes 47/10 to 53/10 inclusive referred, including the Recommendation under minute 53/10(d).

(b) Planning Committee: 9th June 2010

Minutes 54/10 to 61/10 inclusive referred.

(c) Amenities Committee: 16th June 2010

Minutes 62/10 to 70/10 inclusive referred, including the three Recommendations under minute 68/10.

87/10 MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs P P Quadling, referred members to the lists of Events Attended and Forthcoming Events, sent out with the agenda papers.

Events attended since the last meeting

May

30 a.m. RAF 60th Anniversary at St Cuthbert's Church
p.m. Beating the Retreat & Festival Finale on Angel Hill Bury St Edmunds

June

2 a.m. Open All Being Road Show by CSV Eastern Region on Market Place
p.m. Forest Retail Park meeting

3 Presentation of Long Service Awards to Janice & David Taylor for their work with Marie Curie

4 Attendance at Reception organised by Breckland Council for the Portuguese Ambassador

4 Summer Reception at RAF Lakenheath for Col Jay Siveria

6 Twinning Association Lunch at Riversdale

8 BBQ at Canterbury House, Matthew Housing, for staff & residents

11 Tony Tomkinson, Chairman of NCC: Summer Reception

12 Meeting with MEP Paulo Pisco and Community Groups

- 12 Thetford Garden & Allotment Club: Show and Prize Giving
- 13 Mayor's Civic Service St Cuthbert's Church
- 13 Thetford Open Gardens
- 14 Change of Guard Ceremony: RAF Lakenheath
- 16 Disabled Sports Day at Sports Centre attended by Frank Bruno
- 18 Royal Anglian Regiment Homecoming Parade in Norwich
- 19 Dad's Army: Unveiling of the Statue and day-long Celebrations
- 20 Wreath Laying for Victory in Europe: 65th Anniversary for the Desert Rats at Wretham
- 21 Thetford Grammar School: Viewing GCSE & A Level Art & Design technology
- 23 Ashborne Homes to meet 100-year-old resident
- 23 Dinner with Group Captain Bray at RAF Honington
- 24 At Home with High Sheriff Charles Barratt & Mrs Barratt
- 25 Homecoming Parade and Civic Reception in King's House Gardens for D Squadron
- 25 Mayor's Reception in the Carnegie Room
- 26 Armed Forces Day Parade: Wreath Laying on Market Place
- 26 Texas BBQ at Beck Row for the Vice Commander Third Air Force Mark Zamzow
- 27 Band Concert: King's House Gardens

Event attended by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs Pam Spencer

June

- 16 Laburnum Grove: World Cup Football Carnival

88/10 TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

Diss, Thetford & District Citizens Advice Bureau

Councillor Mrs M P Chapman-Allen reported on how grateful the Bureau management were to be receiving continued financial support from the Town Council. The Town Clerk confirmed that this year's payment (£3.6k) would be made in the course of July 2010.

Thetford Music Project

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs P A Spencer, referred to the concert taking place on 8th July 2010 at Queensway School. She would also be attending the next meeting of the Amenities Committee to request that a donation be made to the Project.

89/10 COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

County Councillor M P Brindle confirmed that significant cuts in the County Council budget were imminent. That said, he urged members and other residents to keep reporting any examples of poor road surfacing around the town.

County Councillor Mrs M P Chapman-Allen, referring to item 96/10 below, commented briefly on likely organisational change within the Fire Service and the ongoing staffing review at County Hall.

90/10 RECENT EVENTS AND MEETINGS OF OTHER BODIES ATTENDED BY THE TOWN CLERK AND/OR TOWN MANAGER

The Town Clerk reported on two events he had attended since the last meeting.

Bus Interchange Steering Group Meeting: 11th June

This had taken place in the days preceding the latest *Moving Thetford Forward* Board Meeting, which had been held on 17th June and at which an update report had been presented by the Project Leader.

Further tests were to be carried out to establish that the largest vehicles currently available could manoeuvre onto and around the site. The procurement of the listed building was not yet finalised.

There had been no Thetford Society representative present and the Town Clerk was unclear about the Society's membership of the Steering Group.

Afternote: The Society's nominated representative had not been notified of the date of the meeting; this explained his non-attendance.

Larger Councils Meeting: 23rd June

This was one of the regular events organised by the Norfolk Association of Local Councils and had been held in the recently opened community venue in Costessey on the outskirts of Norwich.

91/10 PART NIGHT LIGHTING

Additional information had been received from Norfolk County Council under cover of an e-mail from the Project Engineer (Traffic Design), dated 24th June 2010. This had been included in the agenda papers.

RESOLVED that the following points be put to Norfolk County Council:

- A guiding principle must be: in closes and cul-de-sacs, a minimum of one light must be kept on throughout the hours of darkness under any revised system (an example of one such location was Hereford Close).
- Bridges Walk must indeed be given the status of an illuminated zone throughout the hours of darkness under any revised system.
- Proposals for Redgate must be clarified, given the reported wish of residents not to have the area lit throughout the hours of darkness.
- A precise picture be presented to the Town Council - ideally, in map form – of what is proposed for the Hillary Road area, given continued uncertainty as to which light enjoys what status (i.e. county or district?) and concerns expressed about the possible scope for inventory error/misattribution.

92/10 SECTION 106 MONIES FOR RECREATIONAL PROVISION

The Town Manager reported on some repairs and improvements pending at the Castle Park Play Area.

The grass surfacing in the small children's area was eroded and worn, with the consequent dips and hollows now constituting a health & safety concern, with wheelchair access impeded. The area would be resurfaced with green Astro turf.

The large tyre swing in the older children's area had been put out of use as a result of anti-social behaviour. This was to be replaced by a giant swing with spinning next, fixed to the ground (thereby frustrating any vandal wishing to see the swing swung atop the frame).

She went on to refer to how some Section 106 monies forwarded by Breckland Council would be used to cover these repairs and improvements.

There was support expressed for her suggested approach, but there was also agreed to be a need to convene the Amenities Committee well before its next scheduled meeting date (November 2010) to consider ways in which any unspent balance of monies received might be spent. Castle Park would not necessarily be the sole 'beneficiary'.

RESOLVED that the Town Manager be authorised to proceed with commissioning the above work.

93/10 PRIORITISATION OF LAND TRANSFER

Councillor Mrs M P Chapman-Allen had requested inclusion of this item on the agenda, advocating that Thetford Town Council should indicate to Breckland Council its willingness to taking on ownership of Trafalgar Wood and the adjacent Water Meadow area as a priority matter. There were

monies relating to future management of the latter that would accompany any such transfer.

RESOLVED the Town Clerk signal to Breckland Council without delay its wish to have said transfer prioritised.

94/10 CASTLE PARK LAND TRANSFER

The Town Manager reported on the 'ownership unknown' status of a sliver of land running parallel with Castle Street between the street edge and Park track. This had not been part of the transfer transaction, which had been intended to pass ownership of 'Castle Park' (as a presumed complete entity) from Breckland Council to Thetford Town Council.

RESOLVED that the Town Council's solicitor be instructed to achieve Town Council ownership of said strip of land and Land Registration of same.

95/10 NORFOLK CONSTABULARY: REVISED STRUCTURE FOR LOCAL DELIVERY

RESOLVED that note be taken of the information received under cover of a letter, dated 21st June 2010, from the Chief Superintendent with responsibility for the Contact & Control Room and Community Safety at Wymondham Centre.

96/10 NORFOLK FIRE AUTHORITY SAFETY PLAN: 2011/14 – CONSULTATION

Information had been received under cover of a letter, dated 4th June 2010, issued by Norfolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Fire and Rescue.

RESOLVED that a response be submitted by the comment deadline of 15th August 2010, making it clear that Thetford Town Council favoured retention of the status quo.

97/10 OTHER DOCUMENTS TO NOTE AND/OR RESPOND TO

(a) Royal British Legion: Invitation to The Mayor

A copy of a letter from the Legion's Thetford Branch, dated May 2010 (*sic*), had been included in the agenda papers.

RESOLVED that the Mayor represent the town over the weekend of 10th–12th September 2010, when a pilgrimage would be made to the battlefields of the Somme.

(b) Letter from resident

A copy of a letter received from a Saxon Ward resident, dated 6th June 2010, had been included in the agenda papers.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk respond to the concerns and, in part, despairing comments expressed by the resident, providing contact details for the Barnham Action Group and Town Residents' Association, and mentioning the willingness of Councillor T J Jermy to provide a family member with details of forthcoming Thetford Youth Council activities.

(c) Victim Support: Request for financial contribution

A copy of a letter received, dated 27th May 2010, had been included in the agenda papers.

RESOLVED that said letter be referred to the Amenities Committee, which - as a result of the decision reached under item 92/10 above - was now scheduled to meet well before November 2010.

(d) Wheeled Bin Collection Round Changes

Revised information provided by Breckland Council under cover of an e-mail from the Environment Services Officer, dated 24th June 2010, had been included in the agenda papers.

RESOLVED that this be noted.

(e) Breckland Council's Standards Committee's fourth newsletter

A copy of Issue 4 (June 2010) had been included in the agenda papers.

RESOLVED that the contents be noted.

98/10 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION PUBLICATION SCHEME

The Town Clerk was asking the Council to endorse the contents of the document annexed hereto, a copy of which had been included in the agenda papers.

RESOLVED that this be endorsed and posted on the Council's website.

99/10 FINANCIAL MATTERS: RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Recommendations agreed at the Committee's Meeting held on 23rd June 2010 in respect of the following were considered (the minutes from that Meeting were to be received under item 103/10 below):

(a) 2010/11 Financial Report for Two Months Ended 31st May 2010

RESOLVED that the Report be received in conformity with Committee minute 75/10.

(b) Internal Audit Review

RESOLVED that the Review document be approved in conformity with Committee minute 76/10.

(c) Internal Audit Report 2009/10

RESOLVED that the document annexed hereto be approved in conformity with Committee minute 77/10 and that the Committee's views on the need for Mr Brighton to make a case for his re-appointment (as set out in the same minute) be supported.

(d) Annual Return 2009/10

RESOLVED that the documentation annexed hereto be approved in conformity with Committee minute 78/10, with the Mayor and Town Clerk (as Responsible Financial Officer) authorised to sign on behalf of the Council.

100/10 ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10

RESOLVED that the scope and contents of the draft document sent to members earlier that week be approved, with the Town Clerk authorised to produce a final version, to include all the annex documents referred to (as per the contents page, annexed hereto).

101/10 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.

102/10 MINUTES

Council Meeting: 26th May 2010 – item addressed following the exclusion of press and public

RESOLVED that minute 46/10 be confirmed as a true record and signed/initialled by the Mayor as Chairman.

103/10 COMMITTEE REPORT

Finance & General Purposes Committee: 23rd June 2010

RESOLVED that the report from the above meeting, including the Recommendations at minutes 75/10, 76/10, 77/10 (both), 78/10, 80/10, 81/10 and 82/10 be received and adopted. Minutes 71/10 to 82/10 inclusive referred.

104/10 RED LION UPDATE

RESOLVED that the events of that day, as reported by the Town Clerk and Town Manager, be noted.

105/10 BARNHAM CROSS COMMON ENCAMPMENT UPDATE

RESOLVED that the account presented by the Town Clerk of the recent 'protocol' meeting, held in his office, be noted and the seeking of a warrant authorised.

Chairman