

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THETFORD TOWN COUNCIL,  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, KING'S HOUSE, THETFORD,  
ON WEDNESDAY, 14<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2010,  
STARTING AT 7 P.M.

Present:

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs P P Quadling, Chairman

Councillors:

R F W Brame

M P Brindle

Mrs M P Chapman-Allen

T J Jermy

R G Kybird

T J Lamb

D G Mortimer

B J Skull

Mrs P A Spencer

S N H Wright

123/10      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Mrs M P Chapman-Allen and R G Kybird declared personal interests as members of the Stakeholder Engagement Group. Councillor S N H Wright wished it put on record that he had attended meetings of the Group.

124/10      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors G P Balaam, S H Chapman-Allen (work-related absence), J A Harding, A Paines and M G Spencer.

125/10      THETFORD ACADEMY: LETTER TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE

(a) RESOLVED that a letter be sent by Thetford Town Council to the Secretary of State for Education

(b) RESOLVED that the text of said letter be as follows:

*“Dear Secretary of State*

***Expression of Support for the Thetford Academy***

*Thetford Town Council writes to you in full support of the proposed Thetford Academy, which is a well-considered vision for the future of education in the town.*

*Thetford Town Council has been a partner in promoting the vision, ably expressed by David Lawrence on behalf of Easton College, a joint Sponsor of the Academy. The consultation process for the Academy is well advanced and focused around a September 2010 start. An early commitment by the new Coalition Government is essential to maintain the momentum of the whole process.*

*Three out of the four Thetford wards are in the top quintile of 'most deprived' wards for multiple deprivation in England and not just in Norfolk. Thetford has for many years languished in the bottom quartile for educational performance, with GCSE results roughly half the county average, which in turn is below the national average.*

*Thetford is committed to significant growth and, as a result of concerted support at both Town and District level, was offered and awarded Growth Point status (as a Key Centre of Development and Change). The major focus of growth is to enable much needed town regeneration, which will be primed by successful delivery of the Academy vision. The Growth Point Board, representative of a wide cross section of political, community and business interests, has allocated significant funding to an enhanced community element for the Forum (the "third site"), whose future depends entirely on ministerial decision.*

*Our understanding is that this "third site" facility will meet the needs of those drawn to a wide range of vocational subjects. These include engineering, catering, hospitality, hair & beauty, together with a major Sixth Form provision (to include drama and performance).*

*Unusually for a major Rural Town, Thetford has manufacturing employment for roughly 50% of the available workforce. First class vocational training facilities are of course essential, if this country is to work its way out of debt. Thetford hosts a number of international companies with manufacturing bases here in the UK.*

*Our newly elected Member of Parliament, Elizabeth Truss, has been fully briefed on the need for this Academy, as has her recent predecessor, Baroness Shephard of Northwold.*

*As local community representatives, we would ask that this advance in education be accorded the highest priority by your Department.*

*We hope we can count on your support.*

*Yours sincerely*

*Councillor Pauline Quadling  
Town Mayor*

*Councillor Robert Kybird  
Chairman of the Planning Committee"*

Chairman