

HUNSTANTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held in Chamber, Town Hall on Wednesday 23rd March 2022 at 6pm

Present: The Mayor Cllr Winnington Deputy Mayor Cllr Maureen Howard
Cllrs: Ruston, Smith, Easeman, McKimm, Jamieson, Johnston, Murray, Eden, Bishopp, Corby

Also Present: Rev Sam Abramiam
Inspector Boucher
James Ingham representing UPP
Town Clerk Jan Roomes
Admin Officer Louise Parton
Members of the Public x 7

Prayers: Rev Sam Abramian took Prayers.
Any member of Council not wishing to participate in Prayers could leave the room as this was not an agenda item.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence received from Cllr Kidd, Cllr Williamson, Cllr Croucher & BCllr Bower.

2. **Public Question Time**

2 members of public spoke of issues at the Northfield Allotments.

A member of the public asked HTC to consider becoming a conduit for Ukrainian refugees coming into the area.

A member of the public asked if cllrs responded to planning applications.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Corby and Cllr Murray declared an interest in agenda item 11.2

4. **Minutes – confirmation of**

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held 23rd February 2022 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

Cllr Johnston proposed, seconded Cllr Smith (11 for, 1 abstention).

5. **Police Report**

Inspector Boucher gave the following report:

From: Monday 24th January 2022 to Monday 21st March 2022.

**Please note that this is two-month period **

We have recorded 30 offences during this period.

Assault Offences – 7 Crimes

Common Assault – Historic report of assault via third party. Evidential difficulties prevent any further police action /Victim does not wish to support police action. Filed

Common Assault – Victim had water thrown them. Evidential difficulties prevent any further police action. Filed

Actual Bodily Harm – Victim alleged that named suspect has punched him causing injuries black eye, cut lip & ear. Investigation ongoing.

Actual Bodily Harm – Victim alleged that unknown offender has pushed him to ground and kicked him causing injuries black eye, nose & face. No further lines of enquiry. Filed.

Actual Bodily Harm – Historic report of assault victim's finger have been trapped by the lid of wheelie bin. Words advice given to offender as by victim's wishes. The victim does not support any further police action. Filed.

Actual Bodily Harm – Victim was punched causing spilt lip and bruising to his neck. The victim does not support any further police action. Filed.

Actual Bodily Harm – Victim was punched in face and finger bitten. The victim does not support any further police action. Filed.

Criminal Damage – 5 Crimes

Criminal Damage – Suspect damaged a mobile phone. The victim does not support any further police action. Filed.

Criminal Damage –Unknown person has smashed a rear window of victim's vehicle – ongoing investigation.

Criminal Damage –Unknown person has fired air pellets at wooden door causing minor damage. Evidential difficulties prevent any further police action / Victim does not wish to support police action. Filed

Criminal Damage –Unknown person has scratched victim's vehicle. No further lines of enquiry. Filed

Criminal Damage – Suspect damaged a bedside light – on going investigation.

Drugs – 3 Crimes

Possession Class B – Following an arrest for an unrelated matter an amount of cannabis was found. Offender was charged to court.

Possession Class B – Following dealing with an unrelated matter a small amount of herbal cannabis was found in suspect possession. Cannabis warning issued.

Possession Class B – Following a search for an unrelated matter an amount of cannabis was found – ongoing investigation

Public Order – 10 Crimes

Dangerous Dog – No Injury – Owner failed to control dog which attacked another dog – no injury caused. No further lines of enquiry. Filed.

Affray – Suspect made threats towards others with armed with a pair of scissors. Investigation ongoing.

Causing intentional harassment/alarm/distress – verbal threats made towards victim whilst in a store. - No further lines of enquiry. Filed.

Affray – Suspect made threats towards others with armed with a knife. Investigation ongoing.

Causing intentional harassment/alarm/distress – verbal threats made towards victim whilst in a public place - Investigation ongoing.

Causing intentional harassment/alarm/distress – verbal threats made towards victim whilst in a public place. - No further lines of enquiry. Filed.

Harassment – without violence. – Suspect has engaged in course of action causing harassment. Evidential difficulties prevent any further police action / Victim does not wish to support police action. Filed.

Harassment – without violence. – Suspect has engaged in course of action causing harassment. Investigation ongoing.

Malicious Communications – unknown person has sent an offensive message to victim. No further lines of enquiry. Filed

Controlling / Coercive Behaviour - Suspect has engaged in course of action causing controlling / coercive behaviour. Investigation ongoing.

Theft – 5 crimes

Theft – Other – lost their handbag in bar and believe it has been stolen. No further lines of enquiry. Filed.

Theft –Shops – Suspect has stolen a joint of meat from a supermarket. Investigation ongoing.

Theft –Shops - Suspect has stolen a quantity of alcohol from a supermarket. Investigation ongoing

Theft – Other – Items have been stolen from a residential garden. No further lines of enquiry. Filed.

Theft of a Motor Vehicle – A vehicle has placed onto a loader taken away. No further lines of enquiry. Filed.

Cllr Bishop asked if we could receive information from the new speed cameras on the A149, more specifically as to the types of vehicles receiving fines. He also wanted to raise awareness to the Police of the speed of motor cycles travelling along Oasis Way.

6. Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk

No BCllr present.

7. Norfolk County Council

NCC Cllr Jamieson requested Mr James Ingham be allowed to speak on the new Broadband currently being installed in Hunstanton.

Meeting suspended 6.20pm to allow Mr James Ingham to speak.

Meeting re-opened 6.25pm

Cllr Jamieson gave the following report;

New Twinning sign coming in to Hunstanton from Old Hunstanton is progressing and will be installed shortly.

Community Shop presentation was interesting, suggested way forward is to have a community shop van visit 2 days a week and to merge the community fridge in to the community shop van.

The BC have agreed new terms for the lease on the Recreation Ground.

Changes Places – I would like to work with the Clerk on looking at this project in more detail.

It is time for HTC to have a Climate Action Plan in place, I will discuss further with the Clerk.

Social Infrastructure Fund has re-opened, funds available to support business and Town/Parish Councils.

Parish Partnership Scheme – Each year local councils are invited to submit bids for highway improvement schemes.

8. Mayors Report

The Mayor Cllr Winnington gave the following report;

Yesterday, together with other town councillors and the Town Clerk, I attended the initial meeting of those interested (27) in setting up a Hunstanton Advisory Board. This was facilitated by the Borough Council on behalf of the town. A good discussion took place and it was agreed that BCllr Graham Middleton and Gilli Galloway from the Association of Local Government would put together a draft membership and constitution for the new body and call the first meeting as soon as possible. This has the potential for identifying ideas and developing projects to be included in an investment plan for the benefit of Hunstanton.

The weekend of the 11th to 13th March the 1070 District of Rotary held their annual conference in Hunstanton.

This had delegates from Leicestershire, Rutland, Northamptonshire and parts of Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire.

The main conference was in the Princess Theatre, where I gave them an official welcome to the town. Their

showcase of stalls and information was located in the Town Hall. The conference brought many people to the town out of season and delegates stayed in a variety of accommodation in the neighbourhood. I hope that word will spread that Hunstanton is able to host a conference of this nature. The visit of the Goldwings this last weekend also attracted many visitors to the town and as usual they put on an impressive light parade around the town on Saturday evening.

This morning I attended a meeting of the Hunstanton Convalescent Trust, of which I am chair. The Trust was formed with the proceeds of the sale of the Hunstanton Convalescent Home, which was founded in 1872. The funds can be used to help people on a low income who are physically or mentally unwell and in need of a convalescent or recuperative holiday. It can also be used to help their carers. It can sometimes be used to provide other items, services or facilities which are calculated to alleviate the suffering or help the recovery of such people. Please feel free to contact me in confidence if you know of somebody who may benefit from a grant.

Lastly, I want to ask everyone to have consideration for the staff working in the office, our Town Clerk, Jan and our Administration Officer, Louise. This is the end of the financial year which entails a lot of work; we have all just received a copy of the excellent auditor's report. Successful CIL bids for outdoor gym equipment, new community centre gates, and new tables, are being processed. Work is taking place to progress the Town's Emergency Plan and a lot of the work for the Platinum Jubilee and Carnival seems to have landed on the office staff. There is also work needing to be done with the Allotments Committee in re-drafting documents and getting accounts up-to-date. The Annual Report is also being produced for the Annual Town Meeting at the end of next month. As Chair I have regular visits to the office and see how difficult it can be to get work done when there are phone calls or unplanned visits. I am not saying keep away, just to be aware that our officers have a lot of work on at the moment and so if you need to visit then try to make arrangements beforehand.

9. Accounts for Payment

Consideration and authorisation were given to payment of Schedules of Accounts for the Town Council No 22/11. The clerk requested schedule 22/11a also be considered for payment due to late invoices coming in. Cllr Bishopp proposed, seconded Cllr Jamieson (unanimous).

10. Norfolk Association of Local Councils

Consideration was given to the annual subscription of NALC membership for 2022/23 at a cost of £718.30. **RECOMMENDATION** (Cllr Bishopp, seconded Cllr Howard) HTC renew the NALC membership for 2022/23. **RESOLVED** (unanimous) renew the NALC membership for 2022/23.

11. Committee Recommendations

11.1 Finance & Property Management Committee

RECOMMENDATION (Cllr Eden, seconded Cllr Johnston) to accept the quotation from West Norfolk Deaf Association to install a hearing loop system in the Town Hall at a cost of £4,920 vat inclusive.

RESOLVED (unanimous) to accept the quotation from West Norfolk Deaf Association to install a hearing loop system in Town Hall at a cost of £4,920 inc vat.

11.2 General Purpose Committee

The proposer of Recommendation 11.2, Cllr Bishopp, proposed that it be withdrawn due to the matter being sorted at a previous meeting (10 for, 1 against, 1 abstention).

12. HTC Action Plan

RECOMMENDATION (Cllr Bishopp, seconded Cllr Howard) to accept the updated HTC 5-year Action Plan.

RESOLVED (11 for 1 abstention) to accept the updated HTC 5-year Action Plan.

13. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Murray gave an update on the Neighbourhood Plan.

14. Planning

Cllr Ruston reported on 116 South Beach Road – this planning application had gone to appeal.

HTC supports the appeal.

Cllr Kidd to circulate updated report to all members.

15. Newsletter & Emergency Plan

15.1 Consideration was given to the HTC Newsletter. Members agreed (unanimous) to revisit the newsletter later in the year.

15.2 Consideration was given to the HTC Emergency Plan information letter.

RECOMMENDATION (Cllr Bishopp, seconded Cllr Ruston) the letter to go out to every household and business in Hunstanton.

RESOLVED (11 for 1 against) the letter to go out to every household and business in Hunstanton.

16. Sponsorship Request

Consideration was taken in regards to the sponsorship request from Smithdon High School, it was decided to make a donation from the Mayors Charity Fund.

17. Funding Request

Consideration was given to the request from Hunstanton Primary School for financial assistance towards the purchase of a Defibrillator, however information received stated another organisation had already stepped forward.

18. Ukrainian Refugees

Members considered what Hunstanton can do as a community and how the council might be able to act as the conduit for that. Suggested ideas:

Support locals who are taking in refugees – possible Grants.

Offer the refugees with any help and advice they may need.

Put a sign on the Town Hall in Ukrainian “Here Too Help”.

19. Recreation Ground

The Mayor reported; as previously mentioned by Cllr Jamieson, a new 5 year lease has been agreed between the Borough Council and the Le Strange Estate .for the Recreation Ground.

Cllr Bishopp requested an update on building works in the Town, HTC have received road closure notifications so work is now imminent.

20. Norfolk Foundation Community Shop

The Mayor reported the Norfolk Community Foundation are planning to provide affordable food using a mobile unit, this will be based in Wells and serve the local area, more information to follow.

21. Councillor Surgery

Cllr Bishopp & Cllr Easeman to hold the next Councillor Surgery in Town Hall Tuesday 5th April 10.30am – 12 noon.

22. Committees & Task & Finish Groups

Cllr Bishopp requested to join planning committee.

23. Miscellaneous Correspondence

No miscellaneous correspondence has been received.

24. Public Question Time

A member of the public asked for plot holders to receive more information regarding meetings and finances from the Northfield Allotment Committee.

A second member of the public put forward a memory stick with information from a Winter Festival in hope this would help with the planning of this year’s Carnival. The member of public also asked for confirmation of receipt of letter he had recently sent.

A third member of the public suggested an apology to the evicted plot holder. Cllr Ruston responded apologising for the oversight of the letter dated 27/1/2022.

Meeting Closed 7.55pm