

HUNSTANTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held in Chamber, Town Hall on Wednesday 26th January 2022 at 6pm

Present: Cllrs: Winnington (Mayor), Howard, Ruston, Smith, Easeman, Corby, Kidd, McKimm, Croucher, Murray & Williamson,
Also Present: Deputy Leader of BC Graham Middleton
Jan Roomes Town Clerk
Louise Parton Administration Assistant
Members of the public x 3

Prayers: Rev Rachel Dines & Rev Richman Ncube were present to take Prayers.
Any member of Council not wishing to participate in Prayers could leave the room as this was not an agenda item.

The Mayor held a moments silence in remembrance of a former Mayor Mr Fred Pooley.

1. **Apologies**
Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Johnston, Cllr Jamieson, BCLlr Bower & BCLlr Beal.
2. **Co-option**
Members considered one qualifying applicant for co-option to Hunstanton Town Council Mr Adrian Eden.
RECOMMENDATION (Cllr Winnington, seconded Cllr Murray) Adrian Eden be co-opted on to Hunstanton Town Council.
RESOLVED (unanimous) Adrian Eden be co-opted on to Hunstanton Town Council.
Cllr Eden was invited to join the table and proceeded to read and sign the declaration.
3. **Public Question Time**
There were no questions from members of the public.
4. **Declarations of Interest**
There were no members' declarations of interest.
5. **Minutes – confirmation of**
The minutes of the Full Council meeting held 8th December 2021 were agreed and signed as a true record.
6. **Matters Arising**
Cllr Croucher asked for an update on disable parking in the central carpark. The Mayor advised this would be discussed at a future meeting.
7. **Police Report**
Report received from Inspector Alex Bucher compiled from Monday 22nd November 2021 to Monday 24th January 2022.
Please note that this is two-month period rather than the normal one-month due Christmas / New Year
We have recorded 33 offences during this period.
Assault Offences – 11 Crimes
Actual Bodily Harm – Victim alleged that named suspect hit and assaulted her causing injuries to face, neck & chest. Investigation ongoing.
Common Assault – domestic assault related assault – no injuries. Investigation ongoing.
Grievous Bodily Harm – Victim alleged that they were assaulted by partner resulting to bleed on brain, however this could be a medical infection. Investigation ongoing.
Actual Bodily Harm – Youth assaulted by another youth pulling and punching victim ear / head causing reddening. The victim does not support any further police action. Filed.
Actual Bodily Harm – Victim had a chair was thrown at them by unknown person causing a visible mark. No further lines of enquiry. Filed.

Common Assault – Victim grabbed around the throat by suspect no visible injuries. The victim does not support any further police action. Filed.

Actual Bodily Harm – Victim assaulted by plant pot that was smashed in their face, causing a minor cut. The victim does not support any further police action. Filed.

Common Assault – Victim was punched in face by suspect causing minor bruising. The victim does not support any further police action. Filed.

Common Assault – Victim was threatened and pushed by suspect. Investigation ongoing

Common Assault – Victim was pushed by suspect. Evidential difficulties prevent any further police action. Filed

Common Assault – Victim was pushed by suspect. Evidential difficulties prevent any further police action. Filed

Criminal Damage – 4 Crimes

Criminal Damage – Suspect smashed rear window of car and keyed vehicle causing damage – ongoing investigation.

Criminal Damage – Suspect smashed a pot. The victim does not support any further police action. Filed.

Criminal Damage – Unknown person throw stones at vehicle windows attempting to damage them. No further lines of enquiry. Filed

Criminal Damage – Unknown person has smashed a rear door panel of a property – ongoing investigation.

Drugs – 2 Crimes

Possession Class B – Successful stop search located small amount of herbal cannabis. Cannabis warning issued.

Possession Class B – Following arrest for unrelated matter a small amount of herbal cannabis 0.1g found in trouser pocket of suspect. Investigation ongoing.

Public Order – 14 Crimes

Malicious Communications – male sent threatening message to ex female partner. The victim does not support any further police action. Filed.

Harassment – without violence – male engaged in course of action causing harassment. The victim does not support any further police action. Filed.

Causing intentional harassment/alarm/distress – verbal threats made towards victim whilst trying to enter store without face covering in a store - No further lines of enquiry. Filed.

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

Fear or provocation of violence – male made verbal threats towards victim. The victim does not support any further police action. Filed.

Public Decency – Male seen with his trousers down and going to toilet using a drain in public. No further lines of enquiry. Filed.

Fear or provocation of violence – male made verbal threats towards victim. Evidential difficulties prevent any further police action. Filed

Malicious Communications – male sent threatening message to victim. The victim does not support any further police action. Filed.

Malicious Communications – male sent threatening message to victim. Evidential difficulties prevent any further police action. Filed

Harassment – without violence. – Youth engaged in course of action causing harassment. Evidential difficulties prevent any further police action. Filed

Malicious Communications – unknown male person has made an offensive call to female store worker. No further lines of enquiry. Filed

Affray – Suspect has threatened other persons with armed with a kitchen knife. Investigation ongoing.

Dangerous Dog – Injury – Owner failed to control dog which bite victim's hand causing a broken finger. Evidential difficulties prevent any further police action. Filed

Offensive weapon - Bladed Article in public place. Suspect was found to have a lock knife in vehicle. Police Caution issued.

Theft – 2 crimes

Theft – From Motor Vehicle – number plate taken from victim trailer lighting board. No further lines of enquiry. Filed.

Theft – Other – lost their mobile on beach and believe it has been stolen. No further lines of enquiry. Filed.

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

Cllr Bower had forwarded the following brief report to the Clerk:

I was very pleased to see the two applications for CIL grants from HTC. Brilliant! Remember the next opportunity is July.

The HDFA has made a wonderful programme for this year. I congratulate them for their energy.

I met with Elizabeth Nockolds yesterday and she said she'd been at a Snap meeting yesterday when the community team had said they'd like a venue in Hunstanton where they could meet with young people who had drug / alcohol problems. I think she'll be in touch with you.

I'm optimistic that things should start moving in Hunstanton. Sorry this is not a full report.

BCllr Beal apologised for his non-attendance, he was shielding as due to go in to hospital.

BCllr Stuart Dark, Leader of BC was held up by a prior meeting.

The Mayor advised he would return to agenda item 8 when Cllr Dark had arrived.

9. Norfolk County Council

Norfolk County Councillor Andrew Jamieson forwarded the following report to the Clerk:

I apologise for my non-attendance. However, the County budget is completed so that from February I will be back to normal attendance.

Staying with the budget: we are proposing a 2.99% increase in Council tax, which would take the average (Band D) council tax payment to £ 1,516.95. There are significant unfunded additional financial pressures on the Council coming out of the pandemic, however:

- I) Norfolk County Council are proposing a **balanced budget**, which invests an extra £25 million (net) to support frontline services. (Context: An overall county council net revenue budget of £464.325m for 2022-23, including budget increases of £89.154m and budget decreases of -£63.924m)
- II) **We've achieved this despite having to deal with major challenges** -with rising costs, tackling the pandemic and more people coming forward for adult social care and children's services
- III) **We are not increasing Council Tax by more than we have to**, recognising the cost-of-living pressures people are facing – if agreed, this will mean we have the lowest county council share of Council Tax in the region
- IV) **Our spending is funded by Council Tax and Government grants** and any shortfall must be covered by making savings
- V) **We are carrying out a major review of the Council to make it fit for the future** - accelerating our work to transform the way it operates and using technology and other innovations to become as cost effective and responsive as possible
- VI) **We continue to press Government to make good on its promises for fair funding**, especially for adult social care and children's services and to tackle rural inequalities.

CCT. I know that you are being joined by Leader of West Norfolk Borough Council tonight. Stuart and I have been working behind the scenes to bring forward some of the many proposals for the regeneration of Hunstanton (Hemingway et al) so that we might have 'shovel ready projects' ready to go should funding allow. Given the amount of funding received by Kings Lynn from the Town Fund, Stuart will confirm that it is the aim of our MP, James Wild, to focus Levelling Up funding outside the town of Lynn itself if possible. Further education, regeneration and renewal of the public realm are key themes. A small group, including Stuart and myself have got to a position where some of these projects can be taken forward. It is therefore the intention to reconstitute the CCT as a 'Town Board' similar to that created for the Town Fund bids, in order that similar focus from Borough and County officers are available to us.

Community Centre. The Norfolk Community Foundation (of which I am a Trustee) set up the first social supermarket in Thetford in 2018. I was keen to engage for Hunstanton but at the time we were unable to accommodate them. However, they have recently approached me again; their model now includes demountable units which could fit very well in the Community centre car park. If Council is in agreement I will invite NCF and NCC to do a joint presentation to us to see how this could work in practice and, possibly, tie in to what we are doing currently. A brief summary of the concept would be as follows:

Having looked at models of successful and emerging food partnerships elsewhere in the country, NCF have worked with local communities to create a community led local store providing every day food at affordable prices for those living on the economic margins. Having established a basic food offering and community membership, it is anticipated that this store would offer a range of additional benefits:

- A trusted space to offer wrap around support services (debt advice, support for mental health, help to access the job market).
- Allowing consumers to make food choices, with healthy living inspiration and knowledge sharing.
- Contributing to a greener local economy through reduction of waste and food miles.
- A retail training hub for skills development.
- The support to move from reliance to independence.
- Through the food offer and environment, celebrate the richness the cultural and social diversity in the Town.

10. **Mayors Report**

The Mayor gave the following report:

As we start a new year I thought I would reflect on what being Mayor involves as often it is not always clear until you take on the role.

The Mayor is Hunstanton's foremost citizen and the ceremonial leader of the town. In cases of unavailability or absence, the Mayor may be represented by the Deputy Mayor, or a senior councillor (Past Mayor who is an active member of the council), as and when appropriate. The function of the Mayor is entirely apolitical. An effective Mayor can play a major role in promoting a positive image of Hunstanton and Hunstanton's influence and importance at a local, regional, national and international level. A Mayor's major contribution to the role is to focus on the promotion, development and execution of the Town Council's vision and core objectives. Residents of Hunstanton rightfully expect the highest standards of conduct and impartiality in their Mayor and that the incumbent will proactively engage upon a wide range of duties and activities on their behalf during the mayoral year of office.

As Chairman of the Town Council, the Mayor also needs to be aware of all that is happening in council and frequently be closely involved. This all takes a lot of time and commitment. During my first year as Mayor in 2017/18 I kept a record of my time. I attended 122 Mayoral engagements, 16 full council meetings, 42 committee meetings, 36 working party meetings, 51 other meetings (plus regular meetings with the Town Clerk), 2 councillor surgeries and 2 children's discos. I travelled about 2,400 miles in attending official engagements. I held a Civic Service and a Mayor's Reception.

My current tenure as Mayor has been rather different because of Covid restrictions. I have again kept a record of time and events. In the last 8 months I have attended 39 Mayoral engagements, 8 full council meetings, 19 committee meetings, 19 Task & Finish Group meetings, 53 other meetings and 1 councillor surgery. Also I have had meetings with the Town Clerk each week as it is very important that the Mayor and the Town Clerk keep each other informed. Of course a lot of communication happens through emails. I haven't kept a record of number of emails received in my councillor inbox but a conservative estimate would be about 4,000 per annum during my time as Mayor.

There is also a financial cost for the role of Mayor. During my first year as Mayor, if I had claimed all expenses for mileage, tickets for events, raffle tickets, collections, etc. it would have come to about £1,800. This must be in the Town Council budget so that it is available for anyone who needs to claim it during their term as Mayor.

It is not my intention in this report to put councillors off from becoming Mayor – it is an honour and a privilege to represent our town. I just wanted to make everyone aware that in taking on the role you are committing yourself to a very busy year!

I would now just like to mention three upcoming events.

Tomorrow, 27th January, is Holocaust Memorial Day, and I will be holding a short ceremony at the Cenotaph at 10.30am followed by hot drinks in the Town Hall.

On Sunday, 30th January, the 69th Anniversary of the 1953 Floods will be commemorated at the Flood Memorial. We will walk down from the Town Hall at about 11.30am. The planned parade and flypast by the 67th SOS has had to be postponed but the Commander, Lt Col Jared Williams, and a small contingent of other members of the 67th SOS, will be attending. There will be a buffet afterwards in the Town Hall.

The Civic Service is planned for Sunday 20th February at 3.00pm in the Town Hall. This is an occasion to think about and give thanks for all who live and work in our town and to celebrate the work of so many who make it such a great place.

These are all events organised by the Town Council and I would ask that all councillors make a special effort to attend them and/or make offers of help if they are able.

11. Accounts for Payment

Consideration and authorisation was given to payment of Schedules of Accounts for the Town Council No 22/09. Proposed Cllr Kidd, Seconded Cllr Williamson (Unanimous).
Copy circulated to members prior to meeting.

12. Finance Committee Recommendations

- i. **RECOMMENDATION** (Cllr Murray, seconded Cllr Croucher) HTC accept the grant application of £200 from Hunstanton Concert Band.
RESOLVED (Unanimous) HTC accept the grant application of £200 from Hunstanton Concert Band.
- ii. **RECOMMENDATION:** (Cllr Smith, seconded Cllr Kidd) the precept figure for 2022/23 be set at £195,000.00.
RESOLVED (11 for, 1 against) the precept figure for 2022/23 be set at £195,000.00.

13. Neighbourhood Plan

The Mayor advised the plan had been submitted and a meeting has been planned with Michael Burton the Principle Planner at BC.

14. Planning

Cllr Kidd gave an update on all outstanding planning applications.

15. The 69th Anniversary of the Hunstanton Floods

The Mayor gave an update on the planned event for the 69th Anniversary of the Hunstanton Floods: Unfortunately due to a Covid outbreak the parade and flyby has had to be postponed however a small group will still meet at the cenotaph at 11.45am, followed by a buffet in the Town Hall.

16. Committees & Task & Finish Groups

Cllr Murray requested to join Community Committee.
Cllr Eden requested to join General Purposes Committee and Environment Committee.
Members agreed (unanimous) Cllrs Murray & Eden to join those committees.

17. Public Question Time

A member of the public asked for confirmation of the times for Sundays Memorial Service.
The Mayor repeated the information he had given in his earlier report.

Cllr Dark joined the meeting.

The Mayor re-opened agenda item 8.

(8). Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk

Cllr Dark and Cllr Middleton gave a brief background of their positions within the Borough Council and then updated us on the Hunstanton Town Board /Coastal Community Team.
Cllr Dark & Cllr Middleton advised it was important the BC & Hunstanton Town Council work together moving forward with Hunstanton's future.
Cllr Dark advised £50,000 from BC would go in to the new Town Board for Hunstanton.

Cllr Murray gave apologies to the Mayor and left the meeting at 7.45pm

18. Request Members of Public Leave Meeting

Members resolved (unanimous), in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960, members of the public be asked to leave the meeting due to the nature of business to be discussed.

19. Confidential Issue's

Members discussed in great detail 2 confidential matters.

19.1 Resolved

19.2 Members noted information.

Meeting closed 8.25pm