

HUNSTANTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Full Council held in the Town Hall on Wednesday 27th July 2022 at 6pm

Present: Mayor Cllr Howard, Deputy Mayor Cllr Ruston
CLRs: Bishopp, Winnington, Easeman, Kidd, Corby, Smith, Croucher, Kitch, Murray, Jamieson, Nice, Eden
Johnston
Also Present: Rev Rich Ncube
Charles Le Strange Meakin
Members of the Public x 1
Town Clerk Jan Roomes
Admin Officer Louise Parton

Prayers: **Rev Rich Ncube 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 Williamson & BCLlr Bower.

No Apologies received from Cllr Jamieson

2. Public Question Time

No questions asked.

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Kitch declared an interest in agenda item 10.1.

4. Minutes – confirmation of

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held 22nd June 2022 were confirmed and signed as a true record (Cllr Bishopp, seconded Cllr Ruston, 12 for 2 abstentions).

5. Police Report

No Police Report received.

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

BCLlr Bower emailed the following report to the Clerk;

In Bloom.

We had a very good day with the judges on the 21st July. They made very positive remarks about the various "In Bloom" projects.

We are lucky to have a strong team of volunteers in the Town and organisations such as the Civic Society and U3A and Allotments.

They all worked hard to make outstanding displays, despite the dry weather!

As an example, Christine Earnshaw, secretary of our committee, designed crowns to mark the Jubilee and the Hunstanton Men's Shed assembled these. They were painted by her and Diana Hallard as well as children at Glebe School and then decorated with "jewels". Twenty-two of these adorned our flower beds around the Town.

Businesses such as Searles and Moss Bakery contributed with their entries and the latter provided tea for the judges and participants at the end of the day.

Several of our new recruits have given us many ideas for next year. We had an "In Bloom" Tea Party" earlier in the year to attract new "Friends of Hunstanton Gardens."

In Bloom judging day was the culmination of an impressive community effort supported by an exceptional team of Borough groundsmen.

I think we did ourselves proud. However, we'll learn exactly how well we've done in September!

On Monday it was announced that both Boston Square and the Esplanade Gardens have been awarded a Green Flag.

My congratulations to the local people and the Fire Brigade for limiting the fire damage in the Community Orchard so quickly at the weekend.

The HDFA has had a very busy summer with an excellent programme, thanks to the extraordinary hard work of the committee. I congratulate them.

The Hunstanton Advisory Committee has a clear remit and I'm confident it will progress its objectives and we will be able to report back soon.

Cllr Bishopp asked for it to be noted in the minutes that he felt the report by the Borough Councillor was not acceptable. It gave plenty of information on items such as In Bloom and HDFA but the important topics of HAG, 1 line telling us nothing, and the 2 major housing developments, Library & Southend Road were not mentioned at all.

Cllr Johnston seconded this.

At the request of the Mayor members agreed to bring forward Agenda item 14.

14. **Hunstanton Action Group (HAG)**

Cllr Johnston gave an update on the group's progress, they are still looking to recruit members from the Care, Education and Charity sectors.

Meeting was closed at 6.12pm to allow Charles Le Strange Meakin to give a report and answer questions.

Meeting re-opened at 6.35pm

7. **Norfolk County Council**

No report received.

8. **Mayors Report**

The Mayor gave the following report;

Over the last few weeks Hunstanton has been very busy, it is good to see not just the visitors returning but also several events taking place that had been cancelled over the last two years

The HDFA One act Drama Festival at the Princess Theatre returned after two years. It was good to see how thrilled people were to receive an award as a testament to all the hard work and dedication they had put into their plays.

A few days later I was asked to present the Hunstanton Town Council's cup to the winners of the mixed triples competition at the Hunstanton and District Open Bowls tournament.

This was followed by one of the hottest days we have experienced when I was invited along to take part in the Kings Lynn Festival Service at the King's Lynn Minster, another event that again had been cancelled for the past two years.

Along with Cllr Winnington, I was part of the contingent that met the judges for the in bloom competition, as we have a detailed report about this from Borough Cllr Bowyer all I will say about this is that I, like everyone else, wishes all the best for Hunstanton in the awards, and congratulate all the hard work put in to making the flower beds look spectacular once again.

Last weekend I was invited to a New Mayors BBQ hosted by Colonel and Mrs Gene Jacobus of the United States Air Force stationed at RAF Mildenhall. It was interesting to meet other Mayors from around the area and to hear their experiences of being Mayor and their councils.

The following day I met up with walkers doing a marathon for the Samaritans, who were very grateful to come into the coolness of the Town Hall for drinks before they carried on walking around the coast to Thornham. They were interested in the pictures in the Town Hall and were actually unaware of the 1953 floods. After giving them a short history lesson, they carried on down through the gardens to visit the flood memorial before carrying on with their walk.

None of these events could take place with hard work so I would like to pass on my thanks to all to those who worked hard to make all these events a success.

9. **Accounts for Payment**

Consideration & authorisation was given to payment of Schedules of Accounts for the Town Council No 23/04 TH & 23/04 B (Cllr Bishopp, seconded Cllr Kidd, unanimous).

Consideration & authorisation was given to payment of Schedules of Accounts for the Town Council No 23/04CC (Cllr Bishopp, seconded Cllr Eden, unanimous).

10. **Committee Recommendations**

Finance & Property Management Committee 13th July 2022

10.1 RESOLVED: (Cllr Ruston, seconded Cllr Croucher, 13 for 1 abstention) to rent the retail area to Jackie Kitch for 1 year at a rental charge of £500 per calendar month + electricity costs from 1st September 2022 until 31st August 2023 with a rent review in June 2023.

10.2 RESOLVED: (Cllr Winnington, seconded Cllr Eden, unanimous) to accept the Helping Hands Project Plan & Constitution, commencement date for the project 19th September, Café to be held in the Community Hub (lower floor Town Hall) and to transfer £5,000 from the CF budget to the Helping Hands budget to set the Helping Hands Café up.

10.3 RESOLVED (Cllr Winnington, seconded Cllr Eden, unanimous) to purchase 2 x Eco Dog Bag Dispensing Units at a cost of £249.00 + vat each.

Community Committee Meeting 13th July 2022

10.4 RESOLVED: Cllr Corby, seconded Cllr Bishopp, unanimous) the Terms of the Community Committee be accepted with 1 small amendment to be made by the Clerk.

11. Replacement Heating

Consideration was given to replacing 5 heaters (1 x Clerk's Office, 1 x Downstairs Office, 3 x Retails area) at an approximate cost of £2,500.

Recommendation: (Cllr Ruston Seconded Cllr Bishopp) authorisation given to spending £2500 however more research required in regard to which heaters to purchase.

RESOLVED: (13 for, 1 abstention) authorisation given to spending £2500. More research to do done in regard to which heaters to purchase.

12. Planning Report

12.1 Cllr Kidd advised amendment to **Planning Permission 21/00243/FM** construction of 32 apartments at Southend Road, Hunstanton, is only a change to bin stores. Further discussions took place regarding this project and the Bus station build and it was decided to call an extraordinary meeting inviting Borough Councillors and Officers to attend. Councillor Bishopp asked that 'Borough Councillor Terry Parrish be thanked for his input and assistance to the problems at the Library & Southend Road, maybe our own Borough Councillors may like to join him'.

12.2 Cllr Kidd gave a report on current planning applications & decisions.

13. Neighbourhood plan

Consideration was given to the following proposals from Cllr Murray;

13.1 **RECOMMENDATION** (Cllr Croucher, seconded Cllr Nice) HTC applies to Locality for a grant of up to £10k towards the expenses of reviewing the HNDP.

RESOLVED (13 for 1 against) HTC to apply to Locality for a grant of up to £10k towards the expenses of reviewing the HNDP.

13.2 Consideration was given to employing a professional to review the NP.
This agenda item was deferred until a future meeting.

15. Ale & Music Festival

Consideration was given to the proposal from Cllr Nice to run on behalf of HTC, a 3-day Ale & Music festival in the Town Hall November 11th – 13th 2022 to raise funds for a Youth Christmas Party.

RECOMMENDATION (Cllr Ruston seconded Cllr Bishopp) Cllr Nice to organise an Ale & Music Festival to raise funds for a Children's Christmas Party. Date to be confirmed.

RESOLVED (13 for, 1 abstention) Cllr Nice to organise an Ale & Music Festival to raise funds for a Children's Christmas Party

16. Cuppa Care Project

Consideration was given to the request from the Cuppa Care Project to continue offering their service with free venue charge at the Community Centre. The Mayor read a brief report from Cuppacare.

RECOMMENDATION Cllr Bishopp, seconded Cllr Kidd Cuppacare to be charged for plot hire and Clerk to make decision as to whether the day or location needs adjusting to suit venue.

RESOLVED (13 for 1 abstention) Cuppacare to be charged for plot hire and Clerk to make decision as to whether the day or location needs adjusting to suit venue.

17. Death of a Royal, MP or HTC Councillor

Consideration was given to the draft Death of a Royal, MP or HTC Cllr Policy.

RECOMMENDATION Cllr Bishopp, seconded Cllr Winnington the Death of a Royal, MP or HTC Cllr document be accepted with one amendment to be made by the clerk.

RESOLVED (unanimous) the Death of a Royal, MP or HTC Cllr document be accepted with the one amendment to be made by the clerk.

18. Shopwatch Hunstanton

Cllr Kitch gave the following report on Shopwatch Hunstanton;

Shopwatch is a free, local scheme I set up with my Husband Graham.

The Shopwatch group is a way for local businesses to communicate with each other easily and quickly and report any shoplifting or anti-social behaviour as it happens.

Since opening Artworks @The Town Hall on March 4th 2022 we have had 5 separate shoplifting incidents and although we have managed to retrieve the stolen items in most cases, the latest incident left me feeling vulnerable and intimidated. The shoplifters in this incident left Artworks and headed towards another shop and I realised that there was no way that I could warn the other shop.

On further investigation and chatting with other Shopkeepers, it became apparent that there was an issue in some shops in and around the Town Centre with shoplifting and some anti-social behaviour, Charity Shops are also being targeted.

We realised that a Whatsapp Group was needed for instant messaging, alerts and photo sharing and also in case anyone became ill or needed help in general. We have issued some posters for the shops that have come on board so far and the idea has been well received, with 14 shops now enlisted on Shopwatch.

Although there isn't a massive issue in town, it is nice to know that we can communicate with each other from now on.

Our local Community Police Officer has urged us all to report any incidents as soon as possible, either online or by telephone, so that they can support us.

If you are a local shop or business and would like to join up then please message Jackie and Graham on 07793461156 and they will give you the details required.

Cllr Bishopp proposed and all members agreed HTC to support this incentive.

19. Councillor Surgery

Cllr Bishopp & Cllr Winnington to hold the Councillor Surgery in the Town Hall alongside the indoor market August 2nd 10.30 am – 12 noon.

20. Committees & Task & Finish Groups

20.1 Cllr Johnston & Cllr Croucher to join Planning Committee, Cllr Kitch to join Community & Finance Committees, Cllr Bishopp to join Emergency Plan Task & Finish Group.

20.2 At the request of the Clerk, to consider closing The Queens Platinum Jubilee T & F Group.

RECOMMENDATION Cllr Bishopp, seconded Cllr Howard to close The Queens Platinum Jubilee T & F Group.

RESOLVED (unanimous) to close The Queens Platinum Jubilee T & F Group.

Cllr Croucher proposed opening a Mentoring New Councillors Task & Finish Group. A discussion took place. Some Councillors commented that a mentoring programme was unnecessary, and lines of communication already exist within the council. The Clerk objected to Cllr Croucher inference regarding previous councillors and their decisions to leave. The Town Clerk made a statement then left the meeting.

21. Public Question Time

A member of the public asked the Mayor how she was settling into her role and if members of the public were allowed to attend extraordinary meeting.

The Mayor advised she was settling in well and members of the public were allowed to attend an extraordinary meeting.

Meeting Closed 8.40 pm