

HUNSTANTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Full Council held at Hunstanton Town Hall on Wednesday 27th October 2021 at 6pm

Present: Cllrs: Winnington (Mayor), Howard, Easeman, Corby, McKimm, Smith, Murray,
Johnston & Ruston

Also Present: Town Clerk Jan Roomes
Administration Assistant Louise Parton
Inspector Alexander Bucher
1 x Member of the public

1. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence received from Cllr Kidd & Cllr Jamieson.
No apologies from Cllr Croucher.

2. **Public Question Time**

A member of the public asked if there were plans to sell the Town Hall for conversion into flats?
Cllr Winnington confirmed this was not something anyone was aware of especially after the renovations that had just taken place at the Town Hall.
Cllr Murray queried why we were using the Town Hall for today's meeting? It was explained the lift had been out of order but also with Covid Cases on the rise we are able to spread out more in the Town Hall.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Winnington declared an interest in item 10.
Cllr Ruston declared an interest in item 12b.

4. **Minutes – confirmation of**

The minutes of the full council meeting held 22nd September 2021 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

5. **Matters Arising**

Cllr Johnston requested an update on item 16.

Cllr Winnington advised there will be 20/30 members joining the Remembrance Day parade and the Royal British Legion are organising a service to be held at the Cenotaph. Lt. Col. Jared Williams and SMSgt Jeremy Mayo have also made contact with the Royal British Legion and Amanda Gibbins at Smithdon High School for future projects.

Cllr Smith requested an update on item 15.

Cllr Winnington advised the Royal British Legion have been contacted and we wait to hear from them if there is anything they require our help with.

6. **Police Report**

Inspector Alexander Bucher gave a brief explanation of his background and his 25 years' service then gave the following police report:

From Wednesday 22nd September to Monday 25th October 2021, we have recorded 29 offences in total during this period.

Violent Crime – 3 Crimes

Common Assault – 2 x domestic-related assaults involving the same parties (but no injuries). The circumstances are sensitive and not typical of domestic incidents. Both investigations have been filed but additional support being provided.

Common Assault – vulnerable victim was punched in the face by a suspect known to him. This is also linked to a further harassment offence. Investigations ongoing.

Criminal Damage – 4 Crimes

Criminal Damage – rear windscreen smashed on vehicle parked in victim’s driveway. No suspects, filed.

Criminal Damage – unknown suspect threw a stone at a window causing it to smash. Filed.

Criminal Damage – Suspect has hot-wired a vehicle at commercial premises and then driven it around, causing damage to a fence. Suspect identified and investigation ongoing.

Criminal Damage – a front window to a residential property was smashed while residents in bed – no obvious sign of any object or motive. Enquiries ongoing.

Public Order – 3 Crime

Threats to kill– verbal threats made as part of ongoing neighbour community issue. Enquiries ongoing.

Causing intentional harassment/alarm/distress – verbal threats as part of a domestic situation involving mother and son. Victim does not support a prosecution.

Fear or provocation of violence – male made verbal threats towards people known to him. Enquiries ongoing.

Drugs – 2 Crimes

Possession Class B – Successful stop search located 7g herbal cannabis. Cannabis warning issued.

Possession Class B – A successful vehicle stop search with 3.7g herbal cannabis found. Bladed articles also found. Suspect charged.

Theft – 4 crimes

Theft – over a 3-week period suspect has used the scanning device for his shopping, but failed to scan all the items. Enquiries ongoing.

Theft x2 – same suspect has stolen alcohol and other items from a supermarket. Suspect has been identified and enquiries ongoing.

BOTD – damage has been caused to a door of a commercial premises, entry gained, and the boiler switched on. Nothing taken from inside. Enquiries ongoing.

In addition to the above we are aware there have been several calls regarding vehicle ASB on the clifftop, predominantly on Friday/Saturday nights. This was made a local priority at the recent SNAP meeting and an issue we’ll be monitoring and problem-solving.

A member of the public asked if drop ins were to be reinstated at the station for the public to seek advice? Inspector Alexander Bucher advised they would be going out into the community more rather than inviting people into the police station. The Clerk advised the Police will be attending the HTC Friendship group on the 19th November for any questions.

Cllr Johnston asked if he would be making any changes in his new role, Inspector Alexander Bucher advised no changes will be made at this time.

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

Cllr Winnington read out the following report from BCllr Paul Beal

“Evening Councillors,

Apologies for my absence as its half term and a busy trading time.

For those of you who saw the last borough full council meeting on the 14th of this month you would have witnessed a contrived meeting with me as in opposition wanting to thank the leader for his prompt action in securing a new roof for the theatre and sharing the cost of a defibrillator. But Carol Bower who was aware that I genuinely wanted to publicly give thanks chose to get in first. I then stood up and seconded what Carol had said only to be closed down by the mayor saying it is a question-and-answer session only but obviously not for the blue party. Please go onto u tube and see a genuinely contrived meeting.

Hunstanton promenade traders is coming to the Corporate Performance Scrutiny Panel on the 8th November which I have asked to join because after 3 years of trying I will have another say as to how waste and water are disposed of, I wait with baited breath.

If you wish to know anything else from me, please make contact without delay”

8. Norfolk County Council

No report was received from Cllr Jamieson however he had written a lengthy article for this month’s Town and Around.

9. Mayors Report

The Mayor gave the following report;

“Although I have been very busy with council business and Mayoral engagements this month, I am giving a different focus to my Mayor’s Report this month.

To begin I want to read the statement I released regarding the death of Sir David Amess MP.

“Hunstanton Town Council joins with so many around the country in sending condolences to the family of Sir David Amess MP on his shocking death. The death of this hard-working and well-respected MP is also an attack on everyday politics in our country. It is important that representatives of the people at whatever level, from Members of Parliament to Parish Councillors, are able to talk with their electorate without fearing for their own safety and be treated with respect even if people hold different views and opinions”.

It is concerning that there are presently councillors in West Norfolk who do not feel safe in their own town.

Next, I was very saddened on the day after our last committee meetings to receive a letter from Tony Bishopp asking me to accept his resignation from Hunstanton Town Council”

The Mayor read the resignation letter and the reply he had sent to Tony Bishopp. No discussion took place.

“It is not easy being an elected representative, at whatever level, but for democracy to work it needs people to put themselves forward to make decisions on behalf of their electorate. This is not a simple task as people hold different opinions and so councils or governments are never going to please all the people all of the time. It is good to have town councillors who have different life experiences from which they can discuss the best way forward for our town. Presently we are five councillors short of our complement of seventeen. We will be actively seeking people willing to put themselves forward to be a town councillor. If you are thinking of taking on this role, voluntary and unpaid, it is important to be aware of the seven Nolan Principles which apply to the conduct of people in public life – Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty and Leadership. Our Town Council motto is “Alios delectare juvat – It is our pleasure to please others”. The manner in which we do this is important. I very much like Smithdon High School’s new motto – “Work hard, be kind and smile”. I think this is something everyone could adopt”.

10. Accounts for Payment

The payments of Schedules of Accounts for the Town Council No 21/06 were considered and authorised for payment (Cllr Smith, Seconded Cllr Corby 8 for, 1 abstention).

11. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Corby confirmed updates had been made to the NP’s and was awaiting maps from the Borough Council to complete.

Cllr Murray advised he had a meeting arranged with Helen Morris who has worked on other NP’s to seek advice for help in completing the Hunstanton Neighbourhood Plan.

12. Committee Recommendations

a) **General Purposes, Community & Environment Committee meeting held 13th October 2021**

- i. **RECOMMENDATION:** Amend plan in light of examiners report and submit.
RESOLVED: (Cllr Corby, Seconded Cllr Ruston 8 for, 1 against) amend plan in light of examiners report and submit
- ii. **RECOMMENDATION:** To accept Cllr Winnington’s restructure proposal.
RESOLVED: (Cllr Winnington, Seconded Cllr Murray 7 for, 2 abstentions) To accept Cllr Winnington’s restructure proposal.

b) **Finance & Property Management Committee meeting held 13th October 2021**

- i. **RECOMMENDATION** HDFA to have free venue hire the Christmas Tree Festival.
RESOLVED: (Cllr Ruston, Seconded Cllr McKimm 8 for, 1 abstention) HDFA to have free venue hire the Christmas Tree Festival.
- ii. **RECOMMENDATION** HTC to purchase the 67th USAF twinning signage, to be fitted coming in to Hunstanton from Old Hunstanton, at a cost of £605.48 + vat.
RESOLVED: (Cllr Smith, Seconded Cllr Howard, unanimous) HTC to purchase the 67th USAF twinning signage, to be fitted coming in to Hunstanton from Old Hunstanton, at a cost of £605.48 + vat.

13. Campaign to Recruit Councillors

Members considered opening a Task & Finish Group to recruit Councillors.

RECOMMENDATION (Cllr Murray, seconded Cllr Winnington) to open a Recruiting Councillors Task & Finish Group.

RESOLVED: (unanimous) to open a Recruiting Councillors Task & Finish Group.

14. Committees & Task & Finish Groups

Cllr Winnington explained the new committee structure, members were asked to consider which committees and T & F Groups they wished to be on.

RECOMMENDATION: (Cllr Winnington, Seconded Cllr Murray) the members wishing to join or leave committees & T & F Groups be accepted.

RESOLVED: (unanimous) all members' requests were accepted.

Clerk to update list and circulate.

15. Hunstanton Observatory

Cllr Easeman reported the Observatory is all going ahead they are just awaiting quotes from 3 contactors.

16. Chamber of Commerce

Cllr Winnington reported the Chamber of Commerce meeting held 19th October 2021 went very well and was well attended. A second meeting was planned for next month, date to be advised.

Cllr Murray requested minutes from the meeting, Clerk to follow up.

17. Correspondence

No miscellaneous correspondence has been received since the last meeting.

18. Public Question Time

A member of the public asked the following questions:

- i. When is Hunstanton's Community going to see the benefit of Central Government funding?
Cllr Ruston confirmed we were claiming grants as and when they became available.
- ii. Is there to be a Carnival Next year?
Cllr Winnington confirmed a Town Events team is being formed and the Carnival is one thing they are looking at putting on.
- iii. Recommendation – the councillors receive vocal training to enable the public to hear them clearer.
Cllr McKimm offered help to anyone who would like it.
- iv. What are the council's views on Unitary Government?
Cllr Winnington stated this would not be a quick response so was unable to respond.
- v. In regards to recruiting more councillors maybe you should list responsibilities on the web site.
Cllr Winnington confirmed this was on the website.

Meeting closed 8.00pm