

<p><b><u>HUNTINGDON TOWN</u></b></p> <p><b><u>ANNUAL TOWN MEETING</u></b></p>
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The Annual Town Meeting of Huntingdon Town was held in the Commemoration Hall, High Street, Huntingdon, on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2011.

*These minutes are subject to approval at the Annual Town Meeting in 2011.*

Residents Present: Mr M Pugsley (Trustee of the Commemoration Hall); Mrs A Owen Smith (Hartford Conservation Group); Mr & Mrs M Mallett: Mrs C Adams; Mr P Clark: Mr D Adams (Councillor & Trustee of the Commemoration Hall); Mr C Doyle (Councillor & Chairman of the Trustees of the Commemoration Hall); Mrs C Dutton (Councillor); Mr A MacKender Lawrence (Councillor); Mr John Morgan (Councillor & Trustee of the Commemoration Hall); Mrs Susan Mulcahy (Councillor); Mr Chris Osborn (Councillor); Mr Malcolm Lyons (Chairman of Huntingdon & Godmanchester Twinning Association and the Federation of Small Businesses).

In Attendance: Mrs Pat Wells Johnson, Taoist Tai Chi Society; Mrs Katy Sismore, Huntingdon Town Partnership; Mr Mike Gledhill, Huntingdon Youth Theatre; County Councillor Graham Wilson; Mr Dave Richardson, Cambridgeshire Fire Service; Marilyn Bailey, Premises Manager, Huntingdon Commemoration Hall; and Mrs Julie Farrow, CEO, Hunts Volunteer Forum; and one other member of the public.

Councillor J Sarabia (Mayor of Huntingdon, Presiding)

1. **MAYOR'S WELCOME**

The Mayor, Councillor Jennifer Sarabia, welcomed everyone present to this year's Annual Town Meeting.

2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from District Councillor J Dutton; Mrs M Turnbull (Councillor); Mrs V Ford, Headteacher, St Peter's School; Mr D King (Huntingdon & Godmanchester Twinning Association; District Councillor M Simpson; Mrs D Polley (MacMillan Cancer Care); Mr M Black (Huntingdon Drama Club); Mr Richard Hough (Chairman, Huntingdon Freeman's Charity); Mr Victor Lucas (SABRE & PCT); Mr C Davis (Indoor Markets, Commemoration Hall); M Sharp & D Smith (Huntingdonshire District Council); Mr T D Sanderson (Councillor); Mr Charles Cullen; Mrs S Attwell (Huntingdon Volunteer Bureau); Mrs L Kadic (Councillor); Mr K Sumner (Councillor); Mrs P Shrapnel (Councillor); and Mr S Akthar (Councillor);

3. **MINUTES**

Copies of the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 5th May 2010 (M1) had been published to the Town Council website soon after the date of the meeting and were available for reference at the meeting.

A resident advised that since the Annual Town Meeting was a meeting of the electors of the town, allowed for under Section 13 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972, it was erroneous that the minutes should be headed "Huntingdon Town Council" and that Councillors should be recorded as "present", when residents were recorded as "in attendance".

The Chairman was also advised that reference to the Town Centre Partnership, heading item 5.6 of the minutes, was erroneous, since the word "Centre" had been removed from the name in 2007. The meeting also heard that "Hartford Conservation Society", in item 5.9, should read "Hartford Conservation Group".

The Mayor suggested that subject to the comments made at the meeting, the minutes might be accepted as a correct record and it was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 5th May 2010, whereupon they were duly signed by the Mayor.

4. **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MAYOR 2010 -2011**

The Mayor presented a report on the Council's activities during the year, a copy of which is attached to the original minutes of this meeting. Councillors Adams, Mackender Lawrence and Dutton reported on behalf of the Council's main Committees for Finance, Leisure & Community Services & Planning respectively.

5. **HUNTINGDON COMMEMORATION HALL CHARITY**

The Mayor then invited Trustee C G Doyle, Chairman of the Commemoration Hall Charity Trustees, to address the meeting. A copy of his report was passed to the Clerk and is attached to the original minutes of this meeting.

In response to an invitation for questions, a representative of a user group in the Hall asked why a glasswasher and not a dishwashing machine had been purchased for the Commemoration Hall kitchen, since this would have brought benefit to a larger number of users. The meeting heard that the machine had been purchased by PatCH, for whom a glasswasher was an essential when providing a bar at events.

6. **HUNTINGDONSHIRE VOLUNTEER FORUM**

The Mayor welcomed Julie Farrow, CEO of the Hunts Forum, who addressed the meeting.

Those in attendance heard that the Forum had a membership of 250, 50% of whom were based in Huntingdon or provided a service that was of benefit to the town. We heard that support for voluntary organisations comprised

representation and advocacy, promoting partnership working and the strategic involvement of local voluntary organisations. Support was available in the form of a “Critical Friend” for funding applications, advice on governance and for training in skills required by volunteers. The economic climate and its resulting local authority expenditure cuts meant that many voluntary groups were facing challenging times and would in turn affect many vulnerable individuals dependent on the support of the voluntary sector.

In response, the Town Partnership Manager praised the training programme on offer to Members and provided by the Forum, for its variety and quality, as well as the service to assist grant applications, used with success by the Town Partnership. The organisation’s newsletter was also praised.

There being no further questions, Mrs Farrow was thanked for her presentation.

## **5. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

The Mayor invited questions and comments from those electors of the town of Huntingdon on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affects the town.

### **5.1 Christmas Lights Fundraising**

Mr Peter Clark commented on the very enjoyable Ceilidh, organised at the Town Hall in February 2011, which was intended to raise funds for the Huntingdon Christmas Lights Fund. The meeting heard that despite its success as an event, costs had exceeded income and therefore no funds had been contributed to the Lights Fund. Mr Clark suggested that should another event be organised, the Wide Glide Band should be asked to play again and that the Commemoration Hall might be a better venue.

### **5.2 War Memorial for the Fallen of Huntingdon**

Mr Peter Clark asked if the Council might consider adding to the Thinking Soldier War Memorial, located in the Market Hill, the names of local men who had fallen in the World Wars. Reference was made to the various Rolls of Honour located throughout the town, one of which was in the Town Hall and therefore likely to become more accessible as the Town Council developed its headquarters, there.

There was discussion about the War Memorial and its ownership, considered to be that of the local Women’s Institute.

### **5.3 Public Notification of the Annual Town Meeting**

Mr Peter Clark commented that the date of the Annual Meeting had not been fixed until the start of April 2011 and suggested that this should be determined and publicised much earlier, to ensure maximum attendance at the meeting. The Council’s Newsletter. About Town, provided an excellent opportunity for public notice, perhaps more so than the local press.

#### **5.4 Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting**

Mr Peter Clark suggested to the Council that the questions and comments raised at the Annual Town Meeting ought to receive the consideration of the Council early in the year, in order that the Mayor might be in a position to report any action taken by the Council directly as a result of feedback from local electors at the meeting.

#### **5.5 Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service**

Mr Dave Richardson told the meeting that he was available to answer any questions about the Fire Service. Those present heard that the authority was still in discussion about how to find savings of £4M from a £30M budget by 2015 and that the challenge for the fire service was to provide the same service with less financial resource.

#### **5.6 Town Hall**

Mr Malcolm Lyons expressed congratulations to the Council on securing the tenure of the Town Hall for the people of Huntingdon.

There being no further comments or questions, the Mayor closed the meeting at approximately 7.45pm, thanking those who attended and encouraging attendance at any of the Council's meetings, where Councillors welcomed ideas and suggestions to enable them to best serve the needs of the town.

**TOWN MAYOR**