

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>RECESS COMMITTEE</u></p>
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A Meeting of the Recess Committee (Council in Committee) was held in the Town Hall, Market Hill, Huntingdon on Thursday 11th August 2011.

Present: Councillor A J MacKender Lawrence (Town Mayor) presiding.

Councillors Blackwell; Ellington; Forster; Hassell; Hensley; Hyams; Kadewere; Mulcahy; Pauley; Sanderson; Sarabia; and Skerry.

In Attendance: There were six members of the public and one member of the press in attendance.

Absent: Councillor A Bish.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors S Akthar; A Beevor; A Cole; C MacKender-Lawrence; & R Subhan.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Hyams, A J Mackender-Lawrence and Sanderson declared a personal interest in item 6 of the agenda, concerning expenditure reduction initiatives of the Huntingdonshire District Council, by reason of their membership as Councillors thereof.

3. **PUBLIC/TOWN COUNCILLOR ADDRESS TO COMMITTEE**

The Town Mayor reminded all in attendance that questions and representations made during the public address opportunity should be specifically related to matters on the agenda. Councillors and members of the public having indicated that they wished to address the meeting, it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to adjourn.

Councillor Pauley expressed the Council's condolences in respect of the recent bereavement suffered by Councillor A Cole.

Members were addressed by Councillors on the subjects of Allotments, the employment of the Town Hall Project Manager, the procedure for inclusion of

items on a Council meeting agenda, and the process for calling emergency meetings, none of which were items for discussion on the agenda.

Members also heard an address from Brian Luckham, a local resident, on the subject of the Town Hall Project Manager.

The Town Mayor reiterated his remarks about matters for discussion and it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to re-convene.

4. **PRIORY ROAD CEMETERY CHAPEL**

A report before Members gave Members information resulting from site visits to the property since the Finance Committee meeting of 16th June. A Councillor proposed that since visiting the Chapel, he considered that the replacement of rainwater goods was necessary to the property's future maintenance and that the current project offered an opportunity to carry this out without future additional preliminary cost.

Since the contractor had not been able to re-visit the site and estimate either the cost of repairs to the brick plinth or the exact cost of repairs to the Norfolk rubble walls, rather than base costs on a 20m² estimate, Members were asked to consider authorising expenditure for the full scope of the works, at £58,439 and to delegate any variation in expenditure within that sum on its constituents to the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Finance Committee, in consultation with the Town Clerk.

A Member expressed the view that this was not an acceptable proposal and it was therefore proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to support the proposal that the replacement of rainwater goods should be included with the works authorised on 16th June by the Finance Committee, but to defer authorisation of the award of contract until firm estimates for the full scope of the works and a programme had been considered and approved. It was further

RESOLVED that if necessary, the matter should receive consideration by an extraordinary meeting of the Finance Committee, in order that the works might not be delayed to the winter months.

5. **CONSULTATION ON AMENDMENTS TO STATUTORY MAIN RIVER MAP-HUNTINGDON**

Members had before them details of proposed amendments to the Statutory Main River Map, detailed in a letter for comment to the Environment Agency. It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to note these with no further comment.

6. **HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL – SERVICE PROVISION**

Members received a verbal report from the Town Clerk on discussion and action in connection with the District Council's expenditure reduction initiatives, specifically CCTV and Public Toilet provision.

Members heard that sub committee consideration of a draft service level agreement (SLA) on the management of the Riverside Park toilets would be required, to make recommendations on opening times and the acceptance of terms. In broad outline, the District Council was proposing to run the toilets and re-charge the Council, based on a tariff of costs in preparation by the District Council's Officer.

Councillors were advised that an audit of District and Town Council Play Areas was to be prepared and maintenance arrangements analysed and revised, if necessary, to ensure best use of resources for local provision.

In connection with CCTV and as directed by the Council's Finance meeting of 28th July, the District Council's Officer had been asked to provide a more detailed breakdown of the cost of provision than that contained in a letter dated 14th July, stating that a camera cost £5000 per year to provide, consisting of £500 maintenance, £1,000 line rental and £3,500 staffing and recharges. An SLA on CCTV provision was also in preparation. Members heard about the potential for reduced costs in future resulting from advancing technology, which could result in some income generation for the service. The Town Clerk confirmed that a District Council enquiry to the Police Authority about financial contribution to the service had resulted in confirmation that budgetary constraints prevented this. Members heard in conclusion that District Council's Cabinet meeting to discuss the future of the service might be delayed until November 2011 and that a meeting of the Inter Town Forum was to discuss the views of the District's Market Towns on the matter.

Finally, Members were advised that proposals were to be prepared by the District Council's Operations Manager in respect of the terms of occupation of the premises at Eastfield House by the Town Council's Grounds Staff, for consideration in the event that Council might consider disposal of the KGV Depot. Members heard that premises sharing made practical sense and afforded additional benefits, such as vehicle servicing.

Members discussed the various initiatives. There was general support for some progress in respect of a re-opening of the Riverside Park Toilets and disappointment in connection with the lack of potential police funding for CCTV, particularly since the police authority was the greatest user of the service. Members therefore proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to note the report with thanks and to look forward to consideration of recommendations from the Council's Sub Committee on the various cost reduction initiatives proposed.

MAYOR