

HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL**STAFFING SUB COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Staffing Sub Committee was held in the Commemoration Hall, High Street, Huntingdon on Thursday 17th March 2011.

Present: Councillors D A Adams (Chairman) L Kadic; A J Mackender-Lawrence; J T Morgan; S M Mulcahy; C J Osborn; T D Sanderson; P Shrapnel; and M Turnbull.

In attendance: Councillor Sarabia (Mayor); there were four members of the public and one member of the press in attendance.

18. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were none.

19. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none. The Chairman sought confirmation from Members on their right to attend, speak and vote at the meeting. The Mayor indicated that she was attending in her ex officio status as Mayor and it was agreed that this status allowed both speaking and voting. It was therefore

RESOLVED to note this with thanks.

20. **MINUTES**

Copies of the minutes of the meeting of the Staffing Sub Committee held on 20th January 2011 (M1) had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

A Member asked why the Committee was being asked to approve these minutes, a meeting of the Staffing Sub Committee held on 24th February 2011 having already approved them. In response to the Chairman's explanation that the Council had agreed to reconsider the matters resolved by that meeting, in view of some ambiguity about the members who had attended, spoken and voted, another Member suggested that since it had been established that decisions taken at the 24th February meeting were in fact legitimate, there was no requirement to re-consider the minutes.

Members' comments having been noted, it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to approve these as a correct record and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

21. **PUBLIC ADDRESS/ADDRESS BY OTHER TOWN COUNCILLORS TO COMMITTEE**

A Member having indicated that they wished to address the meeting, the Chairman proposed that the meeting adjourn and it was

RESOLVED so to do.

Peter Clark, a resident of Hartford, addressed the meeting. He told Members that he had received telephone calls, firstly from a Councillor and then from the Mayor, following the meeting held on 24th February.

He referred to an e-mail sent by the Town Clerk to the Mayor, dated March 3rd, which stated, “the member of the public who attended the meeting has informed former Councillor Luckham about the proceedings last Thursday. The Chairman of the sub committee has subsequently been contacted by one/both individuals, claiming that owing to the breach of standing orders, the decisions taken are invalid”. Mr Clark declared this to be a lie and demanded a written response in explanation within 24 hours. He told Members that he had neither contacted the Chairman of the Staffing Sub Committee meeting, nor was he of the view that the decisions taken at the meeting were invalid. He further advised the Council that despite the delegated power given to the Town Clerk and one Member to recruit staff to positions attracting a salary over a certain level, he considered that the task of appointing a Project Manager for the Town Hall should be delegated to a small number of individuals.

Former Councillor and resident, Brian Luckham, then addressed the Council. He advised that he had never met Mr Clark and that his information about the conduct of the 24th February meeting had resulted from a conversation overheard in the Market Inn. He then went on to talk about the insurance implications inherent in contracts for services and employment contracts.

Members of the public were thanked for their comments and it was

RESOLVED to reconvene.

22. **TOWN HALL PROJECT MANAGER – TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT**

The Chairman invited comment on the terms of engagement for a Town Hall Project Manager. On the subject of whether to offer a contract for services or a contract of employment, various arguments were put in favour of one or the other. There was various discussion about the term of the engagement and it was agreed that this would be for the term of the project. In conclusion, it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to recommend to offer a contract of employment.

23. **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS**

It was moved that the public and the press be excluded from the meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 as matters regarded as confidential were about to be discussed. It was therefore

RESOLVED to exclude the public and the press

24. **MACEBEARER APPOINTMENT**

The Town Clerk reported to the Staffing Sub Committee the results of the recruitment process in respect of the Council's vacancy for a Macebearer after Mayor Making 2011, the content and recommendations of which are contained in a private and confidential appendix to these minutes.

25. **RE-ADMISSION OF THE PRESS**

It was

RESOLVED that the public and the press be now re-admitted to the meeting.

26. **DATE & AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING**

A Member asked the Chairman when consideration of the Town Clerk's appraisal and the Code of Conduct for Members and Officers would be considered by the sub committee and it was

RESOLVED that these matters would receive consideration at a meeting of the Staffing Sub Committee in advance of the Finance Committee meeting planned for 14th April 2011.

CHAIRMAN