

HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

A meeting of the Huntingdon Town Council was held in the Commemoration Hall, High Street, Huntingdon, on Thursday 27th October 2011.

Present: Councillors A Beevor; A Bish; A Blackwell; A Ellington; S Hassell; W Hensley; C Hyams; P Kadewere; N Pauley; T Sanderson; and R Subhan (Deputy Town Mayor).

In attendance: County Councillor, Sir Peter Brown; County Councillor G Wilson; and two members of the public.

The Mayor's Chaplain opened the proceedings with prayers.

37. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Akthar; A Cole; T Forster; A J MacKender Lawrence; C MacKender Lawrence; S Mulcahy; J Sarabia; and J Skerry.

38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Hyams declared an interest in matters concerning the District Council, by reason of his membership thereof.

39. MINUTES

Copies of the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 22nd September 2011 (M4) had been circulated in advance of the meeting, following their informal approval by the Town Mayor. It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED that these were a correct record they were duly signed by the Deputy Town Mayor

40. PUBLIC ADDRESS/ADDRESS BY OTHER COUNCILLORS TO THE COUNCIL

There being an indication of a wish to address the Council, the Deputy Town Mayor proposed that the meeting adjourn and it was

RESOLVED so to do.

Councillor Pauley addressed the Council on the subject of the provision of the Riverside Park Toilets. Concerned that the opening date coincided with a protest march planned in the town, he suggested that some assurance should be sought from those involved with its

management that the Council's liabilities would be minimised. Councillor Hyams expressed the same concerns.

Councillor Kadewere told the Council that he had attended a recent Neighbourhood Forum meeting, where local policing priorities had been agreed for the next quarter.

Members were thanked for their comments and it was

RESOLVED to reconvene.

41. REPORTS FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Councillor, Sir Peter Brown, addressed the Council on the subject of Huntingdon Fire Station, where services were under review as part of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire and Rescue services initiative to find savings. A change in night time services was likely, although day time change was unexpected.

The County Councillor referred to development plans for the Huntingdon West Area. Brampton Road and Ermine Street were to be joined by a link road, following which a new Sainsbury's store would be built, after which the current Sainsburys site and Chequers Court could be redeveloped, when it was hoped that the new development would attract a number of popular retail outlets. Measures that would keep traffic congestion to a minimum were under consideration.

Since commencement of the Guided Bus Service, local County Councillors had made representations regarding the speed of service for Huntingdon-Cambridge commuters between Huntingdon and St Ives. As a result, Stagecoach had arranged for an express service at 07:10 and 07:40 to travel directly from Huntingdon along the Hartford Road and into St Ives from Monday to Friday.

Members heard about the very successful work undertaken as part of the Fusion Youth project and the County Councillor thanked the Town Councillors, once again, for their support in its continued running. The Neighbourhood Panel was keen to involve young people in the running of the Town and would explore methods of achieving this in the future.

County Cllr Graham Wilson then addressed the Council. He explained there was an overspend developing on Community and Adult services and the County was starting to develop its plans for next year. Members of the public had had the opportunity to contribute their priorities in a recent consultation. Cllr Wilson also mentioned a new highways improvement scheme which would allow the Town Council to contribute to local improvements. Members heard that representations on increased highways funding had been made to the County Council's Cabinet for consideration.

Cllr Wilson said the Cabinet had decided to maintain their opposition to large wind turbines on county farms but was going to provide guidance on the acceptability of smaller turbines.

Cllr Wilson referred to a recent decision to increase County Councillors' allowances by 25% from the following April, as recommended by an independent remunerations panel, appointed by the Council. Members heard how the voting on the matter went and were encouraged to lend their support to a campaign to have the decision rescinded, by visiting a petition at www.noto25percent.com.

A Member congratulated the County Councillors for their stance on allowances, demonstrating restraint in hard times. Thanks were also expressed in respect of improvements in journey times for the Guided Bus Service, which another Member stated were up to 30 minutes and attributed to roadworks and development.

Questions were asked about the regularity of the decision taken by County Councillors on allowances, owing to uncertainty about the authority of an Officer to conduct an independent review of Councillor expenses. An investigation to establish whether correct procedure had been followed was underway. Members heard that the last review was carried out 2007 and had resulted in no increase.

A Member referred to plans for a new cycleway between Sallowbush Road and Butts Grove Way and suggested that street lighting on the route required improvement, asking County Councillors to take the matter in hand.

Finally, a Member asked what was being done by County Councillors to support those affected and worried by the current economic climate. Members heard that it was the County Council's aim to look after those in need, particularly those with low income and the elderly. Town Councillors were encouraged to work in the community to ensure that people knew what help was available.

The County Councillors were thanked for their reports and it was

RESOLVED to reconvene.

42. **PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES**

Copies of the minutes of the following meetings had been circulated in advance of the meeting and for each of these, it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to receive, approve and adopt the recommendations therein:

- (i) Leisure & Community Services Committee of 15th September 2011 (M4)
- (ii) Finance Committee of 13th October 2011 (M5)
- (iii) Planning Applications Panel of 1st, 15th, 29th September 2011 & 13th October (M8, M9, M10 & M11)

Clerk's Note: The minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 28th July 2011 were not adopted by the Council and should be presented for adoption at the next meeting, since a revised agenda published on Tuesday 25th October referring to these had not been received by Councillors.

43. **MEDWAY CENTRE – LEASE REVISION**

Members were asked to consider the approval of Council signature and seal of documentation in respect of lease of the Medway Centre, copies of which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, as considered by the Finance Committee meeting of 13th October 2011. It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED so to do.

44. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

In the absence of the Mayor, there were none.

MAYOR