

**HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL**

A meeting of Huntingdon Town Council was held in the Town Hall, Huntingdon, on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors: A Beevor; D Brown; J Dyne (Mayor); S Gifford; P Kadewere; A Mackender-Lawrence; S McAdam; B Morrell and S Mulcahy.

Absent: Councillors: T Forster and R Valatka.

In Attendance: Reverend Andrew Milton and Chris Stopford, Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC).

51. **WELCOME**

The Mayor welcomed those in attendance and before the commencement of proceedings, invited the Mayor's Chaplain to say a prayer.

*Clerk's Note: Reverend Andrew Milton left the meeting after prayers and it was recommended to move item 59 to the top of the agenda – CCTV.*

52. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors A Blackwell; S Dyne; L George; S Hassell; B Hensley; J Jacobs; B Manning and T Sanderson.

53. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Brown declared an interest under item 59 CCTV as an Executive Councillor at HDC for CCTV.

54. **PUBLIC ADDRESS/ADDRESS FROM OTHER COUNCILLORS TO COUNCIL**

The Mayor asked Members and members of the public whether they would like to address the meeting. A Member expressed that they wished to speak, and it was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED** to adjourn the meeting.

Councillor Kadewere reported to Members that residents of Norfolk Road had expressed their gratitude for the replacement of the lamp post, funded by Huntingdon Town Council. Councillor Kadewere questioned how long it was likely to be before the lamp post was installed and the Town Clerk suggested it would be at least 12 weeks.

Councillor Gifford queried whether the telephone boxes had been removed on Princes Street and by the Cromwell Museum. The Town Clerk advised that the

telephone box on Princes Street had been removed that day, but that the one by the Cromwell Museum was still to be removed.

Councillor Mackender-Lawrence questioned why minutes of the standing committees had not appeared on the Town Council agenda for formal approval. The Town Clerk explained that the minutes from previous standing committees would be appearing on the January 2018 Town Council agenda for formal approval.

Councillor Beevor queried why Planning Applications Panel minutes did not appear on the Town Council agenda and the Town Clerk advised that these appeared on the Planning Committee agendas for formal approval.

The Chairman thanked Members for their comments and with no further questions, it was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED** to reconvene.

55. **MINUTES**

Members had before them copies of the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017 (M4). It was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED** to approve and adopt these minutes and they were duly signed by the Mayor.

56. **REPORTS FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

There were none.

57. **TOWN CLERK'S UPDATE**

The Town Clerk reported that a pre-app meeting had taken place regarding the new Community Centre and had been extremely positive. There had been minor comments made with suggested amendments, including the relocation of existing trees that currently made up the community orchard.

Members were told that the Crematorium/Sports Hub planning application would be heard before Huntingdonshire District Council's panel on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017. All issues with HTC's application had been addressed and a letter had been sent to Sports England to clarify their points of concern.

The Town Clerk moved on to tell Members that at his recent appraisal, a request had been made to receive a list of compliments and complaints received by HTC. Members were advised of the following compliments:

- Andrew Buddle, Deputy Head Groundsman, had received a compliment for finding and safely returning a lost mobile phone to its owner. The owner could not express their gratitude enough.
- Dart UK had offered to provide 500 free of charge disposable cups for the town's forthcoming Remembrance Sunday Service, as a result of positive partnership working between HTC and the local community.

- Hunters Down Care Home had expressed their gratitude to Huntingdon In Bloom for arranging an 80m<sup>2</sup> area of daffodil bulbs to be planted along Hartford Road, in front of the Care Home.
- Huntingdon Music School had emailed HTC to give their thanks to Caretaker Malcolm Lawrie for going above and beyond his duty to help with their function in the Town Hall.
- At a meeting with HDC's planners, compliments were given to the Estates Services Team for the standard of the floral displays and maintenance of the town.

Finally, the Town Clerk reported that the following complaints had been received:

- Residents adjacent to Bloomfield Park continued to report problems of anti-social behaviour and drinking in the park.
- The ongoing issue of the right hand turn out of Lidl's car park. It was suggested that this could be addressed through Cambridgeshire County Council's Local Highway Improvement scheme and that a site visit with Lidl was to be arranged.

The Town Clerk moved on to ask Members for their thoughts on granting the Freedom of the Town to RAF Alconbury's USAF 501<sup>st</sup> Wing, and to the successors of the 31<sup>st</sup> Foot (Huntingdonshire) Regiment, the Princess of Wales Royal Regiment (PWRR). Members were in unanimous support of granting the Freedom of the Town to the two bodies and the Town Clerk recommended that one be exercised in 2018 and another in 2019. One Member questioned whether there were any relevant anniversaries to tie in with dates for the Freedoms to be exercised and it was agreed that the Town Clerk would speak to each of the regiments to proceed with arrangements.

## 58. **ROLLING PROGRAMME**

- (i) Members had before them copies of the rolling programme of work. One Member questioned how the Christmas Market was progressing. The Town Clerk explained that plans were all set for the weekend, with stalls located on the Market Square, in the Town Hall and All Saints' Church across the three days. Indications on social media pages suggested that attendance would be high, with over 12k people interested in the event. Members were advised that the event was likely to give HTC a Return on Investment by year three.
- A Member asked why HTC was covering the cost of the Gym Club's car park maintenance and the Town Clerk advised that this was the last item in the programme of works before handing all maintenance responsibility to the Gym Club. The Member also queried the pocket of land on the boundary of the Gym Club and the Town Clerk advised that this was currently being investigated with Land Registry as there was no documented owner but there was a letter that claimed it was owned by HTC. Once this had been officially registered as HTC land, Members could then decide whether to keep or sell the area in question.
- Another Member questioned progress with St Mary's Church Wall. The Town Clerk advised that there had been complications with the wall, but that applications had been made to all relevant bodies for the repair work to be undertaken. Members were also told that the railings at All Saints'

Church had been painted, and that a grant had been applied for to make repairs to the South African War Memorial.

- (ii) Members had before them copies of the civic events rolling programme. Members noted the rolling programme of work. The Town Clerk advised Members that in 2018, Shrove Tuesday fell during the schools' half term week. The annual Pancake Flipathon event would normally take place on Shrove Tuesday, but this would mean no schools could attend. Members were therefore asked to consider holding the event a week early to allow school participation.

## 59. **CCTV**

*Clerk's Note: This item was addressed after Item 55 – Minutes.*

Members received a presentation given by Councillor Brown in his capacity as Executive Councillor at HDC for CCTV, along with Mr Chris Stopford.

Councillor Brown explained that HDC had set up a Local Authority Trading Company called 'Huntingdonshire District Council Ventures Ltd.' The purpose of setting up the company was to form business partnerships, to generate income and reduce the burden to tax payers across Huntingdonshire.

Members were told that one service of the company would be the provision of a new CCTV system, with the aim being to provide the service at cost neutrality by 2021. Councillor Brown explained that the process was currently at the tender stage, with 4 companies responding, 3 of which being viable to provide the service. Members were told that the tenders would be negotiated in November 2017 with final tenders being submitted in December 2017. It was anticipated that the joint venture would be live by mid-April 2018.

Councillor Brown moved on to address Huntingdon as a specific customer of CCTV, with advice given that there were 49 CCTV cameras currently in the town. Members were reminded that Huntingdon's contribution towards CCTV had dropped when a number of cameras were removed.

A Member suggested that if the new CCTV system was wireless, this would dramatically reduce the cost of the service, and would make it more flexible to add cameras onto the system. Locations such as the anticipated Crematorium, Sports Hub and Community Centre were highlighted, along with Bloomfield Park.

Members were advised that by 2020, it was hoped that a 30% saving would be seen through the CCTV service and that this saving would be shared between all partners. Councillor Brown advised that other towns and parishes across the district would receive the CCTV presentation over the next few weeks in order for all parties to be aware of the new plans and savings.

Members were reminded with the current CCTV cameras that they were very limited with their functionality, not being able to zoom or tilt. It was reported that the wireless system would be fit for purpose and would give a more accurate camera availability breakdown.

Councillor Brown explained that income would be generated through selling the system to private businesses and service providers and that the timescale to roll

out the new system in Huntingdon would be 49 days and that a new control room was being built at Eastfield House in Huntingdon, which would be fully up and running before closing the current CCTV control room. This would mean there would be no loss of camera coverage at any time during the changeover of systems.

Councillor Brown finished by advising that the new system would be implemented and running throughout the whole of Huntingdonshire by April 2019.

A Member questioned what other services the new trading company would offer, and it was advised that services such as document printing, waste disposal and building control would be rolled out as part of the service offering.

Another Member asked what would happen to the income from the trading company and where it would be spent. Councillor Brown explained that the aim was to get to a situation of cost neutrality, but that beyond that, there would be a reduction of burden to the tax payer.

With no further questions, the Mayor thanked Councillor Brown and Chris Stopford for their presentation.

## 60. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported that he had had a great year to date and had been kept busy attending many events in the local community.

The Mayor gave thanks to Members who attended the recent Civic Sunday Service and encouraged attendance to forthcoming events such as Remembrance Sunday and the Civic Carol Service.

Members were told that fundraising activity was building up and everyone was welcome to attend all forthcoming events:

- 4<sup>th</sup> November – Bingo at the Medway Centre
- 14<sup>th</sup> November – Paranormal Night at Huntingdon Town Hall
- 18<sup>th</sup> November – 1940's Fish & Chip Supper
- 6<sup>th</sup> January 2018 – Prince and Princess' Ball at All Saints' Church
- Date TBC – Valentine's Dinner

The Mayor reported that his recent twinning trip to Szentendre was fantastic, with an amazing art festival and youth festival for children from Szentendre and Twin Town Gubbio. Members were told that sadly the children from Huntingdon were unable to attend due to the recent Ryanair strikes. The Mayor highlighted that his stay had to be extended due to unavailability of three flights for himself, the Mayoress and his son but that the hosts had been exceptionally accommodating and hospitable. Finally, the Mayor explained that he had bought the youth festival t-shirts back to Huntingdon, to present to the children unable to attend the event. The Mayor suggested that a gift could be purchased for the hosts as a way of expressing thanks for their extended hospitality. A Member advised that Szentendre housed a 'Huntingdon Room', and that a gift could be purchased to go in there.

A Member commented that the recent Civic Sunday Service had been excellent, but commented on the lack of representation by Council Members. It was pointed out however that the number of visiting dignitaries was very good. Another Member seconded the comments and advised that Huntingdon was always the town to follow. The Member therefore stressed the importance of Council Members attending to represent the town.

Finally, a Member questioned the idea of purchasing an embellished black scarf containing the Town Seal for the Mayor's Chaplain, to give thanks for his years of service to Huntingdon. Members agreed that this would be a fitting token of thanks and the Town Clerk advised he would look into getting a scarf made.

With no further comments, the Mayor gave thanks to Members for their support.

61. **DATE AND AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was noted as Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Town Hall, Market Hill, Huntingdon.

**MAYOR**