

HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

A meeting of Huntingdon Town Council was held on Thursday 2nd September 2021 in Huntingdon Town Hall at 7:00pm.

Present: Councillors: M Baker; A Beevor; A Blackwell; P Brown; C Doyle; S Gifford, V Hufford; M Kadewere: P Kadewere; P Kennington; B Luckham; A McAdam; S McAdam; P Pearce; T Sanderson; S Sweek and K Webb (Mayor).

In attendance: The Town Clerk and Revd. Jon Randall.

8. **WELCOME**

The Town Mayor welcomed those in attendance. The Mayor invited the Mayor's Chaplain, Revd Jon Randall, to say a prayer.

9. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor J Cole

10. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

11. **MINUTES**

Members had before them copies of the minutes from the Reconvened Annual Town Council (Mayor Making) meeting held on 29th July (M1) and Recess Committee meeting held on 19th August 2021.

It was noted that Cllr Sweek was in attendance on 29th July and that the Recess Committee opened with a Minutes Silence in tribute to the late Cllr Shrapnel.

With these corrections it was proposed, seconded and

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

Members had before them copies of the following:

- (i) Leisure & Community Services Committee – 5th August 2021 (M1)
- (ii) Finance Committee – 5th August 2021 (M1)

It was noted that Cllr Brown had submitted apologies for both meetings held on 5th August with this correction, it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to approve the recommendations contained within these minutes.

12. **PUBLIC ADDRESS FROM COUNCILLORS OR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO COUNCIL**

The Mayor asked Members and members of the public whether they would like to address the meeting.

Two Members indicated that they wished to address the meeting. It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to adjourn the meeting.

A Member of Council raised serious concern that Huntingdonshire District Council had approved the plans for a Gambling Venue in the High Street, when the Town Council had made strong representations as to why this should not proceed and requested the towns District Councillors to raise this issue with HDC.

A second Member wish to advise the meeting of the 100 Afghanistan refugees being housed currently in hotels across the county. Peterborough City Council would be responsible for finding housing for them, but in the meantime the Huntingdon Community Group was assisting by receiving donations. Currently there are three families in Huntingdon who undertake translation services.

With no further addresses it was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to reconvene the meeting.

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

Councillor Sanderson advised Members that Cambridgeshire County Council had commenced discussions with District and City Councils concerning devolution of services and associated budgets to them from County. The next discussions would be with Town & parish Clerks via the SLCC Branch meeting.

Members were reminded that the LHI bids needed to be submitted by month end and that HDC had commended Budget setting for 2022/23 and that the One Leisure facilities across the district had re-opened

Councillor P Kadewere commented on the working of HDC Covid Project with recognised groups across the town.

Although not in attendance Cllr Morris submitted a report to all Members which was received and noted.

14. **TOWN CLERK'S UPDATE**

The Town Clerk reported the following:

- Following interview, the new Deputy Town Clerk had been appointed and introduced Charlotte Starkie to Members, who in turn welcomed her to the Town Council.
- That the Finance Manager Helen Merrick had resigned and would be leaving the Town Council at the beginning of October. Members were disappointed to hear of Helen leaving and passed on to her their thanks and respect.
- That the Town Council had been approach by David Bocking, son of former Town Clerk Ted Bocking concerning a collection of 130 pieces of Gosport China

collected by his parents, with the Huntingdon crest on, asking if the Town Council would be interested in this unique collection.

With no further updates, the Mayor gave thanks to the Town Clerk.

15. **ROLLING PROGRAMMES**

Members had before them a copy of Huntingdon Town Council's Rolling Programmes. The Mayor asked if there were any comments or questions?

A Member raised the issue that the District Council are Huntingdonshire – not Huntingdon as shown in the program and that this should be corrected and noted for future reference.

It was unanimously voiced that the Town Council's Grounds Team had once again put on an excellent floral display cross the town, for which Members, residents and visitors all appreciated.

A vote of thanks to the Grounds Team was proposed and seconded and it was

RESOLVED to pass on these thanks to all the staff concerned.

16. **BEST KEPT FRONT GARDEN COMPETITION**

The Mayor presented awards in the Best Kept Front Garden Competition to second and third placed winners. Unfortunately, the actual winner could not be present to receive the Cup and award, which would be presented at the next full council meeting.

17. **MEETINGS CALENDAR**

Members had before them a copy of Huntingdon Town Council's Meetings Calendar 2021/22. The Mayor asked if there were any comments or questions and with Members content,

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to accept and adopt Huntingdon Town Council's Meetings Calendar 2021/22

18. **COUNCILLOR VACANCY**

The Town Clerk verbally updated Members of the process to be followed to fill the Town Councillor Vacancy in East Ward following the passing of Councillor Trish Shrapnel. Following the guidance as outlined in the LGA '72 S87(1 & (2) – Although the vacancy occurred on the date of death it is not declared until the first working day following the funeral. Therefore, the vacancy would be declared and posted on 13th September, following which 10 electors, within 14 days, have the right to call for an election. If an election is called, this must be held within 60 days of being called. If no election is called for, the Town Council then proceed to co-opt to fill the vacancy as soon as is practical.

19. **REPRESENTATION TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

19.1 Members discussed and agreed the Councillor Membership onto outside bodies – copy attached

19.2 Members submitted written reports or verbal update on the activities of the Outside Bodies they represent – it was agreed that regular written reports were required from each representative on a quarterly basis.

19.1 & 19.2 were proposed and seconded a, it was

RESOLVED so to do.

20. **CREMATORIUM POLICIES**

Members were in receipt of the following policies:

- i) Pre-Paid cremations Scheme
- ii) Recycling of Metals Scheme
- iii) Crematorium Regulations
- iv) Natural transition

Members were advised that the Pre-Paid Scheme was not a Funeral Plan, as the Town Council cannot legally provide funeral plans, but can accept pre-payment of cremations, as currently operated with pre-paid burials.

The Mayor asked if there were any comments or questions and with Members content,

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to accept and adopt the Crematorium Polices as listed above 19 I, ii, iii, iv.

21. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor praised all those involved with the Mayor Making meeting, being one of the only councils locally to undertake a full ceremonial meeting, which was much appreciated not only by those attending, but by the Mayor and his family.

The Mayor highlighted that due to COVID-19 activities had been restricted, however, the following items had been and would be taking place:

- Attendance at Huntingdon Carnival
- Wreath laying for VJ Day
- RAF Wyton Families Day
- Hinchingsbrooke Park Beekeepers

22. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was noted as Thursday 11th November in the Council Chamber Huntingdon Town Hall.

MAYOR

**Representatives to Outside Bodies
2021-22**

Organisation	2021-22 Councillor Representatives	
BID Huntingdon (1)	C Doyle	
Cromwell Museum Trust (1)	S Gifford	
Hartford Conservation Group (1)	C Doyle	
Friends of Coneygear Park (2)	T Sanderson	P Kennington
HBAC (Huntingdon Business Against Crime) (1)	P Kadewere	
Huntingdon Freeman's Charity (1)	J Cole	
Huntingdon Commemoration Hall Charity (4)	A Beevor	S McAdam
	S Sweek	A McAdam
Huntingdon and Godmanchester Twinning Association (1)	A Blackwell	
Civic Society (1)	C Doyle	
Huntingdon In Bloom (2)	S. Gifford	K. Webb
St Johns' Almshouses Charities (2)	S. Gifford	A Blackwell
Hunts Volunteer Centre (1)	A Beevor	
Coneygear User Group (2)	A Blackwell	P Brown
Joint Town Devolution Group (2)	Mayor	Deputy Mayor
Library Support Group (1)	S McAdam	
History Festival Group (2)	C. Doyle	S McAdam
Shopmobility (2)	A Beevor	
Local History Society (2)	C Doyle	P Kadewere
Fusion (1)	S Sweek	
Hunts Forum (2)	P Kadewere	A Beevor
Huntingdon Community Centre (2)	A Beevor	P Brown