

**HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL**

A meeting of Huntingdon Town Council was held via Zoom on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 6.00pm.

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

In attendance: Revd. Jon Randall and one member of the public.

13. **STANDING ORDERS**

Members were asked to approve the suspension of Standing Order 5.g. (wearing of robes) as per Standing Order 26.d. It was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED** to approve the suspension of Standing Order 5.g. (wearing of robes).

14. **WELCOME**

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

15. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors A Diaz and S Sweek.

16. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

17. **MINUTES**

Members had before them copies of the minutes from the Extra Ordinary Town Council meeting held 29th October 2020 (M2). It was proposed, seconded and

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

18. **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. A Member expressed that they wished to speak, and it was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED** to adjourn the meeting.

A Member noted that many workers were worried about their futures due to job uncertainty during the pandemic, and suggested that HTC should support all local workers, including NHS workers. It was pointed out the HTC was not able to interfere in other local authorities, but confirmed their support and appreciation for all workers.

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

**RESOLVED** to reconvene.

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

Cllr Kadewere reported that HDC were involved in setting up organisations to help residents during the second lockdown. It was also reported that the community chest grant was open, and community groups were encouraged to apply for funding.

Cllr Sanderson reported that the new crossing and resurfacing work at Buttsgrove Way had been completed. The Highway improvement work at Hinchbrooke Park to widen the footpath was delayed due to lease issues regarding the street lights and hedges.

Members noted that the new Pathfinder link road to Godmanchester was now open and pointed out that there had been significant congestion on the Ring Road. Members expressed concern at the layout as it forced cars travelling up towards the train station into the right-hand lane. It was hoped that the congestion was only due to travellers getting used to the new layout, and it was also pointed out that the Mill Common link road would ease congestion when it opened.

20. **TOWN CLERK'S UPDATE**

The Town Clerk reported the following:

- The Buttsgrove Way crossing was completed, as noted by Cllr Sanderson. It was emphasised that this was a Town Council project through the Local Highways Improvements scheme.
- The Town Council had been approached to take on the management of additional grass verges and negotiations were underway.
- 4 certificates had been received for the Council's submissions to the 2020 Anglia In Bloom campaign.
- A letter from local MP Jonathan Djanogly had been received regarding proposed changes to the Luton Airport stacking area. Members were informed that this would be on the agenda at an upcoming Strategy and Corporate Plan committee meeting for discussion.

Members thanked the Town Clerk for the update, and expressed their thanks to the Estates Team for their work on the In Bloom submissions, and for maintaining high standards in the town throughout the pandemic.

21. **ROLLING PROGRAMME**

It was explained that the rolling programme was not currently required as all upcoming Town Council events had been cancelled/postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

22. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor informed Members that while many mayoral events had been cancelled, he had been able to make visits to local shops, the Volunteer Centre and the Fire Station, as well as working with the Dreamdrops charity to deliver donated computer equipment to the hospital.

The Mayor also explained that the Government guidance for Remembrance Services had changed, and thanked Officers and Revd. Jon Randall for accommodating the changes.

23. **MAYOR'S COMMUNITY SHIELD**

Cllr McAdam, Mayor of Huntingdon 2019/20 presented the Mayor's Community Shield to Cllr Mike Baker, who was nominated for his ongoing work in the local community, including the Volunteer Centre, St John's Almshouses and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Members congratulated Cllr Baker, and thanked him for his dedication to the town. It was noted that the shield would be engraved and presented to Cllr Baker at a later date.

24. **CREMATORIUM UPDATE**

Members had before them a report on the progress of the crematorium. The Estates Manager informed Members that the project was progressing well despite the bad weather. The external cladding and brickwork were going up and the windows were being installed.

It was explained that there would be a 4-week delay on the project due to issues with the power supply and connection of the control panel. It was noted that the delay brought the completion in line with the new depot build, which would mean the external building work at the depot would be completed before the opening of the crematorium which would avoid potential disturbances to services.

Members thanked the Estates Manager for the update and noted that it was clear a lot of work had gone into managing the project.

25. **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

Members were informed that due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the usual Remembrance Sunday service would not be possible. Therefore, residents would be advised to 'remember at home', and the Mayor and a small civic party would attend the Market Square to lay a wreath. The Mayor would also lay a wreath on 11<sup>th</sup> November, but there would be no formal service.

26. **COVID-19**

Members were updated on the following:

- Funeral services (within the restrictions) were allowed to proceed, and signs had been displayed on the entrances to the cemetery informing residents not to gather.
- The Coneygear Centre was able to remain open for health and education purposes. It was noted that the Blood Donors had been contacted at the suggestion of Cllr Sweek and had booked their first session at the centre in January 2021.
- The Town Hall was still being used for coroners inquests, as well as weddings which were able to proceed within the current restrictions.
- The Estates Team were working in 2 separate bubbles to reduce the risk of the whole team being required to self-isolate at the same time.

27. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

The Mayor asked Members whether it was their wish to move that the public and the press be excluded from the meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 and it was

**RESOLVED** to do so.

28. **CONEYGEAR CENTRE FINAL ACCOUNT REPORT**

This item can be found in a private & confidential appendix.

29. **READMISSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS**

The Mayor asked Members whether it was their wish to readmit members of the public and the press to the meeting and it was

**RESOLVED** to do so.

30. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was noted as Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021, via Zoom.

**MAYOR**