

HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

An Extra Ordinary meeting of Huntingdon Town Council was held via Zoom on Thursday 17th December 2020 at 6.30pm.

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

Absent: Cllr T Shrapnel.

31. **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).

32. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were none.

33. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr S McAdam declared an interest under Item 36: Bingo Premises Licence, as he was a member of the HDC Development Management Committee.

34. **TOWN BRIDGE**

Representatives from Cambridgeshire Council were in attendance to update Members on the proposed trial closure of the Town Bridge, and so it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting.

Members received an overview of the proposal, which would include the closure of the bridge between Huntingdon and Godmanchester, with access for emergency vehicles only. The pathfinder link road would be the new route for cars between the towns. The project aimed to increase safe access for pedestrians and cyclists, particularly students travelling to Hinchingsbrooke School.

Members were informed of the plans for publicising and consulting the public on the closure. A joint press release between CCC, HTC and Godmanchester Town Council was proposed, as well as co-ordinated messaging to be shared online. Signage would be displayed at the site up to a month in advance of the closure. Feedback would be monitored throughout the closure.

The closure would be implemented between 3 to 4 months from a decision being made. There was a statutory 10-week process for changes to be made the bus services.

Members questioned how long the trial would last, and it was explained it would be between 6 months and 18 months.

Members raised concerns regarding the impact on bus routes. It was pointed out that the current Whippet route would no longer be able to service Post Street as there was no space for the bus to turn around. Members asked if there was an option for buses to use the bridge as well as emergency vehicles but were informed that the bridge was not wide enough for buses and cycle lanes. Members were concerned with the impact this would have on residents' access into Huntingdon Town Centre, particularly elderly residents who may not be able to walk with their shopping. It was also pointed out that there was already a separate footbridge for pedestrians.

Members questioned the anticipated impact on traffic on Huntingdon Ring Road, and it was noted that one purpose of the trial was to assess this impact.

Godmanchester Town Councillor Graham Campbell voiced support for the trial, due to ongoing conflict in the area between pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles.

It was also pointed out that the historical bridge was not built to deal with vehicle traffic and noted that vehicles now had an alternative route (the new link road).

Members also considered the potential impact on local businesses, including the bakery and newsagents on Post Street that would no longer have custom from through-traffic.

Members felt the decision was rushed and felt that residents of both Huntingdon and Godmanchester should be consulted before a decision was made.

It was proposed and seconded to accept option F from the proposed improvement scheme.

*7 Members voted for
9 Members voted against
2 Members abstained*

35. **LUTON AIRPORT STACKING**

Members were asked to agree a response to the National Air Traffic Service consultation regarding the Luton Airport stacking area.

Members felt that the path was too close to Huntingdon, and also raised concerns about the carbon footprint of the aircraft.

Members were reminded that they had approved the relocation of Marshalls to the old RAF Wyton site and had not raised concerns about aircraft.

A Member commented that most people travelled on planes for holidays etc. and these planes had to fly somewhere.

A Member noted that this proposal would not benefit Huntingdon in any way, and objected to the increase in CO2 emissions and noise pollution that the proposed changes would bring.

It was proposed and seconded to accept the proposed stacking area.

*7 Members voted for
9 Members voted against
2 Members abstained*

36. **BINGO PREMISES LICENCE**

Clerk's Note: Cllr Sanderson declared an interest in this item and left the meeting.

Members discussed the application for a bingo premises license made to HDC by Cashino Gaming Ltd.

Members were made aware of a petition circulated by residents which at the time of the meeting had 507 signatures opposing the application.

Members felt they had a duty to protect vulnerable people from gambling beyond their means. It was noted that gambling was detrimental to people's financial and mental wellbeing, especially as any were struggling with the impact of COVID-19.

It was felt that a gambling establishment in a prominent location on the High Street would be attractive to young people and normalise the idea of gambling. Concerns were also raised about the impact on neighbouring listed buildings, as well as the potential for noise and anti-social behaviour.

It was also pointed out that Huntingdon Neighbourhood Plan policies TC1 and TC2 supported Members' objections.

It was then proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to submit an objection to the licence application citing the reasons discussed.

Clerk's Note: HDC Licensing have advised that the consultation period had ended, but the objection submitted by HTC would be more suitable for the upcoming 'change of use' planning application.

37. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

MAYOR