

HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

A meeting of Huntingdon Town Council was held at the Town Hall, Market Hill, Huntingdon, PE29 3PJ on Thursday 10th November 2022 at 7pm.

Present: Councillors: A Blackwell; K Brockett; J Cole; D Landon Cole (Mayor); S Gifford; M Kadewere; P Kadewere; B Luckham; A McAdam; S McAdam; A Norton; G Shiels; T Sanderson; P Pearce and K Webb.

In Attendance: Cllr Nathan Hunt and Cllr Dave Shaw from Huntingdonshire District Council and 4 members of the public

(Clerk's note: two members of the public arrived at 7.30pm)

50. WELCOME

The Mayor welcomed Members to the meeting and invited the Mayor's Chaplain, Rev'd Jon Randall to say a prayer.

51. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the Town Clerk, Councillors M Baker; C Doyle; P Kennington and S Sweek.

52. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

53. MINUTES

Members had before them the following sets of minutes to recommend for approval. Town Council held on 1st September 2022 (M4). The Mayor asked Members if there were any questions or comments and it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to approve the minutes, The Mayor duly signed the minutes as a correct record.

54. PUBLIC ADDRESS

A Member of the public wished to address the Council. It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting.

The Mayor welcomed two residents of St Peter's Road who wished to raise concerns about the level of traffic on St Peter's Road. It was noted that traffic was progressively worsening, the speed of the traffic was deemed unsafe. On St Peter's Road there was a nursery, St Peter's School, as well as other community

facilities, with no dedicated traffic crossing. Residents were struggling with parking and leaving their driveways.

It was requested that speed restriction and traffic calming measures were implemented. The Ermine Street junction was raised as another problem area, with many heavy goods vehicles accessing the road. It was requested that restrictions were added to limit the height and weight of vehicles which were increasing traffic to unsafe levels.

It was recommended that the St Peter's Road proposed traffic calming measures were presented to the Finance Committee on the 17th November 2022 to be considered for a Local Highway Improvement bid.

The Mayor thanked the residents for raising their concerns, with no further questions or comments it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to reconvene the meeting.

55. **HUNTINGDON'S MASTER PLAN PRESENTATION**

Apologies were received from Pamela Scott the Regeneration and Housing Delivery Manager at Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) who was going to lead the presentation. No other representatives from HDC were able to attend the meeting.

It was noted that the deadline for comments for Huntingdon's Master Plan was Monday 14th November 2022. It was recommended that the comments were submitted to avoid missing the deadline, then request a presentation at the next meeting. The Assistant Town Clerk requested whether HTC's comments could be amended following the presentation.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to submit the comments to Huntingdon's Master Plans and to invite HDC to give a presentation at the next relevant meeting.

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

The Mayor invited the following Councillors to provide reports:

- i) County Councillors T Sanderson, J King and G Wilson

Cllr T Sanderson gave a brief verbal update on Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC). It was noted that CCC were in a difficult financial position as there was a budget deficit. Restructure of staff was on-going. The Local Highway Improvement Bids (LHI) had opened, there was a new process which required a shortlist of three projects. Work on last year's LHI bid for Desborough Road would begin shortly and the traffic works on the crossing at Hartford Road was due to commence in February 2023.

- ii) District Councillors J Harvey and N Hunt for Huntingdon East

Cllr J Harvey submitted a written report, Members had copies in front of them. Two motions were debated and passed at HDC. The first was the banning on live pets as prizes on any HDC owned land, HDC would also be writing to the UK Government urging them to implement a ban on both

public and private land. The second motion passed links the cost-of-living crisis with climate change and recognises that both issues need to be addressed together. HDC would be developing a climate strategy that recognises the financial and personal impact on disadvantaged residents, and will be advocating for better, cheaper public transport. This would help residents access their places of work and study whilst reducing carbon emissions. Again, HDC would write to the UK Government to ask for more financial support for those residents that need it most, and for small and medium local businesses to help them with their increased energy costs.

- iii) District Councillors M Kadewere, P Kadewere and S Wakeford for Huntingdon North.

Cllr M Kadewere gave a brief verbal update. Issues on fly tipping around the Oxmoor was raised. HDC was supporting residents with rising energy bills with their Warm Spaces initiative, where residents could go to keep warm over the winter, get a hot drink, some company and other support. Locations included:

- Huntingdon Library
- Huntingdon Methodist Church
- Huntingdon One Leisure Centre
- Huntingdon Parish All Saints Church
- A full list was available on the following website:
<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/people-communities/warm-spaces/warm-spaces-locations/>

- iv) District Councillors A Blackwell; S McAdam and T Sanderson for the Stukeleys

Cllr S McAdam advised Members that the Warm Spaces initiative would also provide people with information, guidance and support on rising out of financial crisis. Including job support etc. It was a longer-term project, not just for winter.

- v) District Councillors P Jordan and D Shaw for Brampton and Hinchingsbrooke

Cllr D Shaw gave a brief verbal update, it was noted that the Cabinet at HDC had approved further improvements to Hinchingsbrooke Country Park. The second round of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was opened, the deadline for applications was 9th January 2023.

57. **TOWN CLERK'S UPDATE**

The Assistant Town Clerk gave a verbal update on behalf of the Town Clerk. HTC had welcomed new staff members to the team, Claire Copson, Crematorium & Cemeteries Admin Assistant; Charlotte Mann, Communities Officer and Melanie Nunn, Amenities Officer (maternity cover). A warm welcome was extended to all the new starters.

The Assistant Town Clerk highlighted the following:

- Armistice Day was on Friday 11th November and Remembrance Sunday Service and Parade on Sunday 13th November. Members were reminded to arrive at the Town Hall by 10.30am to robe before the services.

- The first Fayre on the Square event would take place on Friday 12th November, 16 traders were confirmed. Members were asked to support if possible. The RBL was the nominated charity for this event.
- On the 8th November All Saint's Church tree was removed. It was discovered that the stump was completely rotten, and the tree was extremely unsafe. Unfortunately, members of the team experienced verbal abuse when the tree was removed. It was highlighted that HTC had a zero-tolerance policy which would be discussed under item 61. A public consultation was on-going for replacement ideas.
- Cricket Pavilion project meetings were on-going, including a key stakeholder meeting in November. Officers would attend the CIL drop-in sessions run by HDC, as the CIL deadline was 9th January.
- Huntingdon Christmas Market was coming up from Friday 25th November – Sunday 27th November, with Jake Jarman switching on the lights at 6.30pm on Friday 25th November.
- The December issue of Huntingdon Magazine would go to print on the 18th November. Members were asked to inform officers if residents raised that copies were not received following distribution.
- The Estates Services Team were organising the move to the new depot, including a thorough audit and inventory of all assets as part of the insurance review.

The Mayor thanked the Assistant Town Clerk for the update, and asked Members for questions and comments. There were none.

58. **ROLLING PROGRAMME**

The Mayor referred Members to the Council's rolling programme, and civic events rolling programme. With no comments or questions, the contents of the rolling programmes were noted with thanks.

59. **REPRESENTATION TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Mayor invited Members to give verbal reports on the outside bodies they represent:

- i. Cromwell Museum Trust – The Cromwell Museum was very busy, visitor numbers for 2022 had already exceeded previous years, with approx. 10,000 visitors so far for 2022. An Arts Council Grant was applied for to aid the Museum in digitising artifacts to increase accessibility to the Cromwell collection. A crowd funding campaign raised money to purchase an original copy of 'Agreement of the People', the manifesto of the Leveller movement, published in November 1647. Unfortunately, they were outbid. The donors agreed that the money could be put into a fund for future acquisitions. The 60th Anniversary Celebrations of Cromwell Museum were very successful and featured in a lot of public press, including BBC Look East.
- ii. Huntingdon Volunteer Centre – HVC had applied for a Community Grants Application at HTC, the application to be ratified at Finance Committee on the 17th November 2022.
- iii. Huntingdon Commemoration Hall – The Commemoration Hall's AGM was scheduled for Monday 5th December from 7.00pm arrival (for welcome drinks) for 7.30pm start. (Cllr S McAdam)

- iv. Huntingdon in Bloom – a full update was available in the rolling programme. The Awards took place in September and HTC received 9 awards. (Cllr K Webb)
- v. St John's Alms-house's Charities – Cllr S Gifford had attended the trustee meeting; residents were pleased with their new boilers. Work was planned to repaint the doors, meetings for next year were scheduled.
- vi. History Festival Group – there was nothing to report (Cllr S McAdam)
- vii. Shopmobility – Shopmobility AGM took place on 25th June 2022. Shopmobility are currently looking for more trustees and are continuing with fundraising. (Cllr A Norton & K Webb)
- viii. Armed Forces Champion – Cllr K Webb had supported a number of events, including Merchant Navy Day, Battle of Britain, the Trafalgar Dinner and Huntingdon Football Club's Remembrance match. Cllr K Webb would be attending Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday Service and Parade.

60. **ANGLIAN WATER PROPOSAL**

Members had before them a report on a proposed reservoir in the Fens in partnership with Cambridge Water. A non-statutory consultation was on-going from 12th October – 21st December 2022. Anglian Water were asking for feedback on the following:

- the area we have identified for the reservoir and its embankments
- the area we have identified for supporting infrastructure and during construction
- the early concept design for the reservoir, and the features people would like to be considered in the design

Members noted the report.

61. **CIVILITY AND RESPECT**

Members had before them a resolution to sign up to the civility and respect pledge recommended by The National Association of Local Councils (NALC), the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC). By HTC signing up to the civility and respect pledge the council demonstrates that HTC was committed to treating councillors, clerks, employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations, and volunteers, with civility and respect in their role. (Statement attached to the minutes)

Definition:

Civility means politeness and courtesy in behaviour, speech, and in the written word. Examples of ways in which you can show respect are by listening and paying attention to others, having consideration for other people's feelings, following protocols and rules, showing appreciation and thanks, and being kind.

The Mayor asked Members for comments and questions, there were none.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to approve the civility and respect pledge.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to adopt Huntingdon Town Council's Civility and Respect policy.

62. **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

The Mayor made a motion:

Proposed: Councillor David Landon Cole

- To note the continuing anti-social behaviour on the Market Square;
- To note that the measures taken to date have not improved the situation and that it appears to be worsening, with new people joining the group that frequents the Market Square;
- To note that there have been recent issues of homophobic abuse of passers-by from members of the group who frequent the Market Square;
- To call on Huntingdonshire District Council to impose a Public Spaces Protection Order to the effect that:
 - Persons will not act in a manner that is causing or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress
 - Persons must immediately leave the designated area marked in red for a period of 24 hrs if ordered to do so by a designated officer
 - Alcohol must be disposed of or surrendered if requested by a designated officer.

The Mayor asked Members for comments and/or questions:

Members discussed the issue of anti-social behaviour; it was agreed that it was a complex and difficult issue to resolve. It was having a negative effect on businesses, members of the public and even staff. A public spaces protection order (PSPO) would give the police more power to deal with individuals, however it was noted that it may move the issue to other areas. It was highlighted that the anti-social behaviour required a multiple agency approach, with services working together to combat the problem.

Concerns were raised that a PSPO could be implemented, however the police did not have capacity to enforce the order. It was suggested that HTC could contact the local inspector to find other solutions. The Police and Crime Commissioner could be invited to a relevant meeting to discuss further.

It was advised that HTC now owned their own radio, which linked in with HBAC and the businesses in the Town Centre. Officers had been reporting in incidents as they happened, which has led to more arrests. Members of the public should be reminded to report issues, to help build a case.

It was noted that the master plan was targeting improving tourism in the town and the anti-social behaviour would negatively impact that and any other public events in the town.

With no further comments or questions, a vote took place:

For: 14

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

The motion was carried.

63. **BUSES – STAGECOACH EAST**

The Mayor made a motion:

Proposed: Councillor David Landon Cole

- To note with dismay the withdrawal by Stagecoach East of several bus services across the area, including route 30 from Huntingdon to Ramsey, route 35 from Huntingdon to March, route 66 from Huntingdon to St Neots, and route 904 from Huntingdon to St Ives;
- To call on Stagecoach East to revisit these decisions, particularly the 30 and 35 that have no realistic public transport alternative, impacting people's ability to travel for work, leisure, and access to services;
- To call on the Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Cambridgeshire County Council, and other bodies to urgently bring forward proposals for restoring these bus services.

The Mayor asked Members for comments and/or questions:

Members raised their concerns about the reduction in bus routes, as it was having not only an impact on people's accessibility but also their livelihoods, some staff from Tesco were having to change their employment as they were unable to get to their work. Members agreed it was a very important issue.

A vote was taken:

For: 15

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

The motion was carried.

64. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor gave a brief update.

The Combined Authority Mayor of Cambridge and Peterborough was on extended sick leave, his Deputy, Councillor Anna Smith was taking over the role in his absence. The Mayor sent his wishes to the Mayor for a swift recovery.

The Mayor's Charity Quiz was scheduled for 19th November at the Coneygear Centre to fundraise for his charities. Tickets were available from the Town Hall.

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

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.

66. **FREEDOM OF THE TOWN**

Members discussed private and confidential matters.

67. **READMISSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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.

68. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was noted as Thursday 12th January 2023 at the Town Hall, Market Hill, Huntingdon, PE29 3PJ.

MAYOR

Definition of Civility and Respect	
<p>Civility means politeness and courtesy in behaviour, speech, and in the written word.</p> <p>Examples of ways in which you can show respect are by listening and paying attention to others, having consideration for other people's feelings, following protocols and rules, showing appreciation and thanks, and being kind.</p>	
Statement	Tick to agree
Our council has agreed that it will treat all councillors, clerk and all employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations, and volunteers, with civility and respect in their role.	Approved
Our council has put in place a training programme for councillors and staff	Approved
Our council has signed up to Code of Conduct for councillors	Approved
Our council has good governance arrangements in place including, staff contracts, and a dignity at work policy.	Approved
Our council will commit to seeking professional help in the early stages should civility and respect issues arise.	Approved
Our council will commit to calling out bullying and harassment when it happens.	Approved
Our council will continue to learn from best practice in the sector and aspire to being a role model/champion council e.g., via the Local Council Award Scheme	Approved
Our council supports the continued lobbying for the change in legislation to support the Civility and Respect Pledge, including sanctions for elected members where appropriate.	Approved

Approved on: 10th November 2022