

**HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL**

A meeting of Huntingdon Town Council was held in the Town Hall, Huntingdon, on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020, at 7.00pm.

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; S McAdam (Town Mayor); P Pearce; T Sanderson; T Shrapnel; S Sweek and K Webb.

In Attendance: 1 member of the public was in attendance.

73. **WELCOME**

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

74. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from the following Councillor A Sedgwick.

75. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

76. **MINUTES**

Members had before them copies of the minutes of the Town Council meetings held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019 (M6), the extraordinary Town Council on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2019 (M7) and 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020 (M8). It was proposed, seconded and

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

77. **PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES**

Members had before them the minutes of the following meetings:

- (i) Finance Committee – 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019 (M7) and 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020 (M8)
- (ii) Leisure & Community Services Committee – 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020 (M5)
- (iii) Planning Committee – 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020 (M3)

The Mayor asked whether Members were happy to accept the recommendations contained within the minutes of the above Committee meetings and it was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED** to do so.

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

There was none.

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

Councillor Sanderson gave a brief update on Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) and Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC). CCC had set their precept for the financial year 2020/21 with a 2.91% increase. HDC final budget setting meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

The two schemes for the proposed Local Highway Improvements had been presented and HTC were awaiting the outcome.

Councillor Kadewere gave a brief update on HDC parking charges, which would come into effect shortly to a number of car parks in St Ives, St Neots and Huntingdon, including the Sainsbury's multi-story car park.

80. **TOWN CLERK'S UPDATE**

The Town Clerk updated Members on the following:

- The Town Clerk extended his thanks to the staff for the success of the opening of the Coneygear Centre on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Very positive feedback was received from those who attended.
- It was noted that work on the Crematorium site was due to begin from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020.
- Members were reminded that the Pancake Flipathon event was scheduled for Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 11.00am in the Market Square. All were welcome to attend.
- The Deputy Town Clerk interviews took place on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February, once the candidates had been notified Members would be updated.
- Members were notified of damage to the Thinking Soldier statue in the Market Square, someone had climbed the memorial and broken the gun strap. The Police had been notified and were investigating CCTV.

81. **MAYOR'S LET AGREEMENT**

Members had before them a report from the Corporate Officer regarding the Mayor's Let Agreement, which was last reviewed in 2007. Members were advised that the current budget for Mayor's lets for the year was £500, however this sum did not cover 10 free lets.

It was proposed that the Mayor should be entitled to a set number of hours, to be used across both Town Council venues, to cover the cost for caretaker time as well as use of lighting and heating of the buildings.

The Mayor asked for any questions or comments.

Members noted that it was important for the policy to be reviewed. It was noted that the Mayor's fundraising benefits the Town and that it was important that the costs of the use of the building were covered within the Mayor's Let Agreement. However, concerns were raised that the proposed 20 hours was not enough allowance and would only cover two events.

A Member requested a breakdown of events and busy periods of hire for the Town Hall, including the weekends, to understand the usage of the building. It was requested that the Mayor's Let Agreement was taken to the next Finance Committee to be discussed in more detail.

A Member commented that Mayor's functions put Huntingdon on the map. However, the Mayor should look to use other venues in the town, to promote local businesses, such as: The George Hotel, the Commemoration Hall, All Saints Church etc. It was noted that this would incur a cost, however it was important for the Mayor to promote the town.

Members agreed to take the Mayor's Let Agreement to the next Finance Committee to discuss the allowance in more detail, to be in line with the budget and the cost of hiring the room. It was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED** to do so.

## 82. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS PANEL MEETINGS**

Members had before them a report from the Amenities Officer on Planning Applications Panel meetings. It was proposed that in place of Planning Applications Panel, the Officer would create a report of delegated applications and recommendations, which would be circulated to members prior to submission to HDC. Any large-scale planning application would then be presented to a full Planning Committee. The Mayor asked for any comments or questions.

A Member asked for clarification on the term minor amendments.

The Town Clerk advised that the proposal would reduce the number of meetings per year and accrual of flexitime, as it was a waste of staff resource. Huntingdon Town Council were an advisory capacity and minor items did not require in depth discussion.

A Member noted that Officers were better placed to make decisions as they had more knowledge about Huntingdonshire's Local Plan and HDC guidelines.

Members requested that more detail was provided to clarify on the term 'minor amendments to property' and to discuss the report in more detail at a Planning Application Panel. It was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED** to do so.

83. **RISK MANAGEMENT**

Members had before them Huntingdon Town Council's Risk Management Policy, in accordance with the External Auditor's requirements. The Mayor asked for any questions or comments, there were none.

Members noted the report.

84. **FREEMEN'S CHARITY TRUSTEE**

Councillor A Beevor's term as Trustee for the Freeman's Charity was due to expire on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020. The Mayor asked for any nominations for the Freeman's Charity Trustee for the next three years.

Councillor A Beevor was nominated. The Mayor asked for any other nominations, there was one, Councillor J Cole. A vote was called.

Councillor A Beevor

**For:** 7 votes

Councillor J Cole

**For:** 7 votes

Abstention: 1

The Mayor had the deciding vote and Councillor J Cole was duly elected to the Freeman's Charity Trustee position for the next 3-year term, starting from 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020.

The Mayor extended his thanks to Councillor A Beevor for the number of years dedicated as trustee for the Freeman's Charity and was congratulated on a job well done.

85. **LOCAL HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS 2020/21**

Members received and noted a letter from CCC Highways concerning a change in timetable and agreed to consider application for discussions for Local Highway Improvements at the next Leisure & Community Services Committee.

86. **ENVIRONMENT SUB-COMMITTEE**

Members agreed to approve the formation under the Environment Sub Committee of a Transport Sub Committee with a remit to discuss and make recommendation for all transport related issues across the town.

It was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED** to do so.

The following Members were appointed to the Transport Sub Committee, Councillors: P Brown; J Cole; A Diaz; C Doyle; V Hufford; P Pearce; T Shrapnel and S Sweek.

87. **MEETINGS CALENDAR 2020/21**

The Mayor asked for any questions or comments. There were none.

It was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED** to approve the Meetings Calendar for 2020/21.

88. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor gave the meeting an update on Mayoral activities, highlights of events attended in the past few months included:

- 11<sup>th</sup> January – Environment Conference Event at Buckden
- 14<sup>th</sup> January – Joint Towns Meeting at Godmanchester, environment was high on the agenda
- 23<sup>rd</sup> January – Holocaust Memorial Day Service hosted by HDC
- 29<sup>th</sup> January – HDC's Local Plan Workshop
- 30<sup>th</sup> January – Market Towns Initiative meeting at Alconbury Weald, to workshop improvements to the town of Huntingdon
- 5<sup>th</sup> February – 'Over to you' interview with HCR104FM
- 14<sup>th</sup> February – Official opening of the new Coneygear Centre
- 15<sup>th</sup> February – Mayor's Masquerade Ball
- 17<sup>th</sup> February – MAGPAS Site and helicopter visit

89. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was noted as Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020, Town Hall, Market Hill, Huntingdon.

**MAYOR**