

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THETFORD TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, KING'S HOUSE, THETFORD, ON THURSDAY  
14<sup>th</sup> MAY 2015, STARTING AT 6.00 P.M. WITH THE OPEN FORUM

Present:

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs S J Armes

Councillors:

R F W Brame

C R P Burnett

D M Crawford

T J Jermy

J C Moorman

Ms F Robinson

M Taylor

M P Brindle

Mrs B J Canham

Mrs J Hollis

R G Kybird

J Newton

M S Robinson

S N H Wright

Officers present:

Town Clerk

Deputy Town Clerk

Tina Cunnell

Chris Crimmen

Maurice Howard

Emma Patrick

PPP&C Officer

Committee Secretary

OPEN FORUM

QUESTIONS PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC

Alan Wilson stated he had received a letter from the Town Clerk and asked the Chairman to read it out to the meeting. The letter was a notice to remove horses from Barnham Common under the control of Horses Act 2015. He had been warned that unless they are removed within 96 hours they will be sold or disposed of. He asked the Council for compassion and to delay this order until he can find other grazing. After various opinions were given by Councillors the Town Clerk announced it would be added to Full Council on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2105 and he would speak to Mr Wilson tomorrow.

1/15

DECLARATIONS OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None.

2/15

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor C Harvey.

3/15

NOMINATIONS FOR MAYORAL YEAR 2015 - 2016

There were three nominations for the Mayor.

Councillor Mrs B Canham nominated Councillor T Jermy with Councillor M Brindle seconding the nomination.

Councillor J Newton nominated Councillor Mrs S Armes with Councillor Mrs J Hollis seconding the nomination.

Councillor R F W Brame nominated Councillor R G Kybird with Councillor J Moorman seconding the nomination.

At this point Councillor Mrs S Armes thanked the two Councillors for her nomination but declined to accept the nomination.

The Mayor felt that it may be more comfortable for particularly new Councillors if a sealed vote was taken for nominations for the next Mayor.

A show of hands was requested and Councillors voted 9 for and 6 against.

A sealed vote was therefore taken and it was resolved that the new Mayor Elect would be Councillor R Kybird.

**Resolved: The Mayor elect would be Councillor R G Kybird.**

4/15 REVIEW OF COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2015 - 2016  
The Town Clerk reviewed the Councillors who will serve on the Town Council committees for 2015 – 2016 and these Councillors are recorded on Annex Document C attached to these minutes.

5/15 REVIEW OF COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES  
The Town Clerk reviewed the Councillors who will represent the Town Council serving on other bodies for 2015 – 2016 and these Councillors are recorded on Annex Document C attached to these minutes.  
A sealed vote was taken on Council Representation to the Thetford Grammar School Board of Governors.  
**RESOLVED: Councillor Mrs B J Canham will continue as the Town Council representative on Thetford Grammar School Board of Governors.**

6/15 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS  
The Town Clerk stated that he had two items of urgent business to discuss, both of a legal nature. One related to the horses on Barnham Cross Common and included initial legal options for dealing with this. The other was with regard to St Peters Wall and a potential dispute over costs. Due to their legal nature he asked that these be taken below the line. This was proposed by Councillor Mrs B J Canham and seconded by Councillor D M Crawford.  
**Resolved that two items of Urgent Business (6/15a. And 6/15b.) be taken below the line.**

7/15 PRESS RELEASES  
To consider any press release arising from this meeting's agenda.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC  
It was resolved that, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded for any remaining items of business on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

The following two items had been moved below the line.

6/15 a. St Peters Church Wall  
(This matter was taken below the line due to legal implications).  
The Town Clerk distributed an e-mail from the underwriters acting on behalf of 'Savers' to J P Chick (acting for the Town Council). This gave their thoughts on the reasoning for the delay in the start to this repair work. It also covered implications to the recovery of costs. The Town Clerk stated that he was unhappy with the suggestions and claims made and that J P Chicks were also minded that fault lay squarely with the underwriters. J P Chick's had escalated this within the company and were drafting a reply to the underwriters.

b. Horses/Ponies on Barnham Cross Common  
(This matter was taken below the line due to legal implications).  
As stated in the 'Questions from the Public' the Town Clerk had sent a letter to Mr Wilson which required the removal of his horses from the Common by 13 May 2015. This was in accordance with the recently approved system for dealing with horses and illegal trespassers. As such he had also instructed the Town Council's Solicitor in this matter. In the interim, the Control of Horses Act 2015 had been passed and as a consequence the Town Council's

solicitor had given advice on the two options available for dealing with this matter. He sought instruction on a preferred way forward based on this advice. It was decided that this advice would be considered by Councillors along with further background to be given by the Town Clerk and this agenda item would be placed on Full Council for 26 May 15.

Chairman