

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING, HELD IN THE LARGE COURT OF  
THETFORD'S GUILDHALL ON TUESDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2014

Start Time: 7.00 p.m.

Present:

The Town Mayor, Councillor Mrs S Armes, Chairman  
13 Other Town Councillors  
80 members of the public

1. MINUTES OF 2013 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Tuesday 7th May 2013, circulated with the agenda, were confirmed by those present to be a true record. The Mayor was authorised to sign the file copy.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors M Brindle and J A Harding.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Reports were presented by the following:

i.	Allotments:	Councillor M G Spencer
ii.	Amenities:	Councillor Miss C A Fulford
iii.	Cemetery:	Councillor B J Skull
iv.	Civic Links	Councillor S Armes
v.	Finance:	Councillor D Sully
vi.	Guildhall/Markets	Councillor S N H Wright
vii.	Marketing & Communications:	Councillor C A Fulford
viii.	Personnel:	Councillor D G Mortimer
ix.	Planning:	Councillor R G Kybird

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

**Mrs T Paines**

1. **Mrs Paines** congratulated both Councillor Mrs S Armes on being appointed Mayor and Councillor S N H Wright for his successful Mayoral year.

2. She was concerned over the expansion to the north of Thetford and queried where money will come from to help the town cope as at this time no money will come from the development as it falls outside of the Thetford boundary.

3. She also queried the future of the centre of town, particularly the former Anchor Site.

Councillor S N H Wright answered that the Council were aware of the problem of the boundary, but are looking at the possibility of a boundary move so that the new development falls within Thetford. The new residents would likely use the town's facilities and as such rates payable should come to Thetford Town Council as they would be providing these. Councillor S N H Wright added that the former Anchor site

is in Breckland Council's hands and it is likely no action will be taken until the Bus Station has moved its new site.

### **Malcolm Roth**

1. **Mr Roth** asked whether the Town Council should give back the area of King Street that was developed as there were ongoing issues with the water feature and clock, as well as the area constantly looking dirty due to the materials that were used in construction. He also felt that the area was unsafe.

Councillor Miss C Fulford replied that her personal view was that there had been issues with the project from the outset. The Amenities committee have been discussing the area, particularly the water feature. She stated that the Town Council cannot give the area back to the County Council – we have what we have and will be speaking to Norfolk County Council to see what else can be done in the area.

### **Anne Callanand**

1. **Mrs Callanand** asked whether consideration had been given to the existing Sewage Works' capacity with the new development to the north of the town.

The Mayor stated that the matter had been raised at the Breckland Planning meeting where the application was considered and the committee was assured that there is adequate capacity at the sewage works to cope with the additional houses.

Councillor R Kybird added that a full study had been undertaken and assurance given by Anglian Water that the sewage work will cope with the additional 5000 homes.

2. **Mrs Callanand** also added that there was a concern that National Coach Services would not stop at the new bus station once it is built.

Councillor S N H Wright stated that the matter was out of Thetford Town Council's hands. Councillor R Kybird stated that as far as he was aware the National coaches would be able to use the new bus station, individual companies picking up for holiday tours would be by arrangement to avoid 'clogging up' the bays in the station.

### **Roger Smith**

1. **Mr Smith** asked what steps Thetford Town Council were taking to improve the general look of the town, highlighted particular problem areas of the former Anchor site and the Charles Burrell Museum.

Councillor S N H Wright replied that the Charles Burrell Museum have applied for further funding from Moving Thetford Forward (MTF) in addition to some already gained in order to redevelop their site.

Councillor Miss C Fulford explained that she and Councillor R Kybird are awaiting a meeting with Breckland Council to discuss the landscaping of the Anchor Site. Two meetings have been arranged so far which have been cancelled, but they are continuing to push for the meeting to take place as the Anchor Site is the first thing many visitors see when they arrive in Thetford.

### **Colin Armes**

1. **Mr Armes** congratulated the Town Council on their initiative to take on the former Charles Burrell High School site. He also expressed the public's satisfaction of the improvements made so far to the Carnegie Rooms.

2. He moved to the King Street development issue that had been raised in questions by another member of the public. He suggested that the 'hardness' of the area could be part of what puts the public off, and that the Council could consider adding containers with evergreen and plants in to soften the area.

The meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.

Mayor and Chairman

UNCONFIRMED