

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THETFORD TOWN COUNCIL, HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, KING'S HOUSE, THETFORD,
ON THURSDAY, 30TH APRIL 2009,
STARTING AT 7.00 P.M. WITH THE OPEN FORUM

Present:

The Mayor, Councillor J A Harding, Chairman

Councillors:

G P Balaam
R F W Brame
Mrs M P Chapman-Allen
T J Jermy
R G Kybird
T J Lamb

D G Mortimer
A Paines
Mrs P P Quadling
Mrs P A Spencer
S N H Wright

Open Forum

There were no matters raised.

467/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors T J Jermy and Mrs P P Quadling declared prejudicial interests in item 479/08 owing to their respective memberships of the A.N.C.H.O.R. Committee. They were not present for the discussion and vote, with Councillor Jermy first exercising his right under the Code of Conduct to pass what amounted to general comment on the matter to hand before leaving the Chamber).

468/08 MINUTES

The unconfirmed minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25th March 2009 and the Special Council Meeting held on 22nd April 2009 had been included in the agenda papers.

Proposed by Councillor D G Mortimer and seconded by Councillor G P Balaam, it was:

RESOLVED that the minutes of both these meetings be confirmed as true records and signed/initialled by the Chairman.

469/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors S H Chapman-Allen and M G Spencer, both of whom were absent for work-related reasons (the former would have in attendance, had the meeting date not been changed at such short notice).

470/08 RESIGNATIONS OF TOWN COUNCILLORS

RESOLVED that the resignations of Councillors Mrs T I Paines and P J Pearson earlier that month be noted for the record, the Mayor commenting that he would have more to say on these under item 472/08 below.

471/08 COMMITTEE REPORTS

The unconfirmed minutes of the following meetings had been included in the agenda papers.

(a) Planning Committee: 8th April 2009

(b) Planning Committee: 22nd April 2009

Proposed by Committee Chairman, Councillor R G Kybird, and seconded by Councillor G P Balaam, it was:

RESOLVED that the reports of the meetings of the Planning Committee, held on 8th April 2009 and 22nd April 2009 respectively, be received and adopted.

472/08 MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor, Councillor J A Harding, presented the final Report of his term of office, referring members to the Lists of Events Attended and Forthcoming Events, included in the agenda papers.

Events attended since the last meeting

Thursday	26 th March	All day session welcoming students from eight local schools to the Council Chamber to view the Regalia
Wednesday	1 st April	Thetford Business Forum Business Breakfast Meeting
Sunday	12 th April	Medal Presentation at the Miniature Steam Rally
Thursday	16 th April	Opened Dad's Army Museum extension
Wednesday	22 nd April	Brecks Indoor Bowls Club match with the English Indoor Bowls Association
Thursday	23 rd April	Link- Up Talking Newspaper for the Blind AGM
Friday	24 th April	Mayor's Charity Ball
Saturday	25 th April	Thetford Festival & Concert Committee St George's Day Band Concert in the Carnegie Room

Deputy Mayor

Thursday	26 th March	One World Day at Rosemary Musker School
Tuesday	21 st April	Presented cheques in the Carnegie before the Public Meeting to the Mayor's chosen Charities for the Mayoral Year 2008/09
Sunday	25 th April	Scouts St George's Parade and Service in the Methodist Church

As referred to under item 470/08 above, he wanted to pass comment on the resignations of Councillors Mrs T I Paines and P J Pearson, both of whom had given

many years of valued service as town councillors (not to mention present and past service as district and county councillors at different periods).

He was sure he spoke for all present when recording his appreciation of all they had done and asked for votes of thanks to be recorded in these minutes. He also wanted to pay tribute to County Councillor C W Armes, who was in attendance and who, like Mrs Paines, was not seeking reelection in June as a county councillor. His service to the local community should also be recognised.

RESOLVED that votes of thanks for the public service rendered over many years by Colin Armes, Thelma Paines and Patrick Pearson, be recorded in these minutes.

473/08 REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

Moving Thetford Forward Board and MTF Learning Group

Councillor R G Kybird referred to the meeting in London with a government minister, scheduled for two weeks hence, at which the availability of Learning and Skills Council funding would be one of the matters addressed. He would be a member of the visiting delegation.

Thetford Tourism & Heritage Partnership

Councillor S N H Wright reported that the possibility of the Partnership's constituting itself as a corporate body was being looked into. A potential benefit would be the ability to apply then for funding in its own right.

474/08 COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

County Councillor C W Armes referred to two matters:

Market Place Roundabout

The Town Council now had an opportunity to comment on proposals coming forward from County Council officers. His own view was that, if nothing could be done by way of 'enhancement' in the immediate term, then removal of what was there was perhaps the best option.

The Town Clerk reported that he had been asked to include an item on the end-of-May 2009 Town Council agenda, when an options report from County Hall would be considered

Flu Pandemic: Emergency Planning

Councillor Armes reported on provisional arrangements being made.

475/08 PREPARATIONS FOR TOWN MAYOR-MAKING AND ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The Town Clerk was not proposing to go through draft agendas in any detail. He would be conferring with the Mayor-Elect as regards the nomination of proposers and seconders and be in touch with all members in the course of the following week.

RESOLVED that, notwithstanding 'best practice' guidelines from national bodies, references be made in future to the 'Mayor' rather than 'Town Mayor'.

476/08 APPROVAL OF STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

RESOLVED that the documents annexed hereto be duly adopted.

477/08 DRAFT MEETINGS CALENDAR FOR 2009/10

RESOLVED that the draft document form the basis of the schedule to be presented at Mayor-Making for approval.

478/08 SEAL REGISTER ENTRY 1/09

RESOLVED that the above entry be ratified (relating to the Deed of Dedication with the Big Lottery Fund in respect of play area land at Castle Park).

479/08 REQUESTS RECEIVED FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

RESOLVED that the present 'ad hoc' consideration of requests received be continued with.

RESOLVED that no funding be offered to A.N.C.H.O.R. (Abbey Neighbourhood Centre Helping Our Residents) owing to the perceived benefit failing to meet the 'town-wide' criterion.

480/08 OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Monthly Financial Report

RESOLVED that the Monthly Financial Report for the Twelve Months Ending 31st March 2009, as annexed hereto, be received.

(b) Guildhall Concessions

RESOLVED that decisions taken recently under delegated authority be ratified (document annexed hereto refers).

(c) Consort's Chain: Summary of how funded

RESOLVED that the sources of funding for this purchase be approved (document annexed hereto refers).

481/08 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded for the 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.

482/08 MINUTES

(a) Council Meeting: 25th March 2009

Proposed by Councillor D G Mortimer and seconded by Councillor G P Balaam, it was:

RESOLVED that the minutes of those items addressed following the exclusion of press and public be confirmed as a true record and signed/initialled by the Chairman.

(b) Finance & General Purposes Committee: 25th March 2009

Note: The agenda mistakenly referred to 25th February, when it was the minutes of 25th March (401/08 to 411/08 inclusive) that were approved. The 25th February minutes (359/08 to 368/08 inclusive) were approved at the March 2009 Council meeting under item 426/08b.

RESOLVED that the report of the March 2009 meeting be received and adopted.

(c) Personnel Committee: 21st April 2009

Proposed by Councillor D G Mortimer and seconded by Councillor R F W Brame, it was:

RESOLVED that the report of the meeting of the Personnel Committee, held on 21st April 2009, including the four-part Recommendation at minute 445/08, be received and adopted.

483/08 TENANCY MATTERS

The Town Clerk updated members on ongoing tenancy review matters.

484/08 ST PETER'S CHURCH: OFFER TO PURCHASE

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk respond by letter to the letter from the Diocese of Norwich, dated 27th March 2009, accepting the terms and conditions set out therein but seeking the Diocese's agreement in principle to a possible future transfer of ownership to a 'community trust' of some description.

485/08 THEFORD FORUM

A brief discussion took place, with no resolved matters resulting.