

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THETFORD TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, KING'S HOUSE, THETFORD, ON
TUESDAY 26th FEBRUARY 2019, STARTING AT 7.00 P.M. WITH THE OPEN FORUM

Present:
The Mayor, Councillor R F W Brame

Councillors:

S J Armes
C R P Burnett
D M Crawford
J Hollis
T J Jermy
F Robinson
M Taylor

M P Brindle
B J Canham
C Harvey
J James
R G Kybird
M S Robinson

Officers present:

Tina Cunnell
Roz Barnett
Chris Crimmen

Town Clerk
Deputy Town Clerk
Committee Secretary

OPEN FORUM

A member of the public asked a question regarding the Mundford Road allotments.

Minutes

- 747/18 DECLARATIONS OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS
None.
- 748/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies were received from Councillor S N H Wright.
- 749/18 MINUTES
RESOLVED: The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 29th January 2019, excepting those items dealt with following the exclusion of press and public, to be addressed under agenda 733/18 below, confirmed as a true record and signed/initialled by the Committee Chairman.
- 750/18 COMMITTEE REPORTS
To receive the following:
- a) Civic Committee (minutes 654/18 – 664/18) 31/01/2019
RESOLVED: The Civic Committee minutes were adopted as presented.
- b) Personnel Committee (minute 665/18 – 671/18) 05/02/2019
RECOMMENDATION: That the Personnel Committee initiate the Environmental Policy, and direct other committees to look at their activity and report back so that this can be considered by Full Council in April.
RESOLVED: The Personnel Committee minutes and recommendation were adopted as presented.

c) ALP Committee (minutes 674/18 – 687/19) 06/02/2019

RECOMMENDATION: That £50,000 is transferred from Toilet reserve to the Guildhall/Carnegie reserve to be used for the ramp and access improvements. (3095/3096)

RESOLVED: The ALP Minutes and recommendation were adopted as presented.

d) Planning committee (minutes 691/18) 12/02/2019

RECOMMENDATION: That Thetford Town Council make the project of focus for the S106 money as the Trim Trail in Castle Park.

RESOLVED: The Planning Committee minutes and recommendation were adopted as presented.

e) VEM Committee (minutes 699/18 – 712/18) 13/02/2019

RECOMMENDATION: That Thetford Town Council adopt the revised layout (see Appendix A) at a budgeted cost of £61,500. This work will be dependent on achieving a Heritage Lottery Fund Grant for the Guildhall.

Note: The Appendix A was not attached to the minutes for Councillors to study. After a discussion Councillor T Jermy proposed and Councillor J James seconded:

RESOLVED: That Thetford Town Council accept this recommendation subject the Appendix A being circulated with the revised minutes sent to all Councillors.

RESOLVED: The VEM minutes and recommendation were adopted as presented.

f) Finance Committee (minutes 713/18 – 727/18) 19/02/2019

RECOMMENDATION: That Thetford Town Council adopt the financial report for Month 10 and the schedule of payments for January 2019 included therein.

RESOLVED: The Finance Committee minutes and recommendation were adopted as presented.

g) Special ALP Committee (minutes 728/18 – 731/18) 20/02/2019

RESOLVED: The Special ALP Committee minutes were adopted as presented.

751/18

MAYOR'S REMARKS AND REPORT

The Mayor had supplied the list of of Events Attended and Forthcoming Events.

Mayor of Thetford Councillor Roy Brame

February

- 1 TARA Awards at the Carnegie Room
- 7 Opening the Viewing Platform at Nunnery Lakes
Dinner followed by a production of 'The History Boys' at West Suffolk College
- 12 The Big Bang Fair Suffolk at West Suffolk College
- 14 Opening of King's Lynn Mart
- 21 Run Breckland Quiz raising money for parkrun/junior parkrun
- 23 Starting the 6th Anniversary Parkrun
Wally's Jolly's fundraising for hearing dogs

List of Forthcoming Events

- 11 March 2019 Commonwealth Day
- 5 April 2019 Mayor's Ball in the Carnegie Room
- 9 June 2019 RAF Honington Freedom Parade

At this point a request was made to add the times of forthcoming events to this schedule. This request will be passed to the Civic Secretary for future meetings.

752/18

TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

Councillor M Taylor reported:

- At the recent STAG meeting the main issues discussed were the rubbish/drinking in the Town and the excessive speed of Mobility Scooters in the pedestrian areas of the Town.

Councillor B Canham reported:

- Part of the Charles Burrell Museum has been refurbished, there is a new volunteer manager and two new trustees have been appointed.

753/18

REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Councillor M Taylor reported:

- Breckland District Council met last week to approve their new budget and also a small rise in the Council Tax. As usual, the main rise applied only to band "D" properties and overall BDC is still charging one of the lowest rates in the country.

Councillor M Robinson reported:

- Breckland cabinet members approved two grants to local organisations earlier this month. £20,000 was granted to Access Community Trust to establish a one-stop support hub based around a community café in Thetford.
- The second grant of £15,953 was given to The Horticulture Industry Scheme CIC to continue its work with offenders in Thetford.
- At the same meeting BDC accepted £75,000 from the Norfolk Business Rates Pool this was matched by £75,000 from the Growth and Investment Fund support the proposed delivery plan for Thetford Enterprise Park (TEP).
- At Council the budget was approved The Council Tax is set at £88.83 for a Band D property in 2019-20 (a £4.95 per annum increase on 2018-19 levels).
- The new retail development is progressing well with the developer in advance negotiations to lease all units with 2 clients taking 15 year leases with no break clauses.

Councillor M Brindle reported:

- There is £150,000 coming into Thetford going towards the Thetford Enterprise Park.

- BDC have not confirmed that there will be no charge for parking in Thetford.
- He reported that in the next four years there will be an opportunity revisit the waste and ground maintenance contract for BDC.

Councillor T Jermy reported:

- That NCC have commissioned a survey on traffic flow and parking in Thetford. This will be available early next month and he will circulate this to all Councillors as soon as it is received. The Town Clerk asked the Chair of Planning if this should be placed on the Planning Agenda for the meeting on 12th March 2019 and this was agreed.
- Each Norfolk Councillor has an amount of £6,000 to solve small scale issues and he has ordered litter picking equipment on wheels. This money will also be used to refresh the markings outside schools.
- He reported that although the children's centre had been saved in Thetford the Treetops Nursery was closing with 70 places lost.

Councillor R Kybird reported:

- Regarding the waste and ground maintenance contract he reported BDC were investigating working with two other district councils to see if the economies of scale could save money.

754/18

KINGS HOUSE CARPETS

The Town Clerk asked councillors to consider and agree quotes for the replacement of carpets in Kings House offices to cover 5 offices and the hallway area. All quotations inclusive of V.A.T.

Company A = £3,265.96.

Company B = £2,985.00.

Company C = £3,400.00.

After a discussion Councillor R Brame proposed and Councillor S Armes seconded:

RESOLVED: That Thetford Town Council accept Company B quotation to carpet 5 offices and the hallway area of Kings House at a cost of £2,985.00 inclusive of VAT.

755/18

THE CROSSING CAFÉ & SUPPORT SHOP

Councillor R Brame reported the Mayor of Thetford had been offered to be a Patron of the Crossing Café and Support Hub on an ongoing basis. There followed a discussion and Councillor D Crawford proposed and Councillor T Jermy seconded:

RESOLVED: That the Mayor of Thetford Town Council becomes a Patron of The Crossing Café and Support Hub on an ongoing basis.

756/18

COMMITTEE OFFICERS UPDATE

None.

757/18

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

None.

Chairman.