

MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE AMENITIES, LAND AND PROPERTIES COMMITTEE, HELD ONLINE ON WEDNESDAY 30<sup>th</sup> JULY 2020 STARTING AT 2.00 P.M

Present:

The Mayor Councillor M S Robinson

Councillors:

C Barreto, R F W Brame, M P Brindle, B J Canham,

D M Crawford, C Harvey, D J Hodgkinson, J Hollis, J James, T Jermy

Officers in attendance:

Roz Barnett Deputy Town Clerk - Chris Crimmen Committee Secretary

MINUTES

199/20	<u>DECLARATIONS OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS</u> None..
200/20	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> None.
201/20	<u>EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC</u> To consider resolving 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.
202/20	<u>SHAMBLES 1&amp;3</u>  The Town Council exercised the break clause because they would like to bring the 2 shambles units back into daytime retail use. Due to the public outcry about the closure of the kebab business a special meeting was called to consider the future of the two units.  The exercise of the break clause is a contractual right and no other reasons are required, although there have been alleged historic lease breaches, ongoing issues with health & safety, and market hygiene issues.  After the discussion on the paper prepared by the Deputy Town Clerk there were two propositions.  The first was proposed by Councillor J James and seconded by Councillor B Canham:  Thetford Town Council decided to exercise the break clause in the lease and, giving the required contractual notice to the tenant, the break notice was served. The Safer Thetford Action Group, in partnership with others, has worked incredibly hard to address other aspects of anti-social behaviour in the town and just because many of us do not see the late night issues, it doesn't mean that they are not there. Whilst the council acknowledges the challenges that the tenant has faced, as all businesses have, with the COVID 19 pandemic, the

council does not believe it is appropriate to enter into a new lease with the current lease holder and therefore proposes that this committee supports Option 1 and seek two new daytime tenants for the properties.

There followed a second proposition proposed by Councillor T Jermy and seconded by Councillor C Harvey: The council proposed to grant a new lease to the existing tenant for 1-year in order that they have more time to seek alternative premises subject to some additional conditions to address councillors and community concerns:

It was agreed to have a recorded vote:

The first proposition:

<u>For the motion Councillor</u>	<u>Against the motion Councillor</u>	<u>Abstaining</u>
R Brame	C Barreto	M Brindle
B Canham	C Harvey	
D Crawford	D Hodgkinson	
J Hollis	T Jermy	
J James	M Robinson	

As the vote was tied the Chair Councillor T Jermy used his casting vote against the proposition which was defeated.

There followed a recorded vote on the second proposition:

<u>For the motion Councillor</u>	<u>Against the motion Councillor</u>
C Barreto	R Brame
M Brindle	B Canham
C Harvey	D Crawford
D Hodgkinson	J Hollis
T Jermy	J James
M Robinson	

The motion was carried:

**RECOMMENDATION: That Thetford Town Council offer to grant a new contracted out lease to the existing tenant for 1 year subject to additional conditions as detailed in Option 3. The purpose of the lease would be to give the tenant the additional time to find alternative premises within the Town.**

Chairman.