

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD IN THE LARGE COURT
OF THE GUILDHALL MARKET PLACE, THETFORD ON TUESDAY 25th MAY 2021,
STARTING AT 7.00 P.M.

Present:
The Mayor Councillor M P Brindle

Councillors:
C Barreto, R F W Brame, C R P Burnett, B J Canham, D J Hodgkinson,
J Hollis, J James, T J Jermy, M Taylor, B Tullett, S N H Wright.

Officers in attendance:
Alan Yorke Deputy Town Clerk, Chris Crimmen Committee Secretary

MINUTES

12/21	<u>DECLARATIONS OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS</u> None.
13/21	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Apologies were received from D M Crawford, C Harvey and M S Robinson.
14/21	<u>MINUTES</u> RESOLVED: To confirm the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 27th April 2021, excepting those items dealt with following the exclusion of press and public, be addressed under agenda number 23/21, be confirmed as a true record and signed/initialed by the Committee Chairman. RESOLVED: To confirm the minutes of the Mayor Making Meeting held on 21st May 2021 be confirmed as a true record and signed/initialled by the Committee Chairman.
15/21	<u>COMMITTEE REPORTS</u> A) <u>ALP Committee (minutes 992/20 – 1004/20) 05/05/2021</u> RESOLVED: The ALP Committee minutes were adopted as presented. B) <u>Planning Committee (1005/20 – 1014/20) 12/05/2021</u> RESOLVED: The Planning Committee minutes were adopted as requested. C) <u>Personnel Committee (minutes 1015/21 – 1023/21) 18/05/2021</u> RESOLVED: The Personnel Committee minutes were adopted as presented. D) <u>Finance Committee (minutes 1024/21 – 1035/21) 18/05/2021</u> RECOMMENDATION: That the Finance Committee approve the making of the payments A-E (see Appendix A). RECOMMENDATION: That Thetford Town Council adopt the income and expenditure reports (attached in Appendix B) for the year ended 31st March 2021. RECOMMENDATION: That Thetford Town Council adopt the income and expenditure reports (attached in Appendix B) for the year ended 31st March 2021. RESOLVED: The Finance recommendations and minutes were adopted as presented. E) <u>VEM Committee (minutes 1036/21 – 1046/21) 19/05/2021</u> RESOLVED: The VEM Committee minutes were adopted as presented.
16/21	<u>MAYOR'S REMARKS AND REPORT</u> The Mayor reported he has not attended any events since Mayor Making. The outgoing Mayor had completed a charity walk along the Paddars Way on 10 th – 13 th May 2021.

17/21	<p><u>TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES</u></p> <p>Both Councillor B Canham and R Brame reported on the Charles Burrell Museum which will open as soon as restrictions allow..</p> <p>Councillor M Taylor reported that the Thetford Business Awards had taken place on 17th May 2021 at the Thomas Paine Hotel with 70 local businesses taking part.</p>
18/21	<p><u>REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS</u></p> <p>Councillor T Jermy reported: He has a meeting with NCC Highways representative on 26th May 2021 to discuss local priorities following the election, when they will discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queensway / Bury Road – ‘No through road’ signage required, now that the speed camera has been sited on Bury Road it is creating rat-running on the road off of Bury Road • Spare road signage issues – Various temporary road signs have been discarded at locations across Thetford. What’s the process for reporting these and having them removed? • Road signage cleanliness issues including bus stop signs remain a bugbear – what’s the process for these to be cleaned? Individually reporting is laborious – must be a better approach. • Bury Road / Brandon Road speed and HGVs – keen to discuss other improvements that could be made to address these issues and get a general update with the 30 for Thetford campaign. • Thetford Underpasses <p>NCC Matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norwich Western Link – special meeting called by 7th June 2021, will also be at the Norfolk Showground. He had concerns about the affordability of this scheme in addition to well documented and publicised environmental concerns. <p>Breckland District Council matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor T Jermy continues to raise concerns relating to Serco’s performance. Most recently they have been spraying weed killer around signs, lampposts and even hedgerows rather than strimming. Breckland have confirmed that this is not acceptable and have said that it should not be happening. There has been a noticeable improvement with bin emptying and general litter picking, particularly along the river corridor and he was pleased to see a Serco operative picking items out of the river on Bank Holiday Monday and even clearing cigarette ends away from the bins in the Town Centre. <p>Councillor J James reported she had been elected to NCC and had been on training courses with the Council. She thanked the voters of Thetford for supporting her and together with Councillor T Jermy she looked forward to working together for the residents of Thetford. She was pleased to see council litter pickers improving the state of the town.</p> <p>Councillor J Hollis thanked Councillors J James and T Jermy for the work they had done on ensuring the spraying and cleaning the town.</p> <p>Councillor B Canham asked Councillor Jermy about the Minstergate underpass, and he replied that was due to be cleaned the following weekend.</p> <p>Councillor R Brame reported as the Chair of Breckland Council he is looking forward to working with the mayor of the oldest Mayoralty in the country.</p>
19/21	<p><u>SALE OF LAND</u></p> <p>The Town Clerk reported an individual has approached the Town Council to potentially purchase the land adjacent to 30 Stanford Road, Thetford. It was agreed that the individual would pay the Council to obtain a valuation report. The Town Clerk commissioned the Valuation Office who had completed their valuation and the potential buyer has reimbursed the Council in full.</p> <p>The Town Clerk asked Councillors to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To confirm that the land is surplus to need.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To further obtain assurance that the land is being sold for best consideration. To approve in principle the sale of this land by private agreement. <p>There followed a discussion when Councillors raised the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This will be used for parking. It is green space – a moderately attractive piece of land. Would be inappropriate to sell this land. This land is needed and is not surplus to requirement. <p>Councillor S Wright proposed and Councillor B Caham seconded: RESOLVED: That Thetford Town Council have decided that the land is not surplus to need and should not be offered for sale.</p>
20/21	<p><u>THE QUEENS JUBILEE PROJECT 2022</u></p> <p>The Town Clerk reported that on Sunday 6th February 2022 will see the seventieth anniversary of the Queen’s Accession marking the first Platinum Jubilee in the long history of British Monarchs. The Town Clerk is waiting for a phone call from the National Padget Master for further advice and information. The Town Clerk asked councillors to discuss and agree the Queens Green Canopy which is a unique, UK-wide, tree planting initiative. Councillors supported this initiative stating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It should be a large specimen tree. It is unique anniversary. The Council should invite our twinning towns to the ceremony. <p>It was agreed to support this project and when there is further information this will be added to a future agenda.</p>
21/21	<p><u>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</u></p> <p>None.</p>
22/21	<p><u>COMMITTEE OFFICER UPDATE</u></p> <p>None.</p>
23/21	<p><u>EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC</u></p> <p>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.</p>
24/21	<p><u>COMMITTEE REPORTS</u></p> <p>Councillors received and adopted minutes recorded below the line.</p> <p>At this point Councillor C Burnett left the meeting.</p>
25/21	<p><u>SHAMBLES QUOTATIONS</u></p> <p>The Town Clerk reported there were issues on the tender process to be undertaken for the refurbishment of Shambles 1 and 3. It was decided to hold a special Full Council meeting to note the reason for suspending Financial Regulations to prevent further delays.</p>