

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THETFORD TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, KING'S HOUSE, THETFORD,  
ON TUESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2016, STARTING AT 8.00 P.M.

Present:

Present: The Mayor, Councillor T J Jermy

Councillors:

Mrs S J Armes

M P Brindle

Mrs B J Canham

Mrs J Hollis

J Newton

M S Robinson

R F W Brame

C R P Burnett

C Harvey

R G Kybird

Ms F Robinson

M Taylor

Officers in attendance:

Sarah Lewis

Roz Barnett

Chris Crimmen

Deputy Town Clerk

ALP Officer

Committee Secretary

Minutes

502/16

DECLARATIONS OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None.

503/16

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors D M Crawford and S N H Wright.

At the beginning of the meeting a Councillor raised three points of order.

Firstly he raised concerns as to the transparency for the public. He noted that procedures as far as the public are concerned had been followed but he was anxious about holding this meeting at a time when the public would expect the Council to be in recess. He suggested that the Council adjourn these items to a normally published meeting. His next point on procedure was to ask the Mayor whether he had a pecuniary interest. His final point was that in the interest of transparency and fairness, as the agenda items had been brought to the Council by the Mayor and is of a financial nature he suggested an independent chairman such as the Chair of Finance for these agenda items.

At this point Councillor M Robinson joined the meeting.

The Mayor addressed the first point and asked the Committee Secretary to confirm that proper notice of this meeting was given. The Committee Secretary confirmed that procedures were followed giving 3 days' notice (not including the day notice was posted, excluding weekends and the day of the meeting) and posted on the Council notice board, the Council website and Social Media. The Mayor stated he was content that proper notice had been given. He continued by replying to the second point raised by stating that he does not financially benefit from being Town Mayor and it is up to an individual Councillor to make the decision and declaration. Regarding the third point the Mayor felt that he could remain as Chair. There followed a discussion and the Mayor agreed to leave the decision of who should Chair the meeting to a vote. For an independent Chairman = 6 votes. Against = 4 votes. Abstained = 3 votes. The motion was carried.

**RESOLVED: The Chair of Finance, Councillor R Kybird, will be Chairman for the remainder of the meeting.**

Councillor R Kybird moved the meeting on to the next agenda item 504/14.

MAYOR'S ALLOWANCE

The Chairman stated that the background to this matter was that the Mayor has asked for this matter to be dealt with as a matter of urgency. The Council has been asked to consider reappportioning money currently allocated to the Mayor's Allowance to other budgetary headings. He stated there are four items to consider reallocating to various nominal codes and three items where money would be transferred into the Mayors Allowance. The Deputy Town Clerk had circulated a paper (appendix 1).

The first item was for £61.14 for 3 boxes of highball glasses used for Civic Reception to be paid for from the Guildhall Miscellaneous (nominal code 7495). There followed a discussion and a request was made to take a recorded vote on a proposition from Councillor R Kybird and seconded by Councillor Ms F Robinson: Does this Council think that the Guildhall budget (nominal code 7495) should pay £61.14 for the glasses.

Councillors for the proposition: Against the proposition: Abstained from the vote:

M Brindle	M Robinson	T Jermy
Mrs B Canham	C Burnett	R Kybird
Ms F Robinson	Mrs S Armes	R Brame
C Harvey	J Newton	
	Mrs J Hollis	
	M Taylor	

The motion failed.

At this point Councillor C Burnett left the meeting.

The second, third and fourth items were dealt with together.

£391.64 Flights to Krakow, Poland to be paid from International Civic Links (7145) heading

£133.95 Gifts for 'Hurth trip' to be paid from Civic Gifts (7165) heading

£224.60 Flights to Cologne, Germany to be paid from International Civic Links (7145) heading

There followed a discussion where a compromise was proposed and a request was made to take a recorded vote on a proposition from Councillor R Kybird and seconded by Councillor Ms F Robinson: Does the Council think that the half the flights £308.12 and the mileage to and from Stansted of the Civic Officer of £141.38 be paid for from the International Civic Links (nominal code 7145) and the Civic gifts £133.95 be paid for in full from the Civic Gifts (nominal code 7165).

Councillors for the proposition: Against the proposition: Abstained from the vote:

M Brindle	Mrs J Hollis	T Jermy
Mrs B Canham		Mrs S Armes
Ms F Robinson		R Brame
C Harvey		M Taylor
R Kybird		
M Robinson		
J Newton		

The motion was adopted.

**RESOLVED: The amounts listed above totalling £583.45 will be moved from the Mayors Allowance (nominal code 7110) to International Civic Links (nominal code 7145) and Civic Gifts (nominal code 7165).**

The Chairman referred to the last three items under this agenda number. The remaining budget from Mayor Making Ceremony (£325 – 7130), Civic Service (£296 – 7131) and Battle of Britain Service (£168 – 7175) to be reallocated to the Mayor's Allowance (7110) to be used to support the Mayor's Ball costs. There followed a discussion where a compromise was proposed and a request was made to take a recorded vote on the proposition from Councillor R Kybird and

seconded by Councillor C Harvey: Does the Council think that the money the Mayor had saved on catering costs from the Civic Service (nominal code 7131) and the Battle of Britain Service (nominal code 7175) should be made available for the Mayors Ball.

Councillors for the proposition:	Against the proposition:	Abstained from the vote:
M Brindle	Mrs S Armes	T Jermy
R Kybird		M Robinson
Mrs B Canham		R Brame
Ms F Robinson		J Newton
C Harvey		Mrs J Hollis
		M Taylor

The motion was adopted.

**RESOLVED: The money saved on catering costs for the Civil Service (nominal code 7131) and the Battle of Britain Service (nominal code 7175) totalling £400 will be made available for the Mayors Ball expenses.**

505/16

#### MAYOR'S CHARITY

The Chairman reported that the Mayor asked for the Council to agree release of money from his charity fund to local organisations named below in time to make payments before Christmas.

£250	Thetford Foodbank
£250	Thetford Toy Library
£250	Thetford Music Project
£250	EPIC Youth Group
£250	Meet Up Café
£250	Polish Language Club
£250	Thetford Recording Studio (C/o CBC)
£250	Thetford Community Association

£2,000 TOTAL

The Deputy Town Clerk had produced the Nominal Departmental Analysis (appendix 2).

The Chairman asked the Mayor if he would be in agreement to reduce each donation to £200 making a total of £1,600 being paid out prior to Christmas. The Mayor agreed with this amendment and this was noted by the Council.

At this point the Chairman stated that the Civic Committee should ensure the Civic Policy is reviewed and recommended to Council before the end of the Mayoral Year to ensure there is a clear policy for all to follow.

506/16

#### V.A.T. MAYORAL ACTIVITIES

The Deputy Town Clerk had prepared a report (appendix 3) explaining the V.A.T. situation with regard to Mayoral Activities. She also stated that the Mayors Ball may incur a loss. She asked to be kept informed about the costs and that all orders be placed through the office. Her report and comments were noted by Council.

507/16

#### ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None

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#### PRESS RELEASES

None

Chairman.

