

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FULL
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER KING'S HOUSE
THETFORD ON TUESDAY 28th JUNE 2022 STARTED AT 7.00 P.M.

Present:

The Mayor Councillor J James

Councillors:

C Barreto, M Brindle, B Canham, D Crawford, S Dowling, C Harvey, D Hodgkinson,
J Hollis, T Jermy, M Taylor, B Tullett, S Wright.

Officers in attendance:

T Cunnell (Town Clerk), A Yorke (Deputy Town Clerk and Finance Officer),
K Robinson (Committee Clerk)

There were 9 members of the public in attendance.

OPEN FORUM

Members of the Public asked the following questions: -

- 1) What is the Council doing regarding Pride Month?
- 2) What is the Council going to do regarding the fish pass in Thetford?
- 3) What is the Council going to do regarding the use of area outside the Red Lion public house?

Town Councillors have not requested a Pride Month Activity.
The second question was answered by the Town Clerk who referred to still awaiting an update from the Environment Agency.
The third question was discussed in Agenda Number 164/22.

MINUTES

157/22	DECLARATIONS OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS None.
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158/22	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Apologies were received from Councillors K Parker and R Brame.
159/22	<u>MINUTES</u> RESOLVED: The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 31st May 2022 confirmed as a true record and signed/initialed by the Mayor.
160/22	<u>COMMITTEE MINUTES</u> To receive the following: <u>A) Amenities Committee (minutes 80/22 - 96/22) 01/06/2022</u> RESOLVED: The Amenities Committee minutes were adopted as presented. <u>B) Venues & Communications Committee (minutes 97/22 - 108/22) 08/06/2022</u> The Venues & Communications Committee minutes were approved as presented, subject to Minute Number 103/22 being changed from recommended to resolved. <u>C) Heritage & Town Events Committee (minutes 109/22 - 119/22) 09/06/2022</u> RESOLVED: The Heritage & Town Committee minutes were adopted as presented. <u>D) Special Full Council (minutes 120/22 - 123/22) 14/06/2022</u> RESOLVED: The Special Full Council minutes were adopted as presented. <u>E) Planning Committee (minutes 124/22 - 134/22) 14/06/2022</u> RESOLVED: The Planning Committee minutes were adopted as presented. <u>F) Allotments Committee (minutes 135/22 - 149/22) 16/06/2022</u> RESOLVED: The Allotments Committee minutes were adopted as presented. <u>G) Personnel Committee (minutes 150/22 - 156/22) 21/06/2022</u> Member Officer Protocol document be adopted by the Council. Councillor J Hollis proposed and Councillor B Canham seconded. Code Of Conduct document be adopted by the Council. Councillor J Hollis proposed and Councillor S Dowling seconded. RESOLVED: The Personnel Committee minutes were adopted as presented.
161/22	<u>MAYOR'S REMARKS AND REPORT</u> <u>Mayor of Thetford Councillor J James</u> <u>June</u>

	<p>1 Queen's Jubilee Celebration and Tree Planting Ceremony at Bus Nursery</p> <p>2 Civic Celebration for HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Meal at Cheers Restaurant with guests from our twin towns</p> <p>3 Music through the decades event for HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Meal at The Mulberry with guests from our twin towns</p> <p>5 Musical theatre Showcase at the Carnegie</p> <p>9 Official Opening of the new KFC Restaurant and Drive-Thru</p> <p>11 Thetford Cricket Club Vice President's Luncheon</p> <p>12 HM Lord Lieutenant County Service of Celebration at St Edmundsbury Cathedral to mark the Platinum Jubilee of HM The Queen</p> <p>15 Presidents Sporting Club Sports Experience Day for disabled children</p> <p>21 Friends of Ancient House Museum Summer Social at the United Reformed Church</p> <p>22 Official Opening of the Access Community Trust Steam House Cafe</p> <p>26 Thetford Open Gardens</p>
162/22	<p><u>TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES</u></p> <p>None.</p>
163/22	<p><u>REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS</u></p> <p>Councillor C Harvey reported in his capacity as a Breckland Councillor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serco staff shortage during Jubilee events. • Task force group to clear Spring Walk. <p>Councillor T Jermy reported in his capacity as a Breckland Councillor and Norfolk County Councillor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support can be obtained from Adult Social Care. • Council Tax support – Councillors to encourage residents to claim. • Money Advice Service for assistance with form-filling. • Thetford In Bloom Competition. <p>Councillor J James reported in her capacity as a Breckland Councillor and Norfolk County Councillor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminded the Council to recommend usage of the Report-It system on our website. <p>Councillor S Dowling reported in her capacity as a Breckland Councillor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abbey Estate – increased rubbish and broken paving slabs. <p>Councillor J Hollis reported a possible issue regarding the electrical timing and opening/closing of the toilets at the Bus Interchange. Action point: The Town Clerk will obtain clarification from the Town Team and send a communique to the Councillors.</p>
164/22	<p><u>USE OF AREA OUTSIDE RED LION PUBLIC HOUSE</u></p> <p>The working group reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive meeting, with all parties agreeing conditions. • A willingness to work together. • Desire to be included in all the consultations planned as part of the heritage masterplan project. <p>Committee discussed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns over litter in particular cigarette butts.

- Concern about smoking.
- Security provision.
- No significant rise in reported ASB over COVID 19 outside usage.
- Ensuring all marketplace tenants can apply for outside space licences, if desired.
- Property business manager to issue licence and apply commercial rent for space.

The application by the Red Lion Public House to use part of the car park area adjacent to their premises on a temporary basis was discussed.

The meeting was suspended to enable representatives of The Red Lion Public House to answer questions from the Committee.

A recorded vote was requested.

Councillor S Wright proposed and Councillor M Taylor seconded.

For the application – Councillors M Brindle, B Canham, D Crawford, D Hodgkinson, J Hollis, J James, M Taylor, B Tullett and S Wright.

Against the application – Councillors T Jermy and S Dowling.

Abstain from the application – Councillors C Harvey and C Barreto.

RESOLVED: That the application by The Red Lion Public House be approved.

A basis of determining an appropriate rental for the area.

A discussion took place, and the Committee agreed the Council's independent commercial letting agent will determine rent and ensure rents and rates are applied accurately and consistently.

165/22	<p><u>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</u> Councillors requested that a communique be sent regarding the Market Place and use of the area outside the Red Lion public house to inform every one of the intended usage of this space to maintain full transparency as a Council.</p>
166/22	<p><u>COMMITTEE OFFICERS UPDATE</u> None.</p>

CHAIRMAN

Adult Social Services - Quality Assurance Team

Support with the Increased Cost of Living

Quick Reference Guide

Due to the increase in the current cost of living, some Norfolk residents may be reluctant to accept the care they need due to the cost. Others may simply need additional financial support. This Quick Reference Guide outlines some of the support available to help you in your conversations with people and their families.

Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inflation (CPI) hit 9% in the 12 months to April 2022 and is expected to remain at around 9% for the remainder of this year, largely caused by increasing energy prices worldwide. • The energy price cap (the maximum price suppliers can charge) increased by £693 a year on 1 April 2022 and is due to increase by a further £900 in October 2022.
Support provided by Central Government	<p>The Government has announced the following support to help people with the increase in the cost of living and will provide further details in due course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Households in Council Tax bands A-D should have already received £150 off their 2022-2023 Council Tax Bill (usually paid as a lump sum by the District Council). • 28 million households will receive a discount of £400 on their energy bills from October 2022. This was previously announced as a £200 loan to be repaid over the following 5 years; however, this will now be a government grant. • The Warm Home Discount Scheme is being expanded to make more people eligible. This could mean an additional £140 per year off electricity bills from October 2022 including those on pre-payment and pay-as-you-go meters. People receiving the Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit will qualify if their energy supplier is part of the scheme. Some people on a low income may also be able to apply to their electricity supplier. • Those claiming means tested benefits, such as Universal Credit or Tax Credits for example, will receive a £650 Cost of Living Payment. This will be paid directly to people's bank accounts in two payments, the first from July 2022 and the second in the Autumn of 2022. • Those in receipt of Winter Fuel Payments (a one-off payment of £100-300 automatically paid in November/December), will also receive an extra one-off Pensioner Cost of Living Payment of £300 in the Autumn of 2022. • Those in receipt of disability benefits, will receive a one-off Disability Cost of Living Payment of £150 in September 2022.
Support for Norfolk residents eligible for care and support	<p>Additional information around available support can be found on the Norfolk County Council website.</p> <p>For those in receipt of care and support from NCC (or those who may shortly be eligible for services), additional information and support is available from:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The online calculator which provides people with an estimate of their care charges before their care starts. For those unable to access this, a provisional assessment can be completed by the Financial Assessment Team over the telephone: 01603 222133 Option 2. • For those contributing to the cost of their care and support who also pay expenses that are necessary and directly related to their disability or illness, they may be able to claim Disability Related Expenses (DRE). Practitioner guidance is available here or information for people is available on NCC's website here. Alternatively, the DRE Team can be contacted on 01603 222133 Option 2. • The Money Support Service provides money advice, help with budgeting, including access to grants available from utility providers etc. Telephone 01603 223392 (option 4) or email MSS@norfolk.gov.uk. • People may be entitled to additional welfare benefits and the Welfare Rights Unit is able to provide help and advice with benefits claims and queries. Telephone 01603 224447 or email welfarerights@norfolk.gov.uk.
Support available to all Norfolk residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Norfolk Assistance Scheme helps all Norfolk residents who are in financial hardship and cannot afford to pay their living costs. Applications are made online and further information is available here. • Norfolk Warm Homes is a scheme providing advice and support to help people live in warmer homes whilst reducing energy bills.
Additional support to help with energy debts	<p>If people are in debt to their energy supplier, they might be able to get a grant to help pay it off. The following energy suppliers offer grants to their customers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • British Gas Energy Trust, apply here; • Scottish Power Hardship Fund, apply here; • Ovo Energy Fund, apply here; • E.ON Energy Fund, apply here; • E.ON Next Energy Fund, apply here; • EDF Energy Customer Support Fund, apply here. <p>If they can't get a grant from their supplier, they may be able to get a grant from the British Gas Energy Trust. This grant is available to anyone, not just British Gas customers.</p>
Other budgeting and debt advice	<p>Further advice and support are available from several other organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age UK; • Norfolk Community Advice Network; • Money & Pension Service; • Citizens Advice Norfolk; • Stepchange; • MoneySavingExpert; • Turn2us.