

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HERTFORD TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE ROBIN ROOM, THE CASTLE, HERTFORD ON
MONDAY, 19 JANUARY 2015**

Present:

The Mayor of Hertford
Councillor Miss C Geall

Councillors

P Boyle, Mrs B Haddock, Mrs S Newton, Dr L Radford, P Ruffles, Miss J Sartin, Miss I Sigmac, A Stevenson, A Turner and N Wilson

Officers

Town Clerk – Ms N L Villa
Civic Administration Manager – Ms P Carpenter
Finance Manager – Mr S Davies
1 member of the public

Prayers – The Mayor’s Chaplain, The Rev’d Barbara Routley led the Council in the opening prayers.

361. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

362. MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor wished to thank both officers and councillors for their support at the recent quiz night, which had been a great success.

The Mayor also reminded members of two civic services which were booked in February, the first at the Methodist Church on 1 February 2015 and the other on 15 February at the Catholic Church. It was also hoped that a further service will take place on 12 April at St Andrew’s Church.

Members were also reminded to book early to attend the Civic Dinner on 7 March at Mayflower Place.

363. THE MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The minutes of the Full Town Council meeting held on 27 October 2014 be approved as a correct record and the Mayor be authorised to sign the same.

364. QUESTIONS AND/OR STATEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None.

365. COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councillor N Wilson moved the report of the Community Services Committee meeting held on 24 November 2014.

Minute 282: The Town Clerk was asked if she had had an opportunity to ask the Museum Curator whether the Museum would be interested in holding the reports of the Lovely Grub Garden, Mudlarks and the North Road Plotolders Group, as a record of all that is good in community life in Hertford. The Clerk agreed that she would contact the Curator.

Min 287: Cemetery Database

It was confirmed that officers were in the process of purchasing a new Cemetery database and were awaiting a formal quote for the preferred system.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The report of the Community Services Committee held on 24 November 2014 be received.

366. DEVELOPMENT AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

Councillor Miss Isabel Sigmac moved the report of the Development and Leisure Committee meeting held on 1 December 2014 (including the relevant reports of the Planning Sub-Committee meetings of 29 September, 13 October, 27 October, 10 November and 24 November 2014)

Min 291: Town Signage

It was confirmed that the scheme for new vehicular signage to the town centre had been approved and would be installed shortly.

Min 296: Town WiFi

Cllr Miss Sigmac confirmed that she had visited Bishop's Stortford with Cllr Miss Sartin and viewed the installation of the town wifi. It was expected that it would not be too difficult to run a similar system in Hertford.

Min 294: Wedding Exhibition

It was confirmed that the Wedding Exhibition would again be outsourced this year, but with a different company and the Council would receive 10% from each stall hire.

Post Box St Andrew Street:

It was requested that a metal plate be inserted to the slot of the post box to ensure the removal of the yellow and black tape.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The report of the Development and Leisure Committee meeting held on 1 December 2014 (including the relevant reports of the Planning Sub-Committee meetings of 29 September, 13 October, 27 October, 10 November and 24 November 2014) be received.

367. FINANCE, POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

Councillor A Stevenson moved the report of the meeting of the Finance, Policy and Administration Committee held on 15 December 2014 (including the report of the Personnel Sub Committee held on 10 November 2014)

Min 328 Mind Lease

Whilst the Mind Lease had been signed, a further minor amendment was required which was being worked on at present.

Personnel Sub Committee

It was requested that the TTIC staff recruitment be expedited to ensure that two members of staff were always present in the TTIC on a Saturday.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The report of the Finance, Policy and Administration Committee meeting held on 15 December 2014 (including the report of the Personnel Sub Committee held on 10 November 2014) be noted.

368. ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY & MUSEUM

The Council had received a letter from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum asking the Council to give consideration to writing a letter to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the death of Abraham Lincoln. The letter would be displayed in the Presidential Library and Museum and matched with the condolence letter sent by Hertford Borough Council following the assassination of Abraham Lincoln in 1865.

The Council was very happy to forward a letter to the Museum which would include reference to the Council's values matching those of Lincoln's, the freedom under God and the freedom to disagree but to then form a resolution and work together to achieve a common goal.

The letter could also include reference to the fact that the Council meeting and discussion took place of Martin Luther King Day, and refer to the 'I have a dream speech' on the steps of the Lincoln memorial.

Reference should also be made to Hertford's connection to Hartford, Connecticut and the identical statues of Samuel Stone in both Towns.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Town Clerk, in discussion with the Mayor, draft a suitable letter to be sent to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

369. PRECEPT 2015/16

The Finance Manager presented the proposed Precept for 2015/16 and confirmed that the Council could again achieve a 0% increase in precept with all proposed projects fully sustainable. Capital and revenue projects for the benefit of the Town were also achievable through funding from the New Homes Bonus.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- a) The Council approves a precept demand of £1,049,700 for 2015/16 which represents a 0% increase in the budget for a Band D household.
- b) The Council authorised the Mayor, two other Councillors (to include the Chairman of Finance, Policy and Administration Committee) and the Town Clerk to sign the formal precept demand.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2010