

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HERTFORD TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE ROBIN ROOM, THE CASTLE, HERTFORD ON
MONDAY, 31 MARCH 2014

Present:

The Deputy Mayor of Hertford
Councillor R Willis

Councillors

P Boyle, Miss C Geall, Mrs B Haddock, Mrs B Mansfield, Mrs S Newton, D Poole, Dr L Radford, P Ruffles, Miss J Sartin, Miss I Sigmac, A Stevenson and A Turner

Officers

Town Clerk – Ms N L Villa
Civic Administration Manager – Ms P Carpenter
I member of the public

Note: In the absence of the Mayor, The Deputy Mayor Cllr Willis took the Chair.

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

462. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Miss Geall, P Ruffles and Miss Sartin declared a DPI should there be any extended discussion regarding Hertford Museum.

463. MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

464. THE MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The minutes of the Full Town Council meeting held on 6 January 2014 be approved as a correct record and the Deputy Mayor be authorised to sign the same.

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

None.

466. COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councillor P Ruffles moved the report of the Community Services Committee meeting held on 17 February 2014.

Flowerbeds at Bluecoats

It was confirmed that soil enrichment had taken place to the beds at Bluecoats and that the beds now appeared on a schedule for maintenance. It was therefore hoped that this matter had been resolved.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The report of the Community Services Committee held on 17 February 2014 be received.

467. DEVELOPMENT AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

Councillor Miss Isabel Sigmac moved the report of the Development and Leisure Committee meeting held on 3 March 2014 (including the relevant reports of the Planning Sub-Committee meetings of 9 December 2013, 6 January, 20 January, 3 February and 17 February 2014)

Minute 419 – Hertford Town Council Events

The Town Clerk confirmed that the tree lights in Parliament Square had been damaged beyond repair following the recent storms, but that negotiations were currently taking place to ensure that the lights were re-installed in 2014 and available for use at events, not just at Christmas.

Minute 423 – The Castle Venue Report

A report would follow to the next meeting of the Finance, Policy and Administration Committee regarding the wider apportionment of staff salaries.

Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Sub Committee

The extensive work of the Planning Sub Committee over the last twelve months was commended

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The report of the Development and Leisure Committee meeting held on 3 March 14 (including the relevant reports of the Planning Sub-Committee meetings of 9 December 2013, 6 January, 20 January, 3 February and 17 February 2014) be received.

468. FINANCE, POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

Councillor Miss C Geall moved the report of the meeting of the Finance, Policy and Administration Committee held on 17 March 2014 (including the report of the Personnel Sub Committee held on 3 February 2014)

Minute 446 – Aims and Objectives

It was confirmed that poppy planting would shortly take place in the Castle Gardens, in All Saints Churchyard and the Cemetery to commemorate the Centenary of World War 1.

Minutes 446 – Review of Constitution and Aims and Objectives

Mayor/Deputy Mayor Protocol. That a suitable age for a Consort/Mayoress be amended from 16, but linked to the voting age

WWI Commemoration – To correct dates. Service to be held on 4 August 2014 and Royal Anglican Regiment homecoming parade on 24 July 2014.

Engagement with local emergency services – To reflect that a number of Cllrs and officers maintain a regular dialogue with the Emergency Services and that the engagement was not necessarily formal meetings of the Council. One meeting per year with the Committee was considered appropriate.

Officer/Member Training – Ensure all training, whether formal or informal be logged with the Town Clerk.

Health and Safety Requirements – Ensure all schedules are kept up to date.

Ensure Tax Payers money is spent wisely and efficiently. – Amend wording to read ‘seeking to keep portion of Council Tax as low as possible, but to ensure value for money in all that we do’

Standing Orders – To ensure through the wording that under proportionality of Committees that the Majority Group achieves majority voting through the Finance, Policy and Administration Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- a) The report of the Finance, Policy and Administration Committee meeting held on 17 March 2014 (including the report of the Personnel Sub Committee held on 3 February 2014) be noted.
- b) That the revised Aims and Objectives and Constitution be adopted subject to changes indicated above and corrections of grammatical errors.

469. MAYORAL NOMINATION FOR THE CIVIC YEAR 2014/15

It was **RESOLVED** that:

Councillor Miss C Geall be nominated Mayor of Hertford for the municipal year 2014/15.

470. MOTION

The following motion was raised by Cllr David Poole:

I propose that this Council writes to Riversmead Housing Association expressing its concern at the recent spate of planning applications which collectively has sought to develop almost every important piece of vital informal amenity land in its ownership on Hertford estates and to repossess garages and off road parking spaces. These developments will result in damage to the quality of life for all residents and cause a very serious and quite unnecessary major car parking problem. It will also lead to damage to the quality of the environment and will continue to produce serious road traffic safety conditions in parts of our town.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

A letter be forwarded to Riversmead Housing Association to express the Council’s concern at the recent spate of development proposals on both amenity and car parking land on Hertford Estates.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.25.