

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HERTFORD TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE ROBIN ROOM, THE CASTLE, HERTFORD ON
MONDAY, 18 JANUARY 2016**

Present:

The Mayor of Hertford
Councillor Dr L Radford

Councillors

P Boyle, Dr J Downs, Mrs S Dunkley, Miss C Geall, Mrs B Haddock, Mrs S Newton,
Miss J Sartin and A Stevenson

Officers

Town Clerk – Mr J Whelan
Civic Administration Manager – Ms P Carpenter
Finance Manager – Mr S Davies

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

The Council stood for a minute’s silence to remember Past Mayor Miss Jacqueline Gudgin who had recently died.

403. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr A Stevenson	Declarable	Agenda item 9 Business Motion	Cabinet member of HCC
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404. MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor advised that she had attended a further 48 engagements since the last meeting including Remembrance Sunday Services and White Gloves. The Mayor was delighted to advise members that the recent charity quiz night was a great success and raised £1300 for the Mayor’s chosen charity, the British Heart Foundation.

Invitations to the Civic Dinner on 5 March will be sent out shortly and will be held at the Three Lakes at Westmill. The Simon Balle Big Band will be leading the entertainment and the Mayor hoped she would sell all 120 tickets for the dinner.

Civic Church Services are shortly to be arranged.

405. THE MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The minutes of the Full Town Council meeting held on 2 November 2015 be approved as a correct record and the Mayor be authorised to sign the same.

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

None.

407. COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, Councillor P Boyle moved the report of the Community Services Committee meeting held on 30 November 2015.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The report of the Community Services Committee held on 30 November 2015 be received.

408. DEVELOPMENT AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

Councillor Miss J Sartin moved the report of the Development and Leisure Committee meeting held on 14 December 2015 and the Special Development and Leisure Committee held on 14 September 2015 (including the relevant reports of the Planning Sub-Committee meetings of 21 September, 5 October, 19 October, 2 November, 16 November, 30 November 2015).

GoHertford Website

An update on the refresh of the website was sought, and the Chairman agreed to report back on progress.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The report of the Development and Leisure Committee meeting held on 14 December 2015 and the Special Development and Leisure Committee held on 14 September 2015 (including the relevant reports of the Planning Sub-Committee meetings of 21 September, 5 October, 19 October, 2 November, 16 November, 30 November 2015) be received.

409. FINANCE, POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

Councillor Miss C Geall moved the report of the meeting of the Finance, Policy and Administration Committee held on 4 January 2016 (including the report of the Personnel Sub Committee held on 16 November 2016). The report included a recommendation for the adoption of a Protocol to be implemented in the event of the death of a Senior Member of the Royal Family.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

1. The report of the Finance, Policy and Administration Committee meeting held on 4 January 2016 (including the report of the Personnel Sub Committee held on 16 November 2015) be noted.
2. The Council **adopts** the Protocol, Death of a Senior member of the Royal Family for inclusion within the Constitution.

410. PRECEPT 2016/17

The Chairman of the Finance Policy and Administration Committee presented the proposed Precept for 2016/17 and confirmed that the Council could again achieve a 0% increase in precept on a Band D property with all proposed projects fully sustainable, despite increased employee National Insurance and Pension costs. The Chairman also drew members attention to the further investment in the TTIC and the likelihood of running two leases simultaneously for a short while.

The Finance Manager reported a £400 increase in the cost of the CCTV camera in Parliament Square, which would be funded by the CCTV reserve and the

ongoing costs of the town centre Wifi of £5400, which would be in addition to the budget presented.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- a) The Council **approves** a precept demand of £1076,800 for 2016/17 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.

411. BUSINESS MOTION

Councillor Miss J Sartin has given written notice in accordance with Standing Order 2.1(1.10) that she wishes to move the following motion:

Hertford Town Council recognises the ongoing concerns amongst Councillors, residents and businesses over the appearance of Maidenhead Street, and its detrimental impact on the town centre as a whole. Councillors call on the Town, District and County Councils to work together in 2016 to prioritise making visible improvements to the street's appearance, and improve safety for pedestrians.

It is noted that Hertford Town Council has spent considerable time and money over the past 18 months working towards securing improvements, and as part of this has a comprehensive study prepared by engineers that can pave the way for work being undertaken.

Proposer: Cllr Jane Sartin

Seconder: Cllr Sue Dunkley

The Council had first looked to focus efforts and resources into improving Maidenhead Street in 2014 and despite the work of officers and members from Hertford Town Council, Hertfordshire County Council and East Herts Council only minor improvements had taken place. Transformational Improvements to Maidenhead Street should be seen as a priority by the three Councils, it being one of the town's main focal points and a street which lets the town down. Members regularly received complaints from residents and businesses and the number of vehicle movements in the street presented a hazard to pedestrians.

It was hoped that renewed impetus would follow with the adoption of the Town Centre Urban Design Strategy and that real improvements could be made to Maidenhead Street.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Council **supports** the Motion.

412. CONSULTATION – DRAFT EAST HERTS ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME ENFORCEMENT POLICY

The Council received a copy of the Draft East Herts Council Environmental Crime Enforcement Policy.

The consultation broadly covered littering, street cleansing, dog fouling and the District Council's proposed approach for dealing with persistent offenders.

The Council welcomed the proposals, but Officers were requested to ask EHDC what monitoring and reporting mechanism have they or will they put in place to measure/report type and volume of enforcement activity for this policy

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Committee notes and welcomes the proposals set out in the draft East Herts Environmental Crime Enforcement Policy.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.10pm