

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HERTFORD TOWN COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN THE ROBIN ROOM, THE CASTLE, HERTFORD ON**  
**MONDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2010**

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs B Haddock

Councillors: Mrs H Durbin, Mrs A Emsley, J Hedley, Mrs D Hone  
M McCormick, Mrs S Newton, D Poole, R A K Radford, Dr L E Radford, P  
Ruffles and Miss J Sartin

Town Clerk, Mrs N L Villa  
Civic Administration Manager – Ms T Carpenter  
Representatives of The Matt Scales Fund for Aspiring Musicians

**Prayers** – In the absence of The Rev'd Nick Sharp, the Mayor's Chaplain, Cllr P Ruffles led the opening prayers.

**Presentation:**

Prior to the meeting, the Mayor presented a cheque of £3923.06 to representatives of The Matt Scales Fund for Aspiring Musician, being the proceeds from Rock at the Castle 2010

**224 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**225 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor was pleased to advise the Council that the recent MacMillan Coffee Morning raised £168. A trip to the twin town of Evron, a curry lunch at Basingbourne Barracks and a visit to Hertford Castle by the Bishop of Hertford were recent highlights of the Mayor's engagements.

**226 THE MINUTES**

It was **RESOLVED** that:

Having given effect to the above amendments, the minutes of the Full Town Council meeting held on 12 July 2010 and the be approved as a correct record and the Mayor be authorised to sign the same.

**227 QUESTIONS AND/OR STATEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There were no members of the public present.

**228 COMMUNITY SERVICES**

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, Cllr N Wilson moved the report of the Community Services Committee meeting held on 6 September 2010.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The report of the Community Services Committee held on 6 September 2010 be received.

**229      DEVELOPMENT AND LEISURE**

Councillor Miss J Sartin moved the report of the Development and Leisure Committee meeting held on 20 September 2010 (including the relevant reports of the Planning Sub-Committee meetings of 17 May, 1 June, 14 June, 28 June, 12 July, 19 July and 9 August 2010)

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (a) The report of the Development and Leisure Committee meeting held on 20 September 2010 (including the relevant reports of the Planning Sub-Committee meetings of 17 May, 1 June, 14 June, 28 June, 12 July, 19 July and 9 August 2010) be received.
- (b) The following guidelines to inform the public of the broad attitudes of the Council to some local planning aspects be adopted.
  1. In road traffic hierarchy, pedestrian safety issues are paramount. Cyclist safety is next.
  2. Internally illuminated signage is not approved of.
  3. Loss of on-site parking and garage conversion is resisted.
  4. The retention of indicators of a previous use of a building is welcome.
  5. Preservation, whatever their modern use, of outbuildings, yard lavatories, stables and barns, etc, is valued both within and without the conservation area.
  6. To maintain the appropriate character of a property and of the street scene the removal of chimney stacks is resisted.
  7. Until much improved road traffic access is arranged for the Mill Road/Mead Lane area further development of any kind will not be supported.
  8. The Council recognises the need for professional scholarship when considering treatment of, particularly the interior, of a listed building. It does not normally make specific comment on such applications but keenly seeks to retain the integrity of all important and less important buildings in the town. This keenness extends to interior as well as exterior features and characteristics.
  9. A1 retail use is welcomed wherever an application is made and loss of A1 use is resisted especially in prime shopping areas.
  10. Green Fingers' (river valleys) importance to the character of Hertford is always recognised.

11. Trees in both land and streetscape are valued.

## **230 FINANCE, POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION**

In the absence of the Chairman, Vice Chairman Councillor Mrs S Newton moved the report of the meeting of Finance, Policy and Administration Committee held on 27 September 2010.

The Council was advised that one of the tenants of the Seed Warehouse, City Water (Building and Maintenance) Ltd, had ceased trading owing the Council approximately £15,000 in respect of outstanding rent and unpaid service charges. They had also removed some of the fixtures and fittings. The company was a limited liability company meaning the shareholders cannot be held personally liable for the debts owed by the company and as they owned no assets, the Council had no possibility of pursuing the Directors for the sum owed. The Council was extremely disappointed to note that the Company was continuing to trade under the name City Water and City Net. It was noted that the loss of rental income would impact unfavourably on proposed projects and the budget for 2011/12 and this would be taken in to account during the forthcoming budget cycle.

A revision to the Council Objectives and an Anti Corruption Policy were recommended for adoption for inclusion in the Constitution.

The following minor amendments were made to the Council Objectives in the Constitution:

Skate Park: That Youth Town Council input be requested and that arrangements be made to meet with users of the skatepark to obtain feedback on the standard of the facility.

Civic & Ceremonial Traditions: That information be included as to how it was proposed to raise awareness of the traditions. i.e through open days and events, the Friends groups and receptions to welcome important visitors to the Town. It was also suggested that an invitation be extended to neighbouring Parish Councils be to an event to learn of the ceremonial traditions of Hertford.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (a) The report of the Finance Policy and Administration Committee held on 27 September 2010 be received.
- (b) That the revised Council objectives (with amendments) and Anti Corruption Policy be adopted for inclusion in the Constitution.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.05 pm.