

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HERTFORD TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE ROBIN ROOM, THE CASTLE, HERTFORD ON
MONDAY, 14 JULY 2008**

The Mayor, Councillor Miss K P Darby

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor P A Ruffles

Councillors J F Cook, Mrs H P Durbin, Miss C J Geall, Mrs D M Hone,
Mrs B S Haddock, Mrs S M Newton, D R Poole, Miss J C S Sartin and
N Wilson

Rev Jo Loveridge, the Mayor's Chaplain

Miss N L Villa, Town Clerk

Mrs M E Aldrich, Administrative Secretary

Miss Mandy Challis, Assistant to the Town Clerk

Prayers - The Mayor's Chaplain, Rev Jo Loveridge, led the opening prayers

73. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors agreed that previously stated declarations of interest still applied.

74. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor awarded Certificates of Achievement to retiring Hertford Youth Town Council members, David Honour and Peter Townsend.

Councillor P A Ruffles as the Town Council representative on Hertford Youth Town Council, told members that Peter Townsend has served on the Youth Town Council for many years, and has been presented with a Citizen of the Year award by East Herts District Council.

Administrative secretary, Mrs M E Aldrich was presented with a card and gift on behalf of Town Council members in recognition of her retirement, to thank her for many years of service with Hertford Town Council.

75. THE MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 31 March 2008, 15 May and 22 May be approved as a correct record and the Chairman authorised to sign the same.

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

There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

77. COMMUNITY SERVICES

Councillor N Wilson moved the report of the Community Services Committee.

Minute 27 – Cromwell Road Allotments – Community Allotment and Orchard - Councillor J F Cook asked for further information on the Community Allotment.

Councillor N Wilson reported that Ms Myra Campbell had been asked to provide a business plan for the community orchard, but to date this had not been submitted. The Town Clerk was to progress this with Ms Campbell.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The report of the Community Services Committee held on 2 June 2008 be received.

78. DEVELOPMENT AND LEISURE

Councillor Miss J C S Sartin moved the report of the Development and Leisure Committee.

Minute 47 – Town Centre Enhancement - Councillor Miss J C S Sartin confirmed that it appears that the funding from East Herts Council was on a match-funding basis. Discussions were still ongoing; however suggestions on relevant projects were welcome.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The report of the Development and Leisure Committee held on 16 June 2008 (this included the relevant reports of the Planning Sub-Committee meetings of 3, 17, and 31 March, 21 April and 12 May 2008) be received.

79. FINANCE, POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

Councillor Miss C J Geall moved the reports of the Finance, Policy and Administration Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The report of the Finance, Policy and Administration Committee held on 21 April and 30th June 2008 be received.

80. MOTION – PUBLIC CLOCKS

Councillor P A Ruffles had given written notice in accordance with Standing Order 2.1(1.10) and moved the following motion:

“Council hereby authorises the Town Clerk to write in the terms of a letter drafted below and part of this motion to the following people:

David Morris Car Sales, Ware Road, Hertford
Riversmead Housing Association, Ware Road, Hertford
Mssrs Sainsbury (in respect of the clock on the tower of the Victorian Brewery, Hartham Lane)
The Church Wardens, Holy Trinity Church, Bengoe
The Church Wardens, St. Mary’s Church, Hertingfordbury
The Church Wardens, St. Andrews Church, Hertford
The Managing Agency, Bircherley Green, Hertford
The Manager, Chauncy Court
The Manager, Bagalettes, Bircherley Court

Dear....

The Town Council has duties in connection with “Public Clocks”. First, I am asked by my Council to thank you for continuing to recognise the value of clocks in public places not only for their most fundamental purpose but also for the enlivening effect they have on the street landscape and for the interest they add to a building.

The Council has direct responsibility for two clocks, (both John Briant clocks - the famous Hertford bell founder). One of these is The Shire Hall Clock (now adjusted daily and automatically by airwave from Rugby); the other is the clock in All Saints tower.

All of the other clocks are privately provided for the public good and the Council thanks all for so doing.

The second reason for writing is to encourage your continued generosity if a repair is currently needed. While an accurate clock is a huge asset within the community, a stopped clock can sometimes have a seriously misleading effect.

My Council is keen that this letter is not seen as a criticism, but as an encouragement offered to where appropriate to get this fine public spirited action ticking again, and as a reminder, with thanks to all, of the great street enlivening quality all clocks bring.”

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Town Council approve the motion, on the condition that the Library clock be included in the distribution list.

81. MOTION – GOVERNMENT’S EAST OF ENGLAND PLAN

Councillor Miss J C S Sartin gave written notice and moved the following motion:

“Hertford Town Council commends the decision by Hertfordshire County Council to mount a legal challenge against the Government’s East of England Plan, which requires Hertfordshire to provide 83,200 new homes in the period up to 2021, along with the so-called ‘North of Harlow’ development, which falls within the East Herts district, and will comprise a minimum of 10,000 homes in a rural area.

Hertford Town Council notes the reasons for the County Council’s challenge, and agrees to write to the Leader of the County council offering its whole-hearted support in its bid to stop the residents of Hertfordshire being subject to an intolerable encroachment of its countryside, unsustainable strain on its utilities, and pressure on its already over-crowded roads and rail networks, which all go towards reducing the quality of life in the county”.

Cllr Mrs H Durbin questioned whether Hertford Town Council would be expected to contribute to the legal costs incurred by Hertfordshire County Council.

The Town Clerk confirmed that Hertford Town Council would not be assisting the finance of legal costs.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Town Council approve the motion.

Councillor Mrs H P Durbin abstained from voting and wished for this to be recorded.

82. REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor Miss C J Geall commended the changes made to the review of the Constitution of the Council.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The review of the Constitution of the Council be received and approved.

83. TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

The Town Clerk presented the first draft of the Town Council Newsletter to Councillors.

Councillor J F Cook requested that North Road allotments be featured. Councillor Miss C J Geall recommended that this be included as a feature for the next issue.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

Issue 1 of the Town Council Newsletter of the Council be received and approved.

84. AMENDMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODY REPRESENTATIVES

It was **RESOLVED** that:

1. Councillor J F Cook be appointed as the Town Council's representative on CAGE
2. Councillor Miss J C S Sartin be deleted as the Town Council's representative on the Hertford Town Partnership and be replaced with Cllr Mrs S Newton.

85. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

It was **RESOLVED** that:

In view of the confidential nature of the following item, which related to the business matters of other individuals and organisations, the public be excluded whilst the following item was discussed. This was in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by the Local Government Act 1972.

86. REVIEW OF TOWN CLERK'S REMUNERATION

The Town Council received a report on the review of the Town Clerk's remuneration.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Town Clerk's salary is increased to band LC4 (56 – 60), with immediate effect.

87. UPDATE ON FORMER EMPLOYEE (PAYROLL NO 53)

The Town Council received a verbal update on the latest situation concerning this former employee.