

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HERTFORD TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE ROBIN ROOM, THE CASTLE, HERTFORD ON
MONDAY, 30 MARCH 2009

The Mayor, Councillor Miss K P Darby

Councillors, J F Cook, Mrs H P Durbin, Miss C J Geall, , Mrs B S Haddock, J C Hedley, Mrs S M P Newton, D R Poole, R A K Radford, Dr L E Radford, P A Ruffles, Miss J C S Sartin and N Wilson.

Mrs N L Villa, Town Clerk
Miss M Challis, Assistant to the Town Clerk
Rev. Jo Loveridge, Prayers

Prayers – Rev Jo Loveridge, led the opening prayers

276. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

277. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Peter Ruffles presented the Mayor with a book of oil paintings from around Hertfordshire.

The Mayor reminded Councillors that tickets for her Civic Dinner on 25th April and raffle tickets are now on sale from the Castle and the Town and Tourist Information Centre.

278. THE MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The amended version of the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 2 March 2009 be approved as a correct record and the Chairman authorised to sign the same.

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

There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

280. UK HONOURS SYSTEM - NOMINATIONS

The Town Clerk reported that the Town Council now receives a letter from the Cabinet Office requesting nominations for the UK Honours list. It was suggested that the Town Council is in an ideal position to nominate local people for recognition and it was therefore proposed that authority to nominate one person per round to the UK Honours List be delegated to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

Authority to nominate one person per application cycle be delegated to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

281. ASHLEY WEBB SHELTER

Although a historic construction, it is no longer considered fit for its intended use. It is used as by congregating youths who deface and abuse the facility.

The Council considered whether the Ashley Webb Shelter could be made more attractive without demolishing the construction in part or in whole.

The proposed schedule of works by East Herts Council is intended to make the construction more open in order to prevent the Shelter being used for anti social behaviour by a small but significant minority of young people.

Councillors were reluctant to agree to these works as it was felt that the Shelter would resemble little more than an unsightly brick wall, and because such works would be likely to lead to complete demolition in the future.

It was suggested that with suitable re-construction work, the building would become an attractive feature of the Castle grounds once again and that the Council should work with East Herts Council to formulate a more detailed plan and drawings outlining the future of the shelter.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (a) The council note the proposed schedule of works provided by East Herts Council.
- (b) The council was supportive to consider the proposed changes to the Ashley Webb Shelter, but reluctant to agree to demolition work without a plan for future design in place.

282. COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

Councillor Miss C J Geall commended the new Maternity and Irregular Attendance policies and the Model Publication Scheme to be included in the Council's Constitution.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Council received and approved the new Maternity and Irregular Attendance policies and the Model Publication Scheme to be included in the Council's Constitution.

283. MAYORAL NOMINATION FOR THE CIVIC YEAR 2009/10

It was **RESOLVED** that:

Councillor D R Poole be nominated as Mayor for the Civic Year 2009/10.

Councillor Poole thanked the council for its support and said that as a Scout he made a Promise "to do his best". Councillor Poole said that he would carry on his Scout Promise as Mayor of Hertford.

284. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

It was **RESOLVED** that:

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

285. STAFFING REPORT

The Council received a verbal report from the Town Clerk to consider a request from a member of staff to work beyond retirement age. The Town Clerk reported that in accordance with Standing Orders, any member of staff who is currently employed beyond retirement age will have their continued employment reviewed on an annual basis. The Facilities Manager currently falls in to this category and had expressed a wish to continue his employment for a further year.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The contract of employment for the Facilities Manager be extended for a further period of 12 months.

286. SALARY REVIEW

The Council received and considered a report containing the results of the recent Salary Review conducted by East of England Regional Assembly.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- a) The Council approve the virement of £2,500 from budget code 7003 to cover additional staff costs of £2416.42; and
- b) The Council approve the recommendations for the new salary scales, to be implemented from 1st April 2009.