

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HERTFORD TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE ROBIN ROOM, THE CASTLE, HERTFORD ON
MONDAY, 12 JULY 2010

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs B Haddock

Councillors: Miss K Darby Mrs H Durbin, Mrs A Emsley, Miss C Geall, 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

The Rev'd N Sharp – Mayor's Chaplain

Representatives of Keech Cottage Hospice and St John's Ambulance (Hertford Branch)

Prayers – The Rev'd Nick Sharp, the Mayor's Chaplain, led the opening prayers.

Presentation:

Prior to the meeting, Cllr D Poole presented cheques of £4329.43 to representatives of Keech Cottage Hospice and St John's Ambulance, being the proceeds from the Mayor of Hertford's Appeal Fund 2009/10

Statement from Cllr J Hedley

Cllr Hedley offered his unreserved apology to the Council following his behaviour at a Council meeting in 2009. The apology was a requirement of a Standards Board investigation into Cllr Hedley's behaviour, as was a written apology and a three month suspension from the Council, which had been duly served.

108 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

109 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor gave a short summary of the engagements she had attended since her appointment as Mayor, which had included a visit to Wildeshausen, attendance at the Vintage Tea Party and a visit to the Royal Anglian Regiment prior to their deployment to Afghanistan.

110 THE MINUTES

Minutes 10 May 2010

Minute 283 Line 2: Amend 'formally adopted' to read 'formally adopt.'
Line 5: Amend 'high ranking' to read 'highly rated.'

It was **RESOLVED** that:

Having given effect to the above amendments, the minutes of the Full Town Council meeting held on 10 May 2010 and the Annual Meeting of the Council on 20 May be approved as a correct record and the Chairman be authorised to sign the same.

111 QUESTIONS AND/OR STATEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

112 COMMUNITY SERVICES

Cllr K Darby moved the report of the Community Services Committee meeting held on 14 June 2010.

Minute 72 – Seasonal Inspection. It was noted that the standard of maintenance at All Saints Churchyard had been disappointing recently and that a seasonal inspection of the site would take place on 28 July 2010.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The report of the Community Services Committee held on 14 June 2010 be received.

113 DEVELOPMENT AND LEISURE

Councillor Miss J Sartin moved the report of the Development and Leisure Committee meeting held on 7 June 2010 (including the relevant reports of the Planning Sub-Committee meetings of 22 February, 8 March, 22 March, 12 April, 19 April and 4 May 2010.

Min 38 Events: It was confirmed that planning towards the Cultural Olympiad weekend on 24/25 July 2010 was at an advanced stage, with activities due to take place in the Town Centre, the Castle, the Library and Leisure Centre.

Min 41 Town Centre Update: It was confirmed that a problem with Hertfordshire Highways concerning the provision of signage was nearing completion.

Page 32. Planning Policies for Hertford. It was confirmed that the policies would be forwarded to East Herts Council, Hertfordshire Highways and other bodies as an organic set of guidelines for information. The recommendation to adopt the guidelines would be forwarded to the next meeting of the Council.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The report of the Development and Leisure Committee meeting held on 7 June 2010 (including the relevant reports of the Planning Sub-Committee meetings of 22 February, 8 March, 22 March, 12 April, 19 April and 4 May 2010 be received.

114 FINANCE, POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

Councillor Miss C Geall moved the report of the meeting of Finance, Policy and Administration Committee held on 28 June 2010.

Min 93 Town Plan. The Chairman confirmed that the first meeting of the Working Group would follow this meeting.

Min 95 Review of the Constitution of the Council: The Committee had recommended that the Council formally adopt the proposed flag flying policy, Use of Council Logos Policy and Grants Policy along with the Council Objectives for 2010/11.

The Council requested the following amendments to the Grants Policy:

Policy 4.8: The Town Clerk was asked to agree a form of words with the Chairman of the Finance, Policy and Administration Committee that clarified the Council would not normally fund ordinary operating costs but would welcome applications for projects or asset related activities.

Policy 4.1: Delete 'which includes parts of Hertingfordbury' Replace with: which includes Hertingfordbury Village.

Policy 4.6: Amend to read 'Only one grant per year would normally be made to each applicant. Delete 2nd sentence relating to small and large grant categories.

Council Objectives 2010/11

The Council requested that each objective within the document included details of the Committee responsible for the relevant service area.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (a) The report of the meeting of Finance, Policy and Administration Committee held on 28 June 2010 be received.
- (b) The Council adopts the Flag flying and Council logos Policy along with the Grants Policy (with amendments) and Council Objectives 2010 (with amendments).

115 BUSINESS MOTION

The following Business Motion had been proposed by Cllr Miss J Sartin in accordance with Standing Order 1.10 and seconded by Cllr Dr L Radford.

'Hertford Town Council recognises the vital part that parking provision plays in supporting the town centre. In Hertford, free short-stay on-street parking encourages people to make short trips into the town for shopping, and to use services such as banks, the Post Office and dry cleaners.

The Town Council believes that the introduction of charging for on-street parking in Hertford could cause significant damage to the town centre's viability as a provider of shops and services to local residents. Furthermore, the Town Council notes that the introduction of machines to provide tickets or metering for on-street charging would have a detrimental impact on the appearance of our historic county town.

Hertford Town Council therefore urges East Herts District Council not to implement charging for on-street parking in Hertford. '

Whilst the Council recognised that East Herts District Council had difficult financial decisions to make it was nevertheless considered essential that the Town Centre be supported during the difficult economic times, and whilst the introduction of on street parking fees may achieve some income for the District Council, this would pale into insignificance compared to the support the Town Centre would require if its viability was adversely affected by the introduction of such charges. The provision of car parking was a very tangible way of supporting town centres and it was noted that whilst the District Council was spending a great deal of money in refurbishing the car park at Gascoyne Way it was still not delivering the 'pay of exit' method which had long been requested by retailers and shoppers alike. It was noted that car parking was the most regularly quoted concern of all retailers and the District Council should at this time be doing everything it could to support businesses in order to keep the Town Centre vibrant.

Concern was further expressed regarding the detrimental impact the introduction of parking meters would have on the Conservation Area.

It was suggested that East Herts District Council did not intend to implement the new parking measures during the current financial year, but it was noted that the measures would not be welcomed at any future date. It was further noted that the District Council was often reluctant to engage with the Town Council on matters affecting Hertford and on this specific matter the Council first became aware of it via the press.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The motion be carried.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm.