

ATTLEBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL –FOR PUBLIC
Minutes of the meeting held in Attleborough Town Hall, Queens Square, Attleborough,
Norfolk, on Monday 7 January 2008 at 7pm.

PRESENT

Cllrs V Dale (Chair), N Keach, B Waters, A Free, G Farrow, R Laurence, S Middlebrook, J Horswell, P Neal, S Schucroft, R Reynolds D Francis, J Sparke, J Burton; H Elias (Town Clerk); District Councillors, members of the press and public.

1 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

None were offered.

2 QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITH TREVOR HOLDEN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, BRECKLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Questions raised concerned the amount of money per head spent on Sports in Attleborough, developments since the Audit Commission's "poor" rating for sports & leisure facilities in Breckland, why the Community Action Plan for Market Towns in Attleborough had not included Attleborough, the lack of continuity as a result of the frequent changeover of staff at Breckland, and Mr Holden's experience in running a Council. Mr Holden replied that the government required data to be collected in a different way and it was impossible to state exactly how much money was returned to Attleborough; also people from the surrounding area benefited from facilities within the town so money was returned to the area not just within the town. Match funding had provided £10,000 for gifted & talented young people to be supported, £22m worth of new facilities opened, plus a summer holiday programme, and more equipment had been installed in the Sports Centre. Failures in service provision needed to be identified. The senior management team were now in place at Breckland, a new Deputy Chief Executive had been appointed. Mr Holden's experience included 25 years in the RAF, plus 2 ½ years in Derbyshire. Thanks were expressed by Mrs Dale.

3 TO AGREE A RESOLUTION THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED TO ALLOW A PERIOD OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (maximum 10 minutes in duration – NB: a second period of public participation will be allowed at the end of the meeting)

It was proposed by Cllr Keach and carried by Council that the meeting be adjourned.

Items raised were: PFI contract not applicable to Attleborough; the local economy; litter along the A11; development and S106 agreements; Swaffham sports facilities
The meeting was reconvened..

4 TO PUT TO THE CHAIR ANY URGENT BUSINESS [under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 100 (B)(4)(b)]

A request for staffing to be discussed below the line was agreed

5 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS BELOW: None

6 TO RECEIVE THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (see attached sheet): No questions received

7 TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The minutes were signed with the following amendments:

Item 9: Precept Proposal: should read "which equates to an increase of £10.36 per year on a Band D house bringing it to £64.12" ie. £64.12 NOT £4.12

8 TO RECEIVE A BRIEF UPDATE ON ANY ITEMS NOT LISTED BELOW

Item 8 iii) Town Hall webcam: 872 people to date had accessed the site.

8 iv) Queens Square signs: There was a query with the materials quoted for. Open Spaces Committee will decide on supplier at its meeting on 21 January 2008.

Item 8 vi b): Council Representatives:

It was proposed by Cllr Waters and carried by Council that Cllr Sparke replace Cllr Burton as the second representative on Attleborough Charities, that Cllr Schucroft be the High School Representative and Cllr Dale be the CCTV rep with Cllr Horswell as the Business CCTV Rep.

Organisations to be informed. **ACTION: Town Clerk**

Item 13: Bins & Benches: The Clerk keeps databases of requests for bins & benches.

Item 19 iv): Ballwall at London Road. The LAG (Local Area Group) meeting had agreed to give money to a ballwall. Siting will be agreed with the police.

9 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE COMMITTEE MINUTES:

i) Planning x 3: Cllr Neal thanked the Committee for meeting three times in December. The appeal hearing by Mrs Abronica Jones for extra caravans on the site at The Bungalow, Leys Lane would be heard in the Town Hall on Tuesday 15 January at 10am. Sainsbury's application had been amended to lose only 8 parking spaces instead of 16.

ii) Town Promotion: No queries

iii) Others, including Representatives' Reports: None

10 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE PURCHASE OF A VEHICLE FOR THE TRANSPORT OF EQUIPMENT

A sponsor had not yet been found for a vehicle.

11 TO AGREE A STRATEGY FOR SPORTS PROVISION IN ATTLEBOROUGH

The open meeting on Thursday 24 January would be held in the High School at 7.30pm and be hosted by the Town Council, Attleborough High School and Breckland Council. Mr Jeremy Savage is to Chair the meeting. After an initial welcome & refreshments, a presentation will be given on the issues and funding, groups will identify the priorities, and proposals will be made for pushing the project forward.

It was agreed by Council that the three facilitators for group work should be Cllrs Waters, Farrow and the Clerk and the Council Representatives on any steering / working groups subsequently formed would be Cllrs Burton, Laurence and Reynolds.

It was suggested that not only sports should be considered, but also leisure and the arts for the wider community

12 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE ATYFC LEASE

A meeting is to be arranged between the Council's solicitor, Council representatives and ATYFC members before the next full Council meeting.

13 TO AGREE THE PURCHASE OF A FIRE RESISTANT CUPBOARD FOR STORAGE OF BURIAL RECORDS

To enable the burials procedures to be dealt with at the Town Hall, suitable fire resistant storage must be obtained. A safe would need to be installed on the ground floor. A fire resistant cupboard is less heavy and could be installed in the Clerk's Office.

Quotes had been received as follows:

Safes:

AFM Security: Reconditioned Chubb safe

A C Leigh: new Chubb safe

incl delivery & installation £760 + VAT

£1,165 + £165 delivery + VAT

Anglia Locksmiths: Phoenix fire fighter safe £695 + £125 delivery only **OR** £195 delivery & installation

Fire safe cupboard:

Techniform Brochure Fire resistant security cupboard: £609.40 + VAT + £25 delivery

Greenacre Brochure Fire / Security cupboard: £1192 + VAT inc delivery

It was proposed by Cllr Keach and carried by Council that the fire cupboard from the Techniform Brochure at £609.40 + VAT be purchased.

14 TO DISCUSS THE NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL SITE ON BLACKTHORN ROAD

The site in question was given to Norfolk CC for educational purposes by the developer under a section 106 agreement. If the County Council does not require the land it must be returned to the developer. This is a legally binding contract. Originally the site was to be used for a first school, which does not require playing fields. Following reorganisation primary & junior schools are being built which require land for playing fields, and the site is too small. Enquiries were made as to whether the Town Council could purchase the land from Norfolk. This is not possible. A request is to be sent to Wilcon's successors for the land to be donated to the Town Council by the developer if it is returned by Norfolk CC. **ACTION: Town Clerk**

15 TO RECEIVE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Mr Stasiak sent his apologies.

Mrs Howard-Alpe reported on the Drug Awareness Team. Money is available for programmes for drugs abuse, but there is none for alcohol abuse. The older generation are slipping through the net. She had attended the Town and Parish forum meeting at Swaffham.

Mr Francis reported that the alleyway to Wayland Close was much improved. He noted that most of the development along the Besthorpe Road had been granted planning permission before S106 agreements had come into force. He had attended the opening of the Norfolk Academy for Gymnastics in Besthorpe. An application has been submitted for a 54 bed hotel on the site of the old garage and Old Flame restaurant in Snetterton. He commented on the applications at Heisker, Swanagey Farm and 117-119 Hargham Road.

Mr Martin reported that the Flexibus is to be extended to the Buckenham area. A door to door service is provided for those who ring before 5pm the previous day.

16 TO AUTHORISE PAYMENT OF BILLS AND CHEQUES (see sheet given out)

A discussion about the cost of the Christmas lights took place.

17 TO RECEIVE DETAILS OF DECEMBER'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT (see sheet given out)

The budget to date is on track

18 TO DISCUSS CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

i) Letter from Breckland re S106 agreements. Clerk to seek clarification of who is to pay £250 monitoring charge. **ACTION: Town Clerk**

ii) Letter from Attleborough & District Chamber of Commerce & Industry re parking and Market Day. Clerk to reply as per instructions from Chair of Markets Committee. **ACTION: Town Clerk**

iii) Notice that work on Norwich Road Puffin crossing would start on 7 January.

- iv) Letter of thanks from Morley & Attleborough Methodist Youth Club for the donation to the air soccer.
- v) Letter from M & Co stating that Council's complaints had been passed to their maintenance manager who will arrange for the faults to be rectified.
- vi) Letter from Highways Agency stating that the land owned by them at the junction of Queens Road / Attleborough Bypass was not on its surplus land register and that first refusal would be given to the original owner.
- vii) Letter from Mrs Abel stating that the Reaction youth group is changing and will become part of the South Norfolk Youth Action Group. There are currently no contacts for the Reaction Group.
- vi) Membership of the Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital NHS Trust is free and open to anyone over 12 years old. Contact www.nnuh.nhs.uk or 0870 707 1628 for a form.

The following documents are available in the Clerk's office:

- i) Tree Preservation Order made on trees along the Norwich Road. Map available
- ii) East of England Biodiversity Forum: information on the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006
- iii) Norfolk PCT consultation document on its Proposed Vision & Priorities 2008-2011. Meeting to be held at John Jarrold Suite at the UEA Sportspark, Norwich on 28 January 2pm – 4pm and also 6.30pm -8.30pm.

19 TO RECEIVE ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH'S AGENDA. (AOB- information only)

AOB:

- i) Adult Education
- ii) Youth Forum - Cllrs Farrow and Horswell had met.
- iii) EDF Energy had still not removed dangerous stay wire and bollard
- iv) A request was made to chase a reply from Norfolk re the proposed Norwich Road bus shelter
- v) Damaged visi-rails on Connaught Plain had not been replaced
- vi) It was suggested that large vehicles should be sent to Norwich via the Breckland Lodge roundabout to avoid Connaught Plain being damaged.
- vii) Litter was dreadful along the road between the London Road and Peter Beales Roses.
- viii) *Breckland Voice* had not contained anything about Attleborough
- ix) A great deal of work had been done at the Boxing Gym following the Council's £4,000 donation.
- x) Toilets handover – a third presentation is to be heard by Finance Committee.
- xi) The Clerk has completed her CiLCA portfolio and is awaiting the results. She is currently compiling the Quality Status portfolio.
- xii) The Groundsman's hedge trimmer had been stolen and replaced.

Agenda:

- i) Bottle Banks

20 TO AGREE A RESOLUTION THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED TO ALLOW A PERIOD OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was proposed by Cllr Waters and carried by Council that the Council adjourn the meeting.

Items raised were: ATYFC lease, Possible steering committee, Sainsbury's fencing and lack of signs, Youth equipment.

21 The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 4 February 2008 at 7pm

A resolution asking the press and public to leave was not made as the press and public left of their own accord.

THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS HEARD IN CONFIDENCE / IN CAMERA / BELOW THE LINE

STAFFING

A discussion took place and a resolution was passed.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Chair:

DRAFT