

DRAFT

ATTLEBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the above Council held in Attleborough Town Hall, Queens Square, Attleborough, Norfolk, on Monday 5 October 2009 at 7pm.

PRESENT

Cllrs V Dale (Chair), G Farrow, N Keach, S Schucroft, A Sturt, K Pettitt, A Marchant, S Middlebrook, J Taylor, S Taylor, D Francis, R Reynolds, J McBride; District Cllrs P Francis & A Byrne; H Elias (Town Clerk); members of the press and public. Insp L Cross, Supt K Elliot, Sgt J Papworth

1 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs B Waters and G Firman, (both unwell).
Cllr Sturt arrived at 7.05pm.

2 TO HOLD A QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION WITH INSPECTOR LYNNE CROSS, NORFOLK POLICE

The Mayor welcomed Insp. Cross, Supt Elliot and Sgt Papworth. The Council's letter to the Chief Constable raised concerns: anger at the strategy for policing Attleborough; the loss of an inspector only recently arrived; the reduction of manned office hours at the station to two days a week; little police presence on the streets; Attleborough the "poor relation"; the population set to double under the LDF (Local Development Framework); residents not able to report crimes / no confidence that reporting crime will make a difference; residents unable to get through on the non-emergency number / having to wait an unacceptable time before a problem is dealt with; non-enforcement of the "alcohol-free zone"; non enforcement of on-street parking. Supt Elliot explained that the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) was a dedicated team committed to making Attleborough a safe place to live and work. They dealt with the surrounding villages as well as the town; the team had increased from 1 Sgt, 2 PCs and 4 PCSOs to 2 Sgts, 4 PCs and 4 PCSOs. Also Response Teams operated from six hubs, and Attleborough was covered by CID and dog officers. A review had changed shift patterns to improve coverage at potentially difficult times, so public money was better spent. Cllr McBride arrived at 7.16pm.

Superintendent Elliot announced that the station manning had been reviewed and it would open three days a week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. All victims of crime now receive a personal visit. August figures showed that the non-emergency line was answered on average after 35 seconds. Councillors and members of the public were not satisfied and she agreed to report this back to the force and obtain figures for abandoned calls. They also raised public order nights, police visibility and the amount of time needed to deal with an arrest in Attleborough as those arrested were taken to Thetford. The expansion of the town was not being planned for. The Mayor thanked the police for attending and expressed appreciation for all the work the police do in the town. The next SNT meeting will be at the High School on 22 October at 7.30pm. The Police and District / County Cllr Alec Byrne left the meeting.

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 to allow the public to speak.

Items raised were: Questions for the Police;
The meeting was reconvened.

4 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS BELOW

Cllr Dale declared an interest in any matters to do with the Recreation Ground.

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5 TO RECEIVE THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (refer to diary list)

No queries were raised about the Mayor's diary.

6 TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (previously circulated – factual discrepancies only)

The minutes were agreed and signed with the following amendments.

Pg 1: Item 7: insert "Road" after "London"

Pg 3: Item 16: replace "to" with "the" to read "District Councillors were asked to push the matter through".

7 TO RECEIVE A BRIEF UPDATE ON ANY ITEMS NOT LISTED BELOW (NB Information only – no resolutions may be passed)

i) Item 19 ix: Gaymer's Meadow: The Police SNT had visited every night and found nothing.

8 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE COMMITTEE MINUTES: (refer to enclosed documents)

i) Planning x 2: No queries.

ii) Town Hall: a meeting had taken place with Patrick O' Brian of the Licensing Team.

iii) Finance: The precept and budgeting are under discussion.

iv) Open Spaces: The Committee recommended repairs to the play area on the Recreation Ground. The options were to patch the surfaces @ £510 + VAT, skim the surface to look like new @ £4,903 + VAT, or dig out and start afresh. Eventually the Committee wanted to make the play area larger.

It was proposed by Cllr Reynolds and carried by Council that the skim option of covering existing wet pour surfaces @ £4,903 be undertaken. ACTION: Town Clerk

The proposed cemetery extension at the Dell would probably give Council a breathing space of about four years; the hedge would need to be planted between November and February. More land was needed for the future. Vehicles were being parked in the access road to bungalows at the Thieves Lane entrance, so yellow box hatching would be painted on the road and a sign moved to a more prominent position. **ACTION: Town Clerk**

9 TO RATIFY MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

The Health & Safety Committee would come to an end shortly and responsibility for Health and Safety matters would be passed back to the relevant committees. Cllr J Taylor will join the Planning and the LDF & Transport Committees, and Cllr J McBride will join the Town Hall and the Open Spaces Committees. On two occasions recently a quorum has been difficult to obtain. It was suggested nominated substitutes could be appointed who could be contacted if a quorum could not be attained due to illness, holidays or prior commitments. The substitutes would not be expected to attend every meeting. The Mayor requested that each member added their name to two more committees they were interested in. **ACTION: All Councillors**

10 TO RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

None

11 TO RECEIVE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Planning Applications: These are available to view on line with all the details, including the objections, though without the name of the persons who had made the objections.

The LDF Core Strategy had been deemed sound subject to certain amendments. The next stage of the process was the Site Specifics documents – in Attleborough's case this will be included in the Attleborough & Snetterton Heath Action Plan.

Swamp Lane: strong smells have been emanating from the knackers yard. The Environmental Health team having been investigating.

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12 TO RECEIVE DETAILS OF SEPTEMBER'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT (refer to enclosed documents)

No queries were raised.

13 TO AUTHORISE PAYMENT OF BILLS AND CHEQUES (refer to list)

Queries raised were: whether it was possible to obtain a better deal for the telephone and utilities by putting them under one bill. The universal locks cost £208.

It was proposed by Cllr Pettitt and carried by Council that the cheques be paid. ACTION: Town Clerk

14 TO AGREE THE PLANS FOR THE PROPOSED TOWN HALL SHED PROJECT WITH A VIEW TO GAINING PLANNING PERMISSION

The shed is beyond repair and needs to be demolished. Detailed plans have been drawn up for replacement storage areas, an accessible archive and an office which could be let out. Planning permission would have to be renewed after three years if building had not commenced.

It was proposed by Cllr Middlebrook and carried by Council that the plans be submitted for planning permission. ACTION: Town Clerk

15 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON PARKING PROPOSALS

Council has been invited to speak at the Breckland meeting on Tuesday 13 October at 2pm in Connaught Hall. There was a discussion as to whether it was a public meeting. Two letters had been sent to the *Wymondham & Attleborough Mercury*. The Clerk was directed to make a factual response to clarify the situation. **ACTION: Town Clerk**

It was suggested more parking might be provided through joint partnerships with the Town Council and Network Rail and / or Norfolk CC. A query was raised about land behind the Adult Training Centre. **ACTION: Town Clerk**

16 TO AGREE THE DRAFT QUESTIONNAIRES ON PLAY PARKS / BMX TRAIL / PARKING SOLUTIONS

The questionnaire on play equipment which had been recommended by the Open Spaces Committee was outlined. An article had been written on the parking proposal and comments invited; also the BMX trail. The questionnaire could be sent to the extended schools programme and perhaps put on the school website. **ACTION: Town Clerk**

17 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE HANDOVER OF THE PLAYPARKS

The Chief Executive has informed the Clerk that Breckland will bring in extra resources to deal with the playparks transfer as they are dealing with c 6,000 other pieces of land. It was suggested the District Councillors could bring pressure to bear. They reported that there might be some outstanding legal issues to be resolved. A request was made for someone from Breckland to come and talk to Council to explain the latest position. **ACTION: Town Clerk**

18 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE MEETING WITH PPS RE SAINSBURY'S AND PLANNING CONCERNS

A useful meeting as PPS Group had been open to suggestions. Councillors had raised the blocking of car parking spaces by staff and the number of spaces provided for staff with disabilities or working very early or late shifts. The Council had expressed its disquiet at losing a petrol station. PPS explained that the current petrol station would not be closed until an alternative was available. They had been looking at other sites. The information missing from planning maps was pointed out – the zebra crossing, the vehicle entrance / exit to the Post

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office, and path to Wayland Court. The traffic flow and congestion spots were explained. Minutes of the meeting were requested. **ACTION: Town Clerk**

19 TO DISCUSS AND ACT UPON CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED (refer to summary of correspondence received since last meeting below)

- i) Old Buckenham Airfield Joint Committee: to be discontinued for foreseeable future
- ii) Copy of letters requesting 20mph zoning on Attleborough's approach roads: sent to County Cllr A Byrne.
- iii) World Horse Welfare annual fundraiser: "Wear your Wellies Day" on 7 October. Details from hoofit@worldhorsewelfare.org

The following were received after the Agenda was sent out on 25/09/09. (No resolutions passed)

- iv) Breckland Car Parking Review: a public meeting of the Parking Task & Finish Group Connaught Hall 2pm on Tuesday 13 October.
- v) Reduction of police cover in Attleborough: Response from Norfolk Police Authority.
- vi) LDF Core Strategy: Inspector's report: This is being checked for factual errors. The document will be available to the public from w/c 19 October. The strategy is considered sound subject to a handful of further changes.

20 TO RECEIVE INFORMATION ON TOWN AFFAIRS (NB information only – No resolutions may be passed)

- i) TIC: The Mayor had been informed that the Friday tourist volunteers had been exceptional in going out of their way to help the public. She was delighted the service had been complimented.
- ii) Skatepark lights: these were not working. Various research had been done to find a solution to air gun pellets breaking the glass. A toughened polycarbonate shield was suggested.
- iii) Potholes: Blackthorn Road before Snowdrop Drive and the stretch of Leys Lane / on Hargham Road.
- iv) Horse Pit Car Park: Cars are for sale again.
- v) Police non-emergency number: delays in answering. A query was raised as to whether a "queuing system" had been installed. The Clerk was directed to write to Supt Elliott.
- vi) Queens Square Car Park: a kerb was proud and uneven at the cemetery corner.
- vii) Path from Lomond Road estate to Besthorpe Road: was overgrown.
- viii) Webcam: a change of location / position had been requested.

21 TO RECEIVE ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH'S AGENDA i) Parking

22 TO AGREE A RESOLUTION THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED TO ALLOW A PERIOD OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (NB: 10 minutes maximum)

It was proposed by Cllr Schucroft and carried by Council that the meeting be adjourned to allow the public to speak.

Items raised were: the Respect Zone at Connaught Hall. Play areas improvement - funding to come out of the £10,000 set aside. Time on skatepark lights. BMX trail. Council should promote its activities better. **The meeting was reconvened**

23 THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING WAS CONFIRMED as Monday 2 November 2009 at 7pm

The meeting closed at 9.21pm

Chair: