

ATTLEBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the above Council held in Attleborough Town Hall, Queens Square, Attleborough, Norfolk, on Monday 1 February 2010 at 7pm.

PRESENT

Cllrs V Dale (Chair), G Farrow, S Schucroft, A Sturt, J Taylor, S Taylor, A Marchant, G Firman, K Pettitt, J McBride, R Reynolds; H Elias (Town Clerk); members of the public; members of the District Council were present.

1 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs B Waters, S Middlebrook and Mrs D Francis (all family commitments), N Keach (work commitment).

2 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 Schucroft & carried by Council that the meeting be adjourned to allow members of the public to speak.

Items raised were: Planning applications adjacent to No. 1 Cyprus Road.

The meeting was reconvened.

3 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS BELOW None

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

The Mayor had attended the Police meeting, and enjoyed the East Coast Truckers Pantomime. The show had been excellent and she had been amazed that c270 children were catered for.

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

The minutes were agreed and signed with the following amendment:

Item 9: District Councillors reports: "Cllr K Martin had sent his apologies" was added.

6 TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS

A member of the public spoke about both applications either side of No 1 Cyprus Road, asking why if there were 4,500 houses planned for Attleborough there needed to be such "garden grabbing" applications.

i) **3PL/2009/0997/F** Mr A Barham, 1 Cyprus Road – Erection of two storey dwelling with detached garage - Refusal recommended: Garden and length of street are exaggerated by the drawings. This and the next application (0998) appear to have artistic licence in the wider street scene – ie. drawings are not totally accurate. Overdevelopment of the site. The house is too close to the corner and could affect drivers' visibility.

ii) **3PL/2009/0998/F** Mr A Barham, 1 Cyprus Road – Erection of detached single storey dwelling with garage - Refusal recommended: Overdevelopment of site – there is too little ground around the building. Concerns were expressed about the traffic emerging at the corner. Drawings are not accurate and exaggerate the gardens and the length of the street.

The members of the public left the meeting.

iii) **3PL/2010/0033/F** Bennett Plc, Oaktrees, Slough Lane – Erection of 22 dwellings, garages and access road – **RESUBMISSION OF 3PL/2008/1694/F with alterations** - Comment: It was noted that the previous application had been refused by Breckland and that the application

was still mainly outside the current settlement boundary. It was noted that the number of dwellings had been reduced from 24 to 22 and that the far end with the affordable housing had been redrawn, also that the dwellings backing onto existing dwellings in Buckenham Road were to be single storey. The Town Council preferred this site to other applications which took up "garden land" and was informed by a District Councillor that the piggeries had previously been a builder's yard and might possibly be designated as a "brown field" site. The developer's offerings by the way of a S106 agreement were noted. Concerns were expressed about flooding in the area and a query was raised as to where the bus stop might go and what use it might be if there were no buses.

Cllr Reynolds left the meeting at 7.25pm, returning at 7.26pm. District Cllr A Stasiak arrived.

Correspondence, consultations and other information:

- i) Section 53 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981** – Modification application for the addition of a public right of way between Woodside Close and Hargham Road (adjacent to Chapel). It was noted that there had never been any blockage of the path in question.
- ii) 3PL/2009/1166/F** - further letters of objection to the proposed fuel depot at Victory Park
- iii) 3PL/2009/1143/F** – further letter of objection to the proposed anaerobic digester at Crowshall Lane

Breckland Council Decisions received to date:

Planning permission granted:

- i) 3PL/2009/1020/F** Mr Jest, 44 Thieves Lane, NR17 2HR – Erection of white UPVC porch / conservatory to front aspect of bungalow
- ii) 3PL/2009/1046** Mrs A-M Blatchford, 14 Connaught Road - Change of use from retail to dwelling house
- iii) 3PL/2009/1092/F** Mr & Mrs Anderson, 29 Tummel Way – Conservatory to rear

Enforcement Notice:

- i) ENF/2008/0377/CAS** Final Notice to remove all furniture and other articles associated with residential use and anything else which does not comply with approved plans **3PL/2007/0901/F**

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

(NB Information only – no resolutions may be passed)

- i) Film Fest:** it was planned to cancel the Attleborough showing, as the equipment took up most of the available space. Cllr Middlebrook, Mrs Blyth and Mr Hopkins were extremely disappointed as they had spent a considerable amount of time training to put on the event.
- ii) The Peace Obelisk** had been damaged by a car. Perfit's have examined it and sent a quote for repair which will be dealt with through the driver's insurance. On a previous occasion Perfit's had strengthened the core. The current damage was only to the engraved panel, which could be removed separately, and the obelisk was not a danger to the public.

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

- i) General Purposes:** These were discussed. They will be signed by the Mayor at the next General Purposes Committee meeting on 15 February.
- ii) Other:** None

9 TO RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

- i) Connaught Hall:** Refurbishment was on-going. They were pleased with the padded chairs they had been donated. They are looking to buy new curtains costing c£5,000 and ten large circular tables to seat ten people each plus tablecloths. The bar area is to be improved.
- ii) Town Twinning Association:** the AGM will take place on 18 February. A query was raised about the sign showing the twin town on Buckenham Road. This had been reported to Norfolk CC Highways Dept who were dealing with it.

10 TO RECEIVE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS (all information on Breckland matters)

i) Car Parking: The Task & Finish Group were considering the UEA students' suggestions for redesigning Queens Square Car Park, new signage under the LDF and a school drop-off point. The next meeting would be at the end of February.

ii) Participatory Budgeting: £25,000 of Government money had been allocated to each district for community groups. A query was raised as to whether it was the same pot of funding which the Council had unsuccessfully applied for. District Cllr Rogers will check the funding and notify the Clerk.

iii) Proposed Anaerobic Digester, Crowshall Lane: District Cllr Stasiak had held a meeting at Crowshall with residents, who were concerned about smell and pollution. It was noted that the Town Council had not received many objections when it considered the application in December.

iv) Travellers' encampment at Victory Park: One of the travellers had been heavily pregnant and agreed protocol is that travellers can remain for a month or so after a child has been born on humanitarian grounds to allow access by health visitors. The necessary papers had now been lodged at Court, after which the site will have protection for three months. The travellers had come to Attleborough after their site had become waterlogged and rat-infested.

v) Breckland Council Development Control Meetings: A comment was made that Town Councillors were never seen at Breckland's Planning meetings, and this put Attleborough at a disadvantage because this was becoming an increasingly important part of the planning process. The Mayor responded that all the Town Councillors present that evening worked during the week, so they were unable to participate in Breckland's daytime meetings.

vi) Proposed fuel depot at Victory Park, London Road: District Councillors believed this was not a suitable site for such a development and have asked Breckland to look into if this is a suitable use to sell the land for.

vii) Upgrade of pelican crossing in High Street: Breckland had received notification that this would take place shortly.

11 TO RECEIVE DETAILS OF JANUARY'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT (refer to enclosed document)

The Council is still within budget and the "housekeeping" of the budget has gone well.

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

A query was raised about the Breckland Mowers cheque for repairs.

Breckland Technical, who are making the fencing for the play park extension in Thieves Lane, have requested an advance of £800 to allow them to pay the galvanisers.

It was proposed by Cllr Reynolds and carried by Council that a maximum of £800 + VAT should be paid direct to the galvanisers and that Breckland Technical should pay the difference from within the balance of their quote.

It was proposed by Cllr Farrow and carried by Council that the cheques should be paid with the proviso that the cheque to Fresh Air Company be withheld until the problems with the new air conditioning unit are rectified.

13 TO RATIFY THE APPOINTMENT OF MS HEATHER MILLER AS ADMIN ASSISTANT

As discussed at the General Purposes Committee the appointment should be ratified by full Council.

It was proposed by Cllr Reynolds and carried by Council that Ms Heather Miller be appointed to the post of Admin Assistant.

14 TO DEAL WITH MATTERS ABOUT THE TOWN HALL

i) TIC - CCTV installation: Breckland and the installation company had been informed of the unacceptable levels of noise. An e-mail had been received stating that the matter would be dealt with as soon as possible.

ii) Other: Brochure: It was agreed that new photographs were required and that a separate tariff sheet should be inserted as necessary. The wording was altered to amend spelling errors and give a better view of the Town Hall facilities.

iii) Other: Bar: A complaint had been received. The Clerk was directed to speak to the franchise holder. **ACTION: Town Clerk**

15 TO DEAL WITH MATTERS TO DO WITH OPEN SPACES

i) To agree quotes for repairing the skatepark lights: Various combinations of quotes had been received from Browns Electrical and Marrisons. Contradictory advice had been given about push button operation, the type of bulbs which were compatible with push-button operation, the height of the posts, the amount of electricity to be used, so the Clerk was directed to make further enquiries. **ACTION: Town Clerk**

ii) To receive an update on the transfer of Play areas: No further information has been received; the Breckland officer had been unable to trace a letter referred to by the Clerk.

iii) To agree the quotes for the service of the ride-on mower: The following had been received:

Bartram's Mowers:	£797.63 + VAT
Ben Burgess Gardening Equipment:	£880 + VAT
Randell NFM:	£915 + VAT

It was proposed by Cllr Reynolds and carried by Council that Bartram's mowers should service the mower. ACTION: Town Clerk

iv) To agree quotes for play bark: The amount of bark needed was queried. It was suggested that 8-10 cubic metres could be bought and carried by a local haulage firm, to be delivered when the fence had been removed. **ACTION: Town Clerk**

v) Cemetery extensions: More topsoil was needed. The new hedging would be established in 2-3 years. The groundsman should be able to plant the hedge with five types of native species.

16 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE POLICE BUDGET MEETING

The meeting had been well-attended. The Police are facing budget cuts. An increase in the Police precept of 12p per week will be required to keep the force at the same level or the force will need to be trimmed to keep the service going. Some office staff may be cut. The force had spent £250,000 on a new website. Comments were made that the SNTs (Safer Neighbourhood Teams) had no presence in the villages, but Attleborough's SNT had been seen in the surrounding villages. Some services and specialist teams would be shared with Suffolk and Cambridgeshire forces. Norfolk and Suffolk are already working together.

17 TO DISCUSS AND ACT UPON CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED (refer to summary)

i) Victory Park proposed fuel depot: Further letter of objection

ii) Attleborough Community Gym, Leys Lane: this has re-opened and is using equipment bought with Council's donation.

iii) Great British Fish & Chips Supper: fundraiser for Spinal Injuries Association, 21 May 2010.

iv) Breckland Town & Parish Council Forum: Wednesday 24 February 2010 at the EcoTech Centre in Swaffham.

The following were received after the agenda was published. (No resolutions may be passed).

v) Dogs on Lead Control Orders: Breckland Information: Queries were raised as to what a "competent" person was; the training required to become a "competent" person and whether the five towns would be willing to share training and employing such a person; also whether there

were any legal issues if a person was bitten. The Clerk was directed to make further enquiries.

ACTION: Town Clerk

vi) Breckland Blitz: A clean-up campaign over seven weeks from 1 March aims to reduce anti-social behaviour and improve the environment. Contact Richard Wills, Lisa Green or Rob Leigh Tel: 01362 6656870.

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

i) Potholes: Many potholes had been reported after the bad weather. Norfolk CC had four teams working to repair them instead of the usual one.

ii) Staff shortages: The Mayor wished to minute Council's thanks to Mr Wade and Mr Hopkins who are covering the outdoor work in Mr Briggs's absence. Also to the Clerk who has been working on her own since the middle of December.

iii) Junction of Surrogate Street and Thieves Lane: "Keep Clear" lettering has been painted onto the road at this junction.

iv) Lamp post 717: This has still not been repaired.

19 TO RECEIVE ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH'S AGENDA

i) Skatepark lights ii) Fencing iii) Playbark iv) Town Hall Brochure v) CCTV update vi) Community Planning weekend

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

No members of the public were present in the public gallery.

21 THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING WAS CONFIRMED as Monday 8 March 2010 at 7pm. (General Purposes Committee to meet on 22 February at 7pm)

21 TO PASS A RESOLUTION EXCLUDING THE PRESS AND PUBLIC FROM THE MEETING UNDER THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

It was proposed by Cllr Dale and carried by Council that the press and public be excluded from the meeting under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

The District Councillors left at 9.13pm.

THE FOLLOWING WAS DISCUSSED IN CONFIDENCE / IN CAMERA / BELOW THE LINE

Cllr Sturt left and returned to the meeting.

22 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE CEMETERY KEEPER'S SUGGESTION

The Cemetery Keeper's suggestion was discussed in light of the end of year procedures. It was proposed by Cllr Pettitt and carried by Council that the Council's offer should be re-iterated with a request that the Council receive a response by the end of February so that the books can be closed for the end of March.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Chair: