



**Minutes of the meeting of the  
Annual Wisbech Town Assembly  
held on Monday 12 April 2010, at 7.30 in  
Wisbech Town Council Chamber**

**Present:** The Town Mayor Cllr Mrs YP Lawrence; Deputy Mayor, Cllr N A Meekins; and Cllrs Mrs C R Cox; N W Frusher; L R V Fulcher; A R Green; M Hill; Miss S Hoy; Mrs V M Macrae; P B O'Dell; D Oliver; M A Parker; H B Wegg; and T Wright.

**In attendance:** Erbie Murat (Clerk to Wisbech Town Council); Ann Carlisle; Brenda Wegg; Steve Tierney; Janet Stott; NSH de Prochnow; Gary Garford; and Emma Mason.

Copies of the Wisbech Town Plan were distributed to begin the annual review process.

**1. Apologies**

Cllr Farmer – Work

Cllr Mrs Jolley – Ill Health

Cllr Wheeler – Ill Health

On a proposal from Cllr Oliver and seconded by Cllr Green the above apology was accepted.

**2. Minutes**

On a proposal from Cllr Meekins and seconded by Cllr Green the minutes of the Annual Town Assembly held on 6 April 2009 were AGREED. It was noted that the minutes had been to the Annual Council Meeting on 11 May 2009, where they had been agreed by members and had been posted on the website.

**3. Mayor's Welcome**

The Mayor of Wisbech, Cllr Mrs Yvonne Lawrence welcomed everybody.

**4. Leader's report**

Cllr David Oliver gave his report. He complimented the administration for being much more pro-active. He was pleased to commend to the meeting some of the achievements of Wisbech Town Council during the year: Town plan finalised; Wisbech Youth Council strengthened; Wisbech Music Festival held over two days in August last year; new Town Guide very successful with 14,000 copies distributed; improved Christmas Lights; erected Christmas Tree in central plinth; agreed with Environment agency for them to put scaffold pole holders into flood defences for new Christmas lights along the river; reached agreement with Fenland District Council to improve allotments provision and service in Wisbech; plans made and agreed for the Wisbech Rock festival on 6 June in Wisbech Park in agreement with Fenland District Council; plans for Multi-cultural festival in the park; increased grant to £31,000 as special projects and small grants; and taken forward plans for a mini Olympics for 12 to 18 year olds in May 2011 in partnership with Wisbech Grammar School, Thomas Clarkson Community College; Hudson Leisure Centre; Centre4 Youth Club; and the College of West Anglia.

**5. Annual Review of the Wisbech Town Plan**

The Clerk presented the Wisbech Town Plan to begin the process of reviewing it. Members and parishioners were asked to let the Clerk have any amendments, comments, or additions by the end of June 2010.

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It was noted that copies of the Town Plan are available from the Town Council website, which had copies of all Town Council agendas and minutes, together with information about Wisbech Youth Council and the heritage of the town, including copy of the new Town Guide. Copies of the Wisbech Town Plan may also be obtained from the Clerk's office.

**6. Public Participation**

a) Cllr Green, Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee, reported that the Town Council was very much on target to achieve its Reserves target.

Following successes reported to the last Town Assembly, of taking reserves from £21,790.41 to £64,148.91 Cllr Green was pleased to report that the Town Council's reserves stood at £90,443.01 on 31 March 2010. This was in keeping with the minimum reserve requirement identified last year of £89,850 being six months operating against last year's budget.

He reported that the budget had been set at £194,400, producing a precept increase of just 2% for 2010/2011. With prudence and planning the Clerk was confident that expenditure could be kept to a minimum and contained within budgets. The Clerk accepted that reserves ought to be at a minimum of £97,200 as 6 months operating costs against budget, and aims to add a small amount to the reserves where possible.

b) Mr De Prochnov raised the question of charging for parking on the Market Place, leading to charging elsewhere in Wisbech. The question was referred to Gary Garford of Fenland District Council who was unable to respond due to the Council being in period of purdah. Consultation results last year had produced the following results:

- 213 voted in favour of parking in one from or another
- 177 for no parking at all
- 60 had ticked other
- 14 had spoilt the questionnaire or not voted at all.

The general view at the Assembly last year was that there was a need for some control of some parking. This is generally the option that has since been approved at District and County level.

c) Mr De Prochnov raised the question of insufficient infrastructure to support developments in Wisbech. This was again referred to Gary Garford who was able to report that the port development site had now been remedied ready for building, and that Fenland District Council had earmarked £1.7 million for new roads and infrastructure to support the development. The site has not yet been marketed.

FDC's budget is only 13 million pounds for the whole district.

**The meeting closed at 7.50**

Town Mayor .....

Date .....