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ANNUAL WISBECH TOWN COUNCIL MAYOR MAKING CEREMONY AND TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting of the Annual Meeting of the Town Council held on Friday 8 May 2009 at 12noon, and Monday 11 May 2009 at 7.30.

MAYOR MAKING 8 May 2009

PRESENT: The Town Mayor, Councillor JR Farmer; Deputy Mayor Mrs YP Lawrence; and Councillors Mrs C Cox; NW Frusher; LRV Fulcher; AR Green; M Hill; Mrs JR Jolley; Mrs VM Macrae; NA Meekins; PB O'Dell; DC Oliver; MA Parker; L Sims; DA Wheeler; and T Wright.

In attendance: Malcolm Moss MP and Mrs Moss; The Venerable David Fleming; the Vice-Chairman of Cambridgeshire County Council; the Town Clerk, Erbie Murat; the Town Beadle, Alister Hopkins; the Deputy Clerk (and outgoing Mayoress) Susanah Farmer; and distinguished guests.

The Mayor, Councillor Jonathan Rodney Farmer TD, asked The Venerable David Fleming to lead the Council in prayer.

The Mayor then said a few words, as detailed and tabled as part of the Annual Report for 2008/2009, as the outgoing Mayor.

1. Election of Chair of the Council to be known as the Town Mayor.

On a nomination from Cllr Mrs Cox, and seconded by Cllr Mrs Macrae, Cllr Mrs Yvonne Pamela Lawrence was ELECTED Mayor for the civic year 2009/2010 with an allowance of £3,020.

The Mayor, Cllr Mrs Lawrence and her consort proceeded to the parlour, where Cllr Mrs Lawrence was robed, and invested with the Chain of Office. She was then escorted by the Beadle to take her place on the dais.

The Town Mayor read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The Oath of Allegiance was administered to the Town Mayor, by the Town Clerk, Erbie Murat.

Cllr Mrs Cox toasted the Town Mayor. The Town Mayor addressed the Council.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr David Oliver gave a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor, Cllr Jonathan R Farmer TD.

The retiring Mayor replied, thanking individuals and members for their support throughout the year.

The retiring Mayor Cllr Farmer having robed as an Alderman took his place with other Councillors.

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The Mayor presented Cllr and Mrs Farmer with their past Mayor and Mayoress badges.

2. Election of the Vice-Chairman of the Council to be known as Deputy Mayor.

On a proposal from the Mayor, Cllr Mrs Lawrence and seconded by Cllr Mrs Cox Cllr Leslie Sims was ELECTED Deputy Mayor for the civic year 2009/2010 with no allowance.

The Beadle robed and chained the Deputy Mayor.

The Deputy took his place beside the Mayor, and pledged his loyalty and support to the Mayor.

3. Apologies and absences for 8 May 2009 – Mayor-making.

Cllr HB Wegg - holiday

On a proposal from Cllr Oliver and seconded by Cllr O'Dell the above absence was APPROVED.

Absent without apology: Cllr S King.

4. The Appointment of the Mayor's Chaplain.

The Mayor announced that her chaplain will be The Venerable David Fleming.

5. Adjournment of meeting

The Mayor announced that the meeting would stand adjourned until Monday 11 May 2009, at 7.30, when it would reconvene in the Council Chamber.

The Mayor invited guests to join her and her other guests to partake of refreshments in the Boathouse.

The meeting adjourned at 12.45 pm

The meeting re-opened at 7.30 pm. on Monday 11 May 2009. There being no members of the public wishing to speak, the meeting commenced at 7.30 pm.

It was noted that Cllr Oliver had been selected as Leader of the Council for 2009/2010, and that Cllr Meekins had been selected as Deputy Leader. It was further noted that Cllr Mrs Macrae had been selected as Secretary of the Conservative Group.

8. Apologies for absence for 11 May 2009.

Cllr Wegg - holiday

Cllr Hill was late due to work commitments.

On a proposal from Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Green the above absences were APPROVED.

Absent without apology: Cllr King

9. Appointments to outside bodies.

On a proposal from Cllr Oliver and seconded by Cllr O'Dell it was AGREED to ask the Clerk to circulate the existing list so that members could up-date it and return it to the Leader for amendments to be made. The list was circulated.

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10. Authorisation to sign cheques.

On a proposal from Cllr Wheeler and seconded by Cllr Meekins it was AGREED that the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Leader, and Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee be authorised to sign cheques on behalf of the Town Council.

11. Appointment of External Auditor.

On a proposal from Cllr Oliver and seconded by Cllr Green it was AGREED to continue to use Moore Stephens as the Council's external auditor.

12. Minutes of the Town Council 14 April 2009.

On a proposal from Cllr O'Dell and seconded by Cllr Wheeler the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 14 April 2009 were APPROVED. Cllr Wright re-iterated that it was his intention that a Streetscene report feature on every Town Council agenda, and Gary Garford undertook to arrange for a short up-date to be sent to the Clerk each month for circulation to members.

13. Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Assembly of 6 April 2009.

In light of the complexity of the Town's Annual Assembly minutes and the range of outcomes that the Town Council will be pursuing as a result of Annual Assembly, the Leader, Cllr Oliver, asked members to highlight any amendments they wished to make. There were no amendments, and the minutes will pass to the next Annual Assembly for formal approval. On a proposal from Cllr Oliver and seconded by Cllr Wheeler, it was AGREED to action the outcomes of Town Assembly.

14. Minutes of the Planning Committee.

On a proposal from Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr O'Dell the minutes of the Planning committee meetings held on 14 and 27 April 2009 were RECEIVED.

15. Wisbech Youth Council

The following were noted by members:

- i) In conjunction with the Cambridgeshire Criminal Justice Board, the Town Council and Wisbech Youth Council are participating in 'The Kids Are Alright' positive youth stories in Fenland campaign through the Wisbech Standard. We are sending regular press releases with photos. The Wisbech Standard did not cover Malcolm Moss's visit to the Youth Council, and had not yet covered the Play equipment consultation trip to London (although this did feature on their website) The Fenland Citizen covered both stories, using the Malcolm Moss photo.
- ii) The consultation trip to London was attended by 6 Youth Council Members and 5 other young people from Wisbech, together with a bevy of responsible adults. The group visited the Glamis Adventure Playground in Tower Hamlets (Literature on notice board), and the Somerford Grove Adventure Playground in Tottenham (literature on notice board). Photos from the trip may be seen on the Wisbech Town Council Official website www.wisbechtowncouncil.org.uk
- iii) There was a working party of the Youth Council held in the Council Chamber on Saturday 25 April attended by the Leader and the Clerk. Members of the Youth Council agreed to:
 - ask the Leader and the Clerk to meet with the Principal of Thomas Clarkson Community College to discuss TCCC as a viable, alternative site for the Festivals on 1st and 2nd August;

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- book the following bands for the Youth Festival on the 1st August: The Brink; the Journey; the 925's; Satellite to Nowhere; and the Bracket – through Art&Soul Magazine in Peterborough at a cost of expenses only.
- have food, music and dance from the Eastern European, and Spanish speaking communities in and around Wisbech, and to liaise with Citizens Advice workers who work with the communities.
- book a float for Rose Fair;
- to prepare designs for a webpage for the Youth Council, a float for Rose Fair, and artwork for the festivals. The theme of Rose Fair would be reflected in the designs for the multi-cultural festival on 2nd August. They want everything themed to match and are considering having costumes from around the world for the float and a fancy dress competition at the festival.

16. Annual Accounts.

On a proposal from Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr O'Dell the annual accounts were APPROVED and signed by the Mayor, ready to be sent to the External Auditors by 1 June 2009.

17. Clerk's up-date

The following were noted by members

- i) A special meeting of F&GP has been set for 7.30 pm on Tuesday 26 May 2009 following Planning Committee, to consider detailed plan and costings for the new kitchen. Should other F&GP matters arise they may be added to the agenda. The agenda will be circulated.
- ii) A meeting of Civic Amenities Committee has been arranged for 10 am Tuesday 26 May 2009, to progress arrangements for Armed Forces Day (Veterans); Rose Fair; and Wisbech Festival (Young Music and Multi-cultural).
- iii) Regular Wisbech Youth Council working parties are being held to progress Rose Fair involvement and the Festivals.
- iv) Wisbech Town Council's website wisbechtowncouncil.org.uk is regularly up-dated with details of agendas, minutes and news of events.
- v) Land Registry have confirmed that they recognise the existence of a dispute on allotment land registrations (copy of letter attached). Wisbech Town Council will be kept informed of any developments, before registration
- vii) The Draft Town Plan was successfully launched at the Annual Assembly. Copies are available from the Clerk's office or from the Wisbech Town Council's official website.
- viii) New 24 volt LED decorations for the Christmas tree have been purchased, and orders placed for new 24 volt LED matting for the lampposts in the town centre using the grant money received from Fenland District Council. Members will recall that the electrical safety requirements changed obliging the Council to use 24 volt for anything below three metres.
- ix) The cheques have gone out for the grants as agreed. A letter of thanks was promptly received from St John Ambulance pledging first response cover whenever the Council has need of it, and also from the Wisbech Rose Fair Forum pledging an additional bus on the Saturday for the Park and Ride.
- x) The redundant sign pointing to the register office is to be replaced, with one that has been ordered by the County Council.

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- xi) The West Street Jointly funded works are now complete. The island has been moved to slow traffic down, and this means that buses can no longer get around the corner. John Knott at FDC has assured the County Council that the traffic island can be removed altogether for Rose Fair to allow large vehicles round. (John Knott has retired from FDC recently and his replacement is Martin Collins)
- xii) FDC has fitted a ground mounted cigarette bin for the Town Council's use, on the left of the front door. This will be emptied by the regular cleaning operative from FDC.
- xiii) FDC will be inspecting Cromwell Road to identify two suitable sites for litter bins. NOTE: Members still need to submit their returns on suitable priority sites through the Clerk. The Clerk has received and forwarded one return.
- xiv) I am pleased to say that the proposed recipient of the Freedom of the Town has accepted, and the Clerk is liaising to arrange a mutually convenient date for the presentation, following the production of the appropriate documentation.
- xv) The Town Council were unable to fly the English National flag on 23 April. The protocol is that the Union Jack must be flown as well as the national flag (and the Jack must be raised slightly higher), and our second flagpole is broken. To have it repaired will cost £641.00 plus VAT.
- xvi) Atelier East has an exhibition of line drawings of Wisbech by Rosemary Harvey at the Angles Theatre from 3 - 20 May 2009. All members are invited to the opening reception on 3 May between 6 and 8 pm.
- xvii) The Annual report has been prepared and will be circulated to members (to be tabled).
- xviii) Within the context of a planning appeal funding from a visit to the town centre on 18 March 2009, it was recorded that 'In May 2008, Wisbech town centre had only 19 vacant units representing 7.9% of the total units in the town centre. This figure is substantially below the national average of 11.4% and suggests a strong town centre. However, the figure has increased to 30 vacant units (11.9% in January 2009), with the inclusion of a former Woolworth's store'.

Matters arising from the Clerk's Update:

Item (i) On a proposal from Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Oliver it was AGREED that the special F&GP committee meeting on 26 May 2009 be given delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of the Town Council.

Item (xiv) The Mayor announced that she would be arranging a formal presentation of the Freedom of the Town to Jody Cundy. The Clerk is to liaise to establish mutually convenient dates.

Item (xv) On a proposal from Cllr Cox and seconded by Cllr Green it was AGREED to authorise the expenditure of £641.00 + VAT, and to do whatever was necessary to repair the flagpole to facilitate the flying of the flag of St George and the Union Flag on St George's Day in future.

Item (xi) Gary Garford reported that FDC have been speaking with the County Council to have them replace the island and carry out further remedial works on site.

18. Congratulations to Cllr Mrs Viv Macrae

Members congratulated Cllr Mrs Macrae and amended her achievement to 42 kilometres (26.2 miles) in the London Marathon in 5 hours 11.01 minutes.

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19. Roddens Housing Association (Circle Anglia)

Members NOTED the Chief Executive's comments on the Town Plan and her pledge to support 'reducing crime and disorder', the establishment of tenants associations; and the Chief Executive's wish to provide the Town Council with an annual update on all Roddens activities. progress.

Members also NOTED the easy guide to the business plan for Circle Anglia. On a proposal from Cllr Green, seconded by Cllr Oliver it was AGREED to refer the matter of allotments to the Allotments Committee Meeting of 8 June 2009.

20. Correspondence requiring responses from members.

- a) Members were not minded to support a cycleway along North Brink, but were minded to look at alternatives. Members would prefer to see a bridge as previously proposed.
- b) Members knew of no unused rooms large enough that could be rented at a nominal fee by the Wisbech Model Railway Club.
- c) Members noted that all the issues surrounding the Market Place had been fully discussed by the Town Council, as was the issue of eyesore buildings and the letter is to be forwarded to Gary Garford. Members felt the idea for an indoor market was excellent and would welcome an entrepreneur providing one.
- d) The charity EAST is to be referred to the Council's grant opportunities and asked to apply at the appropriate time.

21. Correspondence from Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC)

Members noted the following correspondence displayed on the notice board:

- a) Email informing the Council that they have been awarded a Heritage Lottery Grant for an archaeological excavation at the Castle.
- b) Letter from the Head of Strategic Planning and the cabinet member for Growth, Infrastructure and Highways called 'Shaping the Future of Cambridgeshire over the next 20 Years.'
- c) Weather the Storm - guidance through the economic downturn about health, money, housing, work, and business.

22. Correspondence from Fenland District Council (FDC)

Members noted the following correspondence displayed on the notice board:

- a) New free advice and grant support for local businesses letter and application form to attend seminars at the Boathouse.
- b) Email from the Parks, open spaces & cemeteries team – wanting comments, compliments or complaints website
www.fenland.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/council/3c-s-procedure/
- c) Letter detailing thicknesses of bin bags and location of litter bins in Wisbech as requested by members.
- d) Streetsafe and CCTV statistics.
- e) Minutes of the Fenland Links meeting of 19 March 2009.
- f) Letter from Bob Ollier – FDC has been unsuccessful in its bid for Heritage Lottery money for the park.
- g) Letter from Cllr Fred Yeulett to Cllr Farmer with Consultation Feedback from the Neighbourhood Forum.

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Matters arising from FDC Correspondence:

Under item (d) Cllr Wright gave the following feedback to members from a meeting he had attended: The Police authorities are to put £135,000 towards the cost of running CCTV, which will provide three cameras. The locations for the cameras have yet to be decided and this should be done via the Neighbourhood Forums.

Under item (f) Gary Garford will consult with Bob Ollier to see what improvements can still be made to the Park now that the Heritage Lottery bid has failed. GG would arrange for a written report. Cllr Mrs Macrae informed members that she had bid for some funding from Roddens on behalf of 'Friends of the Park' and that a new shelter for children was now in situ. Cllr Wheeler reported the success of the dawn Chorus day

23. General Correspondence

Members noted the following correspondence displayed on notice board:

- a) The Clerk Magazine
- b) Arts Industry Magazine
- c) Angles theatre programme
- d) Inside Housing
- e) Public consultation booklets for 'The future of health services for south Fenland residents.
- f) The Local Government Association magazine.
- g) Cope Magazine
- h) Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine
- i) NABMA newsletter
- j) In Touch magazine from Cambridgeshire Health services.
- k) Letter and information from Equality and Human Rights Commission detailing public sector duties.
- l) Newsletter from the Fenland Road Safety Campaign.
- m) Summer Seminars leaflet from the Institute of Local Council Management.

The meeting closed at 8.38 pm

Signed.....

Dated.....