



2007/2008 -1

WISBECH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Town Council held on Friday 11 May 2007 and Monday 14 May 2007

Present on 11 May:

The Town Mayor, Councillor D.C. Oliver, Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor J.R. Farmer, and Councillors, Mrs C.R. Cox, N.W. Frusher, L.R.V. Fulcher, A.R. Green, M. Hill, Mrs J.R. Jolley, Mrs Y. Lawrence, Mrs V.M. MacRae, N.A. Meekins, P.B. O'Dell, M.A. Parker, L Sims, H.B. Wegg, D.A. Wheeler and T. Wright.

1. Election of Chairman of the Town Council to be known as Town Mayor for 2007/2008

a) The outgoing Mayor having invited nominations; Councillor A.R. Green proposed that Councillor D. Oliver, be so appointed for the ensuing year with an allowance of £2931 to cover expenses during his term of office. This was seconded by Councillor M. Hill and was agreed. There were no other nominations.

b) The Mayor, Councillor David Oliver then recited and signed the Declaration of office

c) The Oath of Allegiance was then administered to the Mayor, Councillor David Oliver

2. Election of Vice Chairman of the Town Council to be known as Deputy Town Mayor for 2007/2008

The Mayor having invited nominations; Councillor M. Hill, proposed that Councillor Jonathan Farmer be so appointed for the ensuing year. This was seconded by Councillor D. Oliver and was agreed. There were no other nominations.

3. Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor S. King - County Council duties. Apologies were also received from Mrs Crowden and Rev'd W. Zwalf.

4. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday, 12 March 2007 having been circulated were taken as read and signed by the Town Mayor as a true and correct record.

5. The Appointment of the Mayor's Chaplain

The Mayor confirmed that Reverend Wim Zwalf had agreed to be his Chaplain for the year 2007/2008.

ADJOURNMENT

The Town Mayor moved and it was approved "The meeting be adjourned until Monday 14 May 2007 at 7.30pm".

Presentation by Miss E.A. Carlisle

Miss E.A. Carlisle then presented a silver ashtray to the town of Wisbech.

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The Ashtray bears the Arms of the Borough of Wisbech and the initials and date of Col JWA Ollard 1929 (when he was Mayor)

Six of these ashtrays were commissioned and given to friends, one of which was Mr R. Haddow whose widow gave it to Miss Carlisle on the day she became Mayor in 1981.

Miss Carlisle felt it was right to pass it on to the Town Council to include in their regalia after her many years as a councillor for the town.

The Mayor then thanked Miss Carlisle for her gift and also for her commitment and dedication to the town over many years. He wished her a long and happy 'retirement'.

Present on 14 May 2007

The Town Mayor, Councillor D.C. Oliver, Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor J.R. Farmer and Councillors, Mrs C.R. Cox, N.W. Frusher, L.R.V. Fulcher, A.R. Green, M. Hill, Mrs J.R. Jolley, S. King, Mrs Y.P. Lawrence, Mrs V.M. MacRae, N.A. Meekins, P.B. O'Dell, M.A. Parker, L. Sims, H.B. Wegg, D.A. Wheeler and T. Wright.

6. Apologies for absence

None – All present

7. Declarations of Interest

Councillor S. King declared a personal interest as a member of Fenland District and Cambridgeshire County Councils.

8. Appointment of the 3 Standing Committees

The list of Committee Members for General Purposes, Town Planning and Allotments with the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor acting as members' ex-officio of all committees previously circulated (attached at Appendix 1) was proposed by Councillor A.R. Green, seconded by L Sims and approved unanimously.

9. General Purposes Committee

On the Motion of Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor Sims it was:

RESOLVED that the report comprising the Minutes of the Meeting of this committee held on 23 April 2007, be hereby approved and adopted.

10. Town Planning Committee

On the Motion of Councillor Wright and seconded by Councillor O'Dell it was:

RESOLVED that the report comprising the Minutes of this Committee held on 12 and 26 March 2007 and 16 and 23 April 2007 be hereby approved and adopted.

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11. Authorisation for the Town Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor and Leader of the Council to sign cheques for and on behalf of the Town Council.

On the Motion of Councillor L. Sims, seconded by Councillor P.B O'Dell and agreed unanimously, it was:

RESOLVED that the Mayor, Councillor D.C. Oliver, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor J.R. Farmer and the Leader of Council, Councillor A.R. Green be hereby appointed to sign cheques (any two of the three) on behalf of Wisbech Town Council for the Mayoral year 2007-2008.

12. Appointment of Internal Auditor

On the Motion of Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor Sims and agreed unanimously it was:

RESOLVED that Mr John Smith be appointed as the internal auditor for Wisbech Town Council for the year 2007-2008.

13. Calendar of Meetings

On the Motion of Councillor T. Wright, seconded by Councillor M. Hill and agreed unanimously it was:

RESOLVED that the Calendar of Meetings distributed with the agenda (copy attached at Appendix 2) be approved and implemented.

14. Analysis of Attendances

The analysis of attendance of councillors during the year 2006-2007 was received by members (Copy attached at Appendix 3).

15. Transport Report – Councillor King gave out a written copy of his transport report for members' information (copy attached at Appendix 4).

16. Cambridgeshire County Council

Members received the letter setting out the changes to the way in which minor traffic management measures will be considered and delivered on the future.

17. East of England Regional Assembly (EERA)

An invitation and reply slip to attend one of a series of engagements which are being held as part of an Issues and Options consultation process was received by members.

Councillor S. King and Councillor L.R.V. Fulcher will attend one of these on behalf of this council.

18. European Union Regional Policy

A copy of the Cohesion policy 2007-13 was tabled for members' information.

19. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CPALC)

1) A letter received advertising free training for all new parish and town councillors on either Saturday 2 June from 10am-11.30am or Wednesday 6 June 2007 from 7.00pm – 8.30pm was received by members

2) The minutes of the meeting held on March 8 2007 and Agenda for the next meeting to be held in the Council Chamber, Fenland District Council on 24 May 2007 at 7.30pm were received by members. Councillor S. Sims and either Councillor A.R. Green or Councillor P.B. O'Dell will attend on behalf of this council.

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20. Department for Communities and Local Government - The Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct Order 2007 (SI No 1159))

The amended Code of Conduct came into force on 3 May 2007 and was received by Members who noted that councils have a six month period to adopt the new code.

The clerk has spoken to CPALC who advised that members should wait until the CPALC office has perused and discussed the document before adopting it. As last time they will put together an advertisement confirming the action of all local councils who have accepted the code (A copy of the amended code of conduct is attached at Appendix 5).

21. Fenland District Council

The CCTV supervisor's report was received by members.

22. Communications

(All newsletters and information leaflets were displayed on the notice board in the foyer prior to the meeting.)

The following documents were noted by members.

- 1) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils bulletin edition 6.
- 2) Edition 2 of the Office of the Heavy Commercial Vehicle Route Manager's Newsletter.
- 3) Parish Dog Warden Services have sent details relating to a private dog fouling enforcement service.
- 4) Zurich Municipal's LCAS bulletin No 19.
- 5) Cambridge Older People's Enterprise (COPE)
 - a) A Newsletter from Cope
 - b) Two bulletins (9 and 10) on a back to back sheet
- 6) NHS
 - a) Guidelines on the new smoke-free law.
 - b) The Queen Elizabeth Hospital newsletter
- 7) Inspire East newsletter

It was reported that the next Finance and General Purposes meeting will be open to all members of council for the first items:

The approval of the accounts for the financial year 2006-2007 and the bid proposals for the Joint Highways Minor Improvements Scheme.

The meeting closed at 8.01pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....



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Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 9 July 2007 at 7.45pm.

No parishioners attended the public participation period prior to the start of the meeting.

The meeting opened at 7.45pm

On opening the meeting the Mayor took the opportunity to request the Press to publicise the public participation opportunities at the start of each Council and Committee meeting.

Present:

The Town Mayor, Councillor D.C. Oliver, Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor J.R. Farmer and Councillors, Mrs C.R. Cox, N.W. Frusher, L.R.V. Fulcher, A.R. Green, M. Hill, Mrs J.R. Jolley, S. King, Mrs Y.P. Lawrence, Mrs V.M. Macrae, N.A. Meekins, P.B. O'Dell, M.A. Parker, L. Sims, H.B. Wegg, D.A. Wheeler and T. Wright.

In attendance: Mr Gary Garford, Liaison Officer from Fenland District Council

23. Mr Gary Garford, Liaison Officer from Fenland District Council

Mr Gary Garford gave an update on issues regarding Wisbech, including:

- CCTV – he asked that any issues were raised with Wisbech Council representatives and taken to CCTV Review Meetings
- Freedom Bridge roundabout – planting was ongoing and due to be completed before the Wisbech in Bloom judging on 29 July.
- Smokefreefenland – Mr Garford handed the Clerk some information leaflets regarding smoke free legislation for members' information.
- Nene Waterfront – Mr Garford spoke about the progress with the Nene Waterfront development
 - The Foyer and marine boat lift were now operational, with the boat lift having been used in excess of estimates. Compulsory Purchase Orders are now in progress for some remaining parts of the site.
It was agreed to write to the owner of the slipway expressing this Council's hopes that an amicable agreement can be reached regarding its future use.
 - Mention was made of the hoardings along Bedford Street which have been completed by schools in the area. There is also an ongoing educational aspect of the development as part of the curriculum on community regeneration and sense of place.
 - Concerns were raised by some councillors over the expected increase in traffic from the development and the impact on current traffic flow. Mr Garford confirmed that traffic flow models had been examined, and an Urban Traffic Control System will be used for optimum traffic flow. He would consult further with Cambridgeshire Highways regarding these concerns and also about the proposed crossing between Nene Parade and Nene Quay.

For information: Urban traffic control (UTC) systems are a specialist form of traffic management which integrate and co-ordinate traffic signal control over a wide area by introducing a system to link the signals together electronically in order to control traffic flows on the road network. UTC systems can be used to obtain better traffic performance from a road network by reducing delays to vehicles and the number of times they have to stop.

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Mr Garford informed members that details of progress may be viewed at <http://www.nenewaterfront.co.uk/>

The Mayor thanked Mr Garford for his presentation. It was noted that if members have any items they specifically wish Mr Garford to report on they should make them known to the Clerk at least a week before the Full Council meeting and the Clerk will liaise with Mr Garford. Mr Garford also offered to bring specialist officers from Fenland district if they would be of benefit to answering members' enquiries.

24. Former Wisbech Stadium redevelopment.

The Mayor welcomed Mr Jonathan Clogg to the meeting. Unfortunately, Paul Shuker and James Lankfer were not able to attend the meeting, but Mr Jonathan Clogg gave an update on the proposed redevelopment of the former Wisbech Stadium (to be known as Cromwell Park).

- Discussions were still ongoing with several businesses interested in taking units within the development to work out details of location.
- The gateway development of the cinema/bowling/family entertainment complex was confirmed. Other units would be DIY, white bulky goods, furniture, pet store, sports equipment, and restaurants.

On questions from members regarding timescales for the development Mr Clogg stated that it was hoped that demolition of the existing site would commence by mid-August 2007. The timescale for completion was hoped to be within 14 months and thus, at this time, due in Autumn 2008. Mr Clogg offered to return to update Council again in August/September when more details had been confirmed.

The Mayor thanked Mr Clogg for the update and welcomed his return at the next Full Council Meeting or a Planning Committee Meeting in August/September.

It was noted that Councillor Green declared an interest as Vice-Chairman of Fenland District Planning Committee and had taken no part in the discussion.

25. Apologies for absence

All present

26. Declarations of Interest

Councillor King declared a personal interest as a member of Fenland District and Cambridgeshire County Councils, and Friends of Wisbech Park; Councillor Sims declared a personal interest as a member of Fenland District and Cambridgeshire County Councils; Councillor Cox declared a personal interest as a member of Fenland District Council, and Friends of Wisbech Park; Councillors Farmer, Green, Oliver, Wegg and Wheeler declared a personal interest as a member of Fenland District Council, and Councillor Jolley declared a personal interest as a member of Friends of Wisbech Park.

27. Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Town Council held on Friday 11 May 2007 and Monday 14 May 2007 having been circulated were taken as read and signed by the Town Mayor as a true and correct record.

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28. Finance & General Purposes Committee

On the Motion of Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor O'Dell it was:

RESOLVED that the report comprising the Minutes of the Meeting of this Committee held on 25 June 2007, be hereby approved and adopted.

Matters arising: Councillor King raised the issue of the Jointly Funded Minor Highways (JFMH) projects at Minute 4: whereby another scheme had been suggested by parishioners for a crossing in Queen's Road, and he requested considering adopting this scheme. Councillor Green pointed out that as all councillors had been summoned to attend the meeting of the 25 June and voted unanimously for the chosen projects this was not an option according to Standing Order 36. Rescission of Previous Resolution

- a) A decision (whether affirmative or negative) of the Council shall not be reversed within six months except either by a special resolution, the written notice whereof bears the names of at least 9 members of the Council, or by a resolution moved in pursuance of the report or recommendation of a committee.

On the proposal of Councillor Green and seconded by Councillor Sims it was thus agreed to put the Queen's Road Scheme on file for consideration in next years JFMH projects.

29. Town Planning Committee

On the Motion of Councillor Wright, seconded by Councillor O'Dell it was:

RESOLVED that the report comprising the Minutes of the Meeting of this Committee held on 14 and 29 May and 11 and 25 June 2007, be hereby approved and adopted.

30. Allotment Committee

On the Motion of Councillor Sims, seconded by Councillor Hill it was:

RESOLVED that the report comprising the Minutes of the Meeting of this Committee held on 11 June 2007, be hereby approved and adopted.

31. Mayor's Diary and Announcements

The Mayor was very pleased to announce another successful and well-attended Rose Fair. He thanked the Deputy Mayor for his assistance in meeting the coaches bringing visitors to the Fair.

The Mayor had also attended several events held by Scout, Brownie and Guide troops in Wisbech and thanked them for the hospitality they had given to him and the Mayoress.

The Mayor reminded everyone of the forthcoming concert by the acclaimed bass singer Sir Willard White to be held at St Peter's Church on 21 July as part of the Clarkson celebrations for the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act of 1807.

Councillor Green congratulated all those associated with the Rose Fair for another successful year.

Thanks were also noted to the Deputy Clerk for her assistance in arrangements for the Civic Service and assistance with the guests from Nettetal, the twin German district of Fenland.

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32. Former Town Mayor, Herbert (Bert) Dickerson

The Mayor announced to members that the funeral of Bert Dickerson will take place on Wednesday 11 July 2007 at St Peter's Church, Wisbech at 11.30am, which he will be attending.

33. Transport

Councillor King gave a verbal report to members.

- Zebra Crossing Old Market - Work should start in July. Work will take place on Sundays only to limit obstruction.
- Market Place - Fenland Overview & Scrutiny will review the two options and this review should be completed by the end of 2007.
- Signalling at Town Bridge – this will form part of an urban traffic control system linking South Brink and Cromwell Road.
- Freedom Bridge – Councillor King had understood that the crossing proposed between Nene Parade and Nene Quay was no longer viable. This was questioned by Mr Garford who will liaise with Cambridgeshire Highways for confirmation of the current status.
- Bust Stop improvements – this would not be carried out this year due to pressure of work and staff shortages at Cambridgeshire County Council.
- Walton Road traffic calming – there had been consultation difficulties and this scheme was currently undergoing a re-design process.
- Wisbech Park cycleway – there was now funding available to continue this route.
- Norfolk Street – design work was ongoing and consultation would be carried out with the Town Council and Norfolk Street traders.

34. East of England Regional Assembly (EERA)

Councillors King and Fulcher gave their apologies as they had not been able to attend the Issues and Options consultation on Planning for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation in the East of England.

Members were informed that the consultation document "Planning for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation in the East of England: Issues and Options" was published by EERA on May 8th 2007. They were advised that the document was available to download from <http://www.eera.gov.uk/consultation/> and subject to a 12 week public consultation, with all views to be received by 5pm on Tuesday 31st July 2007.

35. Allotment Land

At the request of the Mayor item 35 b) was considered first.

b) Members were informed that a letter had been sent from this Council to Fenland District requesting that the allotments taken over in 1974 be returned. In response Fenland District has initially requested information on tenancy levels.

a) On the proposal of Councillor Sims it was agreed that until Fenland District respond regarding the return of the allotments to Wisbech Town Council, the letter received from Maxey's on behalf of a client asking if this Council is willing to dispose of allotment land to a charity be put on file.

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36. Carlisle Intermediate Care Unit, North Cambs Hospital, Wisbech

After declaring a personal interest as a voluntary worker at the hospital, Councillor Mrs Jolley explained that the Carlisle Unit is at present closed and patients moved to the Trafford Ward (caring for quite sick patients). The Carlisle Unit took up several small wards, single rooms, day room, bathrooms, nurses' station and access to a patio. This space is now unused. The staff have been told that the unit is not actually closed but it appears to have been closed since Christmas due to shortage of staff. After declaring a personal interest as an employee of the Bowthorpe Centre, Councillor Mrs Cox also informed members that part of the Bowthorpe Centre had been appropriated for the Carlisle Unit and was concerned that this room was not being used.

On the proposal of Councillor Mrs Jolley, seconded by Councillor Meekins it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk write to the East Cambridgeshire and Fenland NHS Primary Care Trust to inform them of this Council's concerns over the apparent closure of the Carlisle Unit.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Mrs Jolley for bringing this matter to the attention of the Council.

37. Fenland District Council

a) CCTV updates for Wisbech for 28 May – 25 June, and latest quarterly update for Fenland CCTV had been received for members' information. The Mayor informed members that the CCTV Meetings were well attended by councillors, officials and police. He also offered visits to the CCTV Control Room to new members of the Town Council if required. Members were asked to liaise directly with the Mayor to arrange this.

b) Members were informed that the Fenland Economic Development Partnership (FEDP) had developed a draft Economic Development Framework upon which this organisation's comments/views were sought. The deadline for consultation responses being midday on Monday 9th July; however there will be ongoing dialogue with this organisation/partnership to consider the most effective local delivery; especially regarding the 'Place Making', master planning approach. The Clerk had spoken to FEDP regarding this deadline date and responses from this Council will be accepted as part of this ongoing dialogue. Members requiring a copy of the document were asked to contact the Clerk.

c) Wisbech Park Attendant.

Members were informed that Fenland District has requested funding for a temporary park attendant for Wisbech Park. On the proposal of Councillor Green it was agreed on that as this request had been received after this year's budget had been finalised this request would be considered for 2008/2009.

38. Cambridgeshire County Council

a) Harecroft Road – overhanging vegetation

Following correspondence received from a parishioner and the response from Cambridgeshire County Council in regarding overhanging vegetation in Harecroft Road and Chapel Road. On the proposal of Councillor Green and seconded by Councillor Sims it was agreed that this Council will write to Cambridgeshire County Council, Fenland District Council and the National Trust asking them to carry out their duties to the public in removing the overhanging and encroaching vegetation on the public rights of way involved.



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b) Stopping Up application – Lickings Drove

On the proposal of Councillor Sims and seconded by Councillor Wright it was agreed that no objections be raised to the application by Cambridgeshire County Council to remove the Highway Rights from land at Lickings Drove.

c) Information regarding proposed changes to mobile library routes in Wisbech was noted by members.

39. Virement of funds

Councillor Green explained to members that, having failed to reach electrical standards and on the advice of the Fire Services, the rewiring the building was an unexpected but necessary expense. On the proposal of Councillor Green and seconded by Councillor Sims the virement of the sum of £5,000.00 from the Election Reserve and £3380.00 from the Chamber/Parlour reserve to the Maintenance of Building Reserve making a total in that reserve of £13,585.88 was agreed and that furthermore that £11,000 of that be allocated to the rewiring of the building without referring back to Council.

40. Communications

(All newsletters and information leaflets received were displayed on the notice board in the foyer prior to the meeting.)

The following documents were noted by members:

- i) Queen Elizabeth Hospital, King's Lynn newsletter Issue 8.
- ii) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils bulletin Edition 6 (June 2007).
Flyers had also been received for workshops on the Model Code of Conduct (10 Oct or 27 Oct 2007), and Archiving Documents and Freedom of Information (5 Sept or 22 Sept 2007). It was requested that members let the Clerk know if they wished to attend.
- iii) Fenland District Council
 - a) Agenda for the Standards Committee Meeting on 9 July 2007
 - b) Copies of the latest Fenland Follower.
- iv) Cambridgeshire County Council Trading Standards Magazine 'Inside Trade' Summer 2007.
- v) A poster for RECAP (recycling for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough).
- vi) A copy of the Leverington Parish Council News Issue 4.
- vii) A copy of the latest Fenland Arts eBulletin.
- viii) A copy of the Inspire East Newsletter for June 2007.
- ix) Cambridge Older People's Enterprise (COPE) newsletter no. 35.
- x) Programmes for Wisbech Rose Fair 2007.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Signed

Date



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Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 10 September 2007 at 7.45pm.

No parishioners attended the public participation period prior to the start of the meeting.

The meeting opened at 7.45pm

Present:

The Town Mayor, Councillor D.C. Oliver, Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor J.R. Farmer and Councillors, Mrs C.R. Cox, N.W. Frusher, A.R. Green, M. Hill, Mrs J.R. Jolley, S. King, Mrs Y.P. Lawrence, Mrs V.M. Macrae, N.A. Meekins, P.B. O'Dell, M.A. Parker, L. Sims, D.A. Wheeler and T. Wright.

In attendance: Mr Tim Mills, Director of Planning and Development for Fenland District Council and David Bailey Traveller and Diversity Manager also from Fenland District Council.

41. Mr Tim Mills, Director of Planning and Development for Fenland District Council

The Mayor welcomed both Mr Mills and Mr Bailey to the meeting.

In the absence of Gary Garford, Liaison officer with Fenland District Council, Mr Mills answered questions relating to the Nene Waterfront Regeneration Scheme, including the matter of traffic control discussed at the previous meeting. The district council is now taking control of the Gas Works and the evaluation tribunal will be the next step in this. He will notify this council of the 'cleanup' date of this site in due course. It was requested that the "Heat, Power and Light" concrete posts be preserved as part of the history of this town.

With regard to the transfer of housing stock to Roddens it is hoped that this will take place before the 05 November.

He will also ascertain the position regarding the planting of flowers on the Freedom Bridge Roundabout, and the removal of nettles.

He will take back to Fenland environmental department, members' concerns over the substantial amount of refuse left daily outside the 360 Club in Orange Grove.

At this point it was agreed unanimously that item 50 on the agenda could be moved to this point of the meeting to enable Mr Mills and Mr Bailey to leave the meeting after this item should they so wish.

50. Fenland District Council – Gypsy/Traveller Sites.

Mr Mills gave a short presentation relating to the need for more pitches for the above group of people. (Copy attached at Appendix 6.) Two new sites are being planned for Wisbech, one on the A47 and one at Cox's Lane on the allotment site. Other areas in Wisbech including Mile Tree Lane had been considered but were not suitable. Members pointed out that land at Cox's Lane was superior to that at Mile tree Lane and would have thought it prudent to keep the better farming land and use Mile Tree for the site. However it was reported that access would be too difficult.

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Mr Mills requested that we serve notice on the allotment holders at Cox's Lane and confirmed that consultation will take place with these tenants to discuss compensation, timing and replacement.

On the proposal by Councillor Green seconded by Councillor Oliver it was agreed that:

This council requires this request in writing from Fenland District Council and that this letter will include the clauses:

- a) That this council must give notice to its tenants**
- b) That Fenland District Council will give compensation to the tenants affected by this decision**
- c) That any legal costs, compensation and/or requirements suffered by Wisbech Town will be the responsibility of Fenland District Council.**

The Mayor thanked Mr Mills and Mr Bailey for attending and they then left the meeting.

42. Apologies for absence

- a) Apologies for absence were received from:
 - Councillor L.R.V. Fulcher - personal reasons
 - Councillor H.B. Wegg – on holiday
- b) The apologies were approved.

43. Declaration of Interest

Councillors King and Sims declared a personal interest as a member of Fenland District and Cambridgeshire County Councils; Councillors Mrs Cox, Farmer, Green, Oliver and Wheeler declared a personal interest as a member of Fenland District Council.

44. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 09 July having been circulated were taken as read and signed by the Town Mayor as a true and correct record

45. General Purposes Committee

a) On the Motion of Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor Sims it was:
RESOLVED that the report comprising the Minutes of the Meeting of this Committee held on 13 August 2007, be hereby approved and adopted.

b) Councillors discussed Minute 30 from the above meeting and on the proposal of Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor Sims it was agreed unanimously that the following response be sent to Fenland Highways:

That this Council endorses the comments made by Councillors Farmer and King at the Traffic management Area Joint Committee meeting on Friday 7th September. With the following additional points additional points.

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1) That Blue Badges should mean that either the driver is the holder of the blue badge or if this isn't the case then the actual holder of the Blue Badge should be in the car.

2) Disabled parking places outside the dwelling of a disabled person should revert to ordinary status should the disabled person move from that property.

With reference to the on Street Parking Policies which were also discussed at the above meeting, Wisbech Town Council again wishes to endorse the comments made by Councillors Farmer and King with the additional comment that on all new developments this Council would wish that off street parking will be provided and that this should be in keeping with the surrounding area.

46. **Town Planning Committee**

On the Motion of Councillor Wright, seconded by Councillor O'Dell it was:
RESOLVED that the report comprising the Minutes of the Meetings of this Committee held on 09 and 23 July and 13 and 28 August 2007 be hereby approved and adopted.

47. **Allotment Committee**

On the Motion of Councillor Sims, seconded by Councillor Green it was:
RESOLVED that the report comprising the Minutes of the Meeting of this Committee held on 28 August 2007, be hereby approved and adopted.

a) On the proposal of Councillor Sims, Seconded by Councillor Green it was unanimously agreed that: this Council approves the request from Fenland District Council to sell the dyke at the rear of 6-10 Cambridge Road to the occupants of those properties. It was further agreed that it be recommended that no work is carried out until letters are received from the occupants and the contractor stating that they will be responsible for making good any damage caused to the service road and other allotments.

b) On the proposal of Councillor Sims, seconded by Councillor Green it was agreed unanimously that: permission is given to the Allotment Inspector to buy a wheeled measure up to the sum of £139 plus VAT and delivery.

c) On the proposal of Councillor Sims, seconded by Councillor Green it was agreed unanimously that permission is given to having the untenanted allotments at the Mile Tree Lane site cleared without further referral to full Council subject to the work costing no more than £250 plus VAT.

48. **Mayor's Diary and Announcements**

The Mayor reported that over the summer his civic duties had been reduced.

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He informed members that he will be holding a charity disco in the Tower Ballroom on 26 October 2007. The cost of the tickets will be £7.50 each.

He also requested that members let him know whether or not they wish to visit the CCTV control room. Those present were enthusiastic and the Mayor promised to arrange two evenings for a visit in the near future.

49. Transport

Report by the Town Council's Representative (copy attached at appendix 7).

Members were concerned that a report by Councillor Melton in the local press relating to Wisbech Market Place made it appear that the decision on this matter was now cut and dried. However Councillor King assured members this was not the case. Councillor Wright read out a letter that he had written to Councillor King (Copy attached at Appendix 8). It was agreed unanimously that it should be recorded that Wisbech Town Council fully endorsed the comments in Councillor Wright's letter.

Members requested that the Wisbech circular route is improved, however it was noted that financial restraints do not allow for this at the present time. It was therefore suggested that perhaps it could alternate its route i.e. clockwise and anticlockwise.

51. Air Training Corps Bedford and Cambridgeshire Wing (Northern Section)

The above organisation wishes to hold its Foundation Church Parade on Sunday 03 February 2008 in Wisbech and wanted more information on gaining permission. The Clerk will write to them giving this Council's congratulations on being chosen to hold this prestigious event and ensuring this Council's support. She will also explain that they will need to contact Fenland District.

52. Carlisle Intermediate Care Unit, North Cambs Hospital, Wisbech

A letter has been received in response to this Council's concerns on the above matter. Matthew Winn, Chief Operating Officer on the Cambridgeshire Primary Care Trust has indicated he is willing to report to Council in person. On the proposal of Councillor Jolley seconded by Councillor Wheeler it was agreed unanimously to invite Mr Winn to the meeting to be held on 14 January 2008.

53. Harecroft Road – overhanging vegetation

It appears that although assurances have been received stating the necessary work has been completed, branches have been left on the grass on Leverington Road between Peckover School and Leverington Pocket Cemetery. It was agreed to write again to the National Trust requesting that this matter be resolved.

54. Fenland District Council

a) The CCTV updates for Wisbech for July and August 2007 were received by members.

b) The Standards Committee – a copy of the introduction to the local filter was received by members.

c) Wisbech Statute Fair – It was noted the fair is arriving on Sunday 16 September and departing Sunday 23 September. Opening night is Wednesday 19 September at 6.30pm

Cont.....



2007/2008 – 15

- d) Details of the Implementation of the National Concessionary Bus Travel Scheme were noted by members.
- e) Community Grant Scheme – details of this scheme have been received. All bids need to be in by 1 October 2007. Members agreed this should be dealt with by the Civic Amenities Committee.

55. Letters from Parishioners

A letter has been received stating concerns over several matters (copy attached at Appendix 9).

56. Cambridgeshire County Council

A letter was received in respect of the Stopping Up Order: Lidl, Cromwell Road. The Clerk will write confirming that members have no objection to the Order.

57. Communications

All newsletters and information leaflets itemised on the agenda were displayed on the notice board in the foyer prior to the meeting and were received and noted by members.

- i)
 - a) Cambridgeshire County Council – Leaflets on the work of Cambridgeshire County Council's Scrutiny Committees.
 - b) Details of changes of bus stops at Cambridge rail station.
- ii) COPE – Newsletter No. 36.
- iii) European Union – Growing Regions, growing Europe. Fourth report on economic and social cohesion.
- iv) Inspire East – details of workshops during autumn/winter 2007/08 and their current newsletter.
- v) NALC – details of the national conference and Exhibition at Bournemouth International Centre between 5 and 7 October 2007.
- vi) Queen Elizabeth Hospital, King's Lynn newsletter Issue 10.
- vii) War Memorial Trust – bulletin number 34.
- viii) Wisbech Music Society brochure for their 62nd season of concerts.
- ix) Details on the conference to be run jointly by the University of Hertfordshire and the Centre for Mental Health Recovery on Tuesday 18 and Wednesday 19 September 2007.
- x) Young lives details of the Youth at the Table course relating to training for young people intending to sit on committees.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Signed.....

Dated.....



2007/2008 – 15

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 12 November 2007 at 7.45pm.

No parishioners attended the public participation period prior to the start of the meeting.

The meeting opened at 7.45pm

Present:

The Town Mayor, Councillor D.C. Oliver, Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor J.R. Farmer and Councillors Mrs C.R. Cox, N.W. Frusher, L.R.V. Fulcher, A.R. Green, M. Hill, Mrs J.R. Jolley, S. King, Mrs Y.P. Lawrence, Mrs V.M. MacRae, N.A. Meekins, P.B. O'Dell, M.A. Parker, L. Sims, D.A. Wheeler and T. Wright.

In attendance: Mr E. Murat, Town Clerk Designate, Gary Garford, Liaison Officer from Fenland District Council, Andrew Rouse from The Environment Agency and Mark Anderson from Atkins Ltd, Mr Howard from the Campaign for the Wisbech Northern Relief Road, and Trevor Watson, Engineering Services Manager and Mick Napier CCTV Manager, both from Fenland District Council.

The Mayor Councillor David Oliver welcomed all the speakers to the meeting.

58. The Environment Agency

Mr Andrew Rouse and colleagues gave an interesting presentation on flood prevention proposals and the planning application recently submitted for this area. A synopsis of their report was subsequently circulated to members for information (copy attached to the Minute Book at Appendix 10).

59. Campaign for the Wisbech Northern Relief Road

Mr M Howard gave a short presentation on his reasons for supporting the Wisbech Northern Relief Road Campaign. His flyer was subsequently circulated to members for information (copy attached at Appendix 11).

He believes that a relief road will solve the traffic flow problems in Wisbech, particularly when accidents on the A16 and A47 compound the problems in Wisbech. It will also stop road damage from lorries if the traffic can be kept moving. He also believes it will bring industry to the area, regenerate the town centre and ease the greatly increased traffic flow which will occur when the regeneration of the port area is completed.

Mr Garford advised that if Wisbech wish to support such a scheme they will need a feasibility study together with an environmental study, model scheme and funding plans.

On the Proposal of Councillor S. King, seconded by Councillor Green and agreed unanimously:

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT: Mr Garford be requested to take back to Fenland District that Wisbech Town Council supports the principle of a Relief Road for Wisbech

Cont.....



2007/2008 – 16

60. CCTV

Trevor Watson, Engineering Services Manager and Mick Napier, Manager of the CCTV control room gave a presentation relating to CCTV in Wisbech and the expected contribution from this council for 2008-2009. A copy of the presentation is attached to the Minute Book at Appendix 12.

On the proposal of Councillor King, Seconded by Councillor Wright, with 10 in favour, 2 against and 5 abstentions:

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT: This council moves back to contributing £25,000.00 per year to CCTV, with a payment of £19,000 for 2008-2009 and £25,000 in 2009-2010.

61. Fenland District Council Liaison Officer

Mr G. Garford reported back to council relating to questions asked at the last meeting.

- a) The "Heat, Power and Light" sign will be preserved as part of the history of this town and Fenland District would welcome ideas for its long term position.
- b) The cleanup of the reclaimed gas works site will take place between January and May 2008
- c) He has taken the concerns amount of refuse left daily outside the 360 club in Orange Grove to environmental health and this has been dealt with.
- d) He confirmed that a traffic flow report relating to the Port Regeneration area had been undertaken. This shows that peak flows on Freedom Bridge will decrease by 2%. Nene Quay will increase by 5%; Churchill Road by 6% and Lynn Road by 16%. He confirmed the study took place 5 years ago. Members were unhappy with the statistics and pointed out that general traffic has also increased. Mr Garford responded that the peak flow report only related to the extra traffic generated by the Port Regeneration Scheme and not the general increase. This council felt that another survey should be completed to bring the statistics up to date. It was also confirmed that the link road from Chase Street to De Havilland Road is still part of the plan. It was noted that the plans for a pedestrian bridge had been deferred.

On the proposal by Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor King and agreed unanimously:

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT: Mr Garford takes back to Fenland District that Wisbech Town Council wishes for the pedestrian bridge proposal be reinstated.

62. Apologies

- a) An apology for absence was received from Councillor Wegg. He is unwell.
- b) The absence was approved.

Cont.....



2007/2008 – 17

63. Declaration of Interest

Councillor King declared a personal interest as a member of both Cambridgeshire County and Fenland District Councils.

64. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 10 September having been circulated were taken as read and signed by the Town Mayor as a true and correct record

65. General Purposes Committee

a). On the Motion of Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor Wheeler:

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT: The report comprising the Minutes of the Meeting of this Committee held on 13 August 2007, be hereby approved and adopted.

On the matter of the purchase of the Christmas Lights as a matter of urgency from Maidenhead and Windsor for the maximum sum of £5,000 it was proposed by Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor Farmer and agreed unanimously:

IT WAS RESOLVED that: due to the urgency relating to the purchase of the above lights that their purchase be approved retrospectively.

A vote of thanks was given to those involved in this purchase.

66. Town Planning Committee

On the Motion of Councillor Wright, seconded by Councillor O'Dell:

IT WAS RESOLVED that the report comprising the Minutes of the Meetings of this Committee held on 10 and 24 September 2007 and 08 and 22 October 2007 be hereby approved and adopted

67. Allotment Committee

On the Motion of Councillor Sims, seconded by Councillor Hill:

IT WAS RESOLVED that the report comprising the Minutes of the Meeting of this Committee held on 22 October 2007, be hereby approved and adopted.

It was noted that in relation to filling in of the dyke at Little Dowgate; that it had been recommended that permission is granted, providing it is done to the same specification and with the same provisos as expressed to the other allotment holders who have previously requested permission.

Cont.....



2007/2008 – 18

68. Appointment of New Town Clerk

It was reported that Mr Erbie Murat has been appointed as the successor to the current Town Clerk, Mrs C.J. Newman. He will work alongside Mrs Newman from 26 November 2007. Mr Murat was present at the meeting and was introduced to councillors.

69. Accounts and Audit 2007 - 2008

The Clerk reported that written confirmation has been received from the audit of the Town Council's accounts for 2006-2007, and these have been signed off without comment. It should now be possible to go forward to Quality Status.

70. Mayor's Diary and Announcements

The Mayor reported on his civic engagements since the last meeting and reminded councillors of his Christmas Bazaar due to be held in the Council Chamber on Saturday 17 November.

71. Transport

Councillor King apologised for the late distribution of his report which was noted by members (copy attached to the Minute Book at Appendix 13).

72. Cambridgeshire County Council

Safer Routes to School – Elm Primary School - Notification that the planned works for modifications started on Monday 05 November 2007. Members noted that only two schools had taken up this initiative and were urged to encourage all schools to take part.

73. Fenland District Council

a) Fenland Local Development Framework – Core Strategy and Development Policies Development Plan Document (DPD) – These documents have been received for Members information. As the closing date is 12 November an extension in order to allow this council to submit its comments was granted. The working party reported back to this meeting with its views and recommendations.

On the proposal by Councillor King, seconded by Councillor Meekins and agreed unanimously:

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT: This Council accept the views of the working party and that these are forwarded to Fenland District as this Council's formal response (copy attached to the Minute Book at Appendix 14).

b) The Licensing Act 2003 – Consultation on Review Statement of Licensing Policy. Members agreed that a working party will be established to agree this council's comments. Members will be Councillors King, Parker, Farmer, and Frusher

Cont.....



2007/2008 – 19

c) CCTV updates for 3 - 30 September plus Streetsave monthly statistics for September 2007 were noted by members.

d) Non Market day trading on Wisbech Market Place - the number of stalls were raised from three to seven. In response Members asked for feedback from Fenland District on the success of this venture.

e) Street naming on the Nene Waterfront Development – The names that members were requested to consider had been withdrawn. Never-the-less members were requested to give this matter some thought in preparation for when any amended list is received.

f) Overview and Scrutiny Panel Agenda on Thursday 1 November 2007 – It was noted that this meeting will have taken place prior to this matter coming to council. However any comments or concerns may be given to Councillor King who will take these back to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

g) Heritage Weekend on Friday 12 to Sunday 14 September 2008. On the proposal by Councillor Green Seconded by Councillor O'Dell and agreed unanimously:

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT this council will take part in the heritage weekend due to take place over the weekend of Friday 12 to Sunday 14 September 08 on condition that a rota is set up and councillors offer to take part.

h) Polling District and Polling Place review (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006. Councillor King was concerned that the polling stations for Staithe Ward are split, and felt that the voting should take place in one venue only.

Councillor Farmer felt that areas ED1 and ED2 should be combined as both these areas vote at the same polling station.

The Clerk will forward these views to Fenland District

74. Government Office for the East of England – Further proposed changes to the East of England Plan were noted by members.

75. Letters from Parishioners

a) Members noted the two separate complaints regarding the parking fines and the condition of the toilets in the Horsefair. These have been passed to Kevin Smith, the Horsefair Manager. The Clerk will also respond regarding the boarded up properties in the High Street.

Cont.....



2007/2008 – 20

76. Communications

Members noted the following communications

- i) Cambridgeshire Acre – information for parish councils
- ii) Cambridgeshire County Council – briefing note relating to the review of passenger transport in Cambridgeshire
- iii) CPALC
 - a) CPALC October Bulletin – the item on Declarations of Interest in the centre of the bulletin was tabled at the meeting
 - b) Notice of an Allotment Workshop to be held at Bluntisham Village Hall on Saturday 8 March 2008 at a cost of £45
 - c) Report from the recent VAT workshop
- iv) COPE – Newsletter No. 39 plus questionnaire – ‘How do you cope with moving’
- v) DEFRA – booklet on ways to tackle climate change
- vi) Fenland Arts – eBulletin
- vii) Friends of Wisbech Park – Park Art Newsletter 7
- viii) Inspire East – newsletter
- ix) Youth Bank Funding Workshop - email relating to a workshop to be held at the Great Shelford Scout and Guide HQ in South Cambs on Friday 06 November between 3.30pm and 5.30pm
- x) Queen Elizabeth Hospital – Headline News
- xi) Wisbech and Fenland Museum 171st Annual Report

The Meeting ended at 10.17pm

Signed.....

Dated.....



2007/2008 – 21

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 14 January 2008 at 7.45pm.

No parishioners attended the public participation period prior to the start of the meeting.

The meeting opened at 7.45pm

Present:

The Town Mayor, Councillor D.C. Oliver, Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor J.R. Farmer and Councillors Mrs C.R. Cox, L.R.V. Fulcher, N.W. Frusher, A.R. Green, M. Hill, Mrs J.R. Jolley, S. King, Mrs Y.P. Lawrence, Mrs V.M. MacRae, N.A. Meekins, P.B. O'Dell, M.A. Parker, L. Sims, D.A. Wheeler, B Wegg and T. Wright.

In attendance: Mrs S Farmer - Deputy Clerk, Gary Garford - Liaison Officer from Fenland District Council, Malcolm Graham - Sector Inspector for Wisbech Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Rachel Patterson – Wisbech & district Policy Sergeant Cambridgeshire Police, Mathew Winn - Chief Operating Officer, Cambridgeshire NHS Primary Care Trust, and David Senior - member of the public.

The Mayor Councillor David Oliver wished everyone a happy New Year, and welcomed the speakers to the meeting. He asked that mobile phones should be put on silent or switched off. He changed the order of the speakers so that Cambridgeshire NHS Trust did their presentation first

**77. Cambridgeshire NHS Primary Care Trust
Carlisle Intermediate Care Unit – North Cambs Hospital**

Mathew Winn, Chief Operating Officer, gave a short presentation.

It is the intention of the PCT to re-open the Carlisle Ward.

The next step is for a decision to be reached by the local commissioning group which is chaired by North Brink GP surgery. The PCT needs their determination about what services are needed (what they will be prepared to pay for). Mr Winn estimated that they would receive this determination from the commissioning body within 3 to 4 weeks. That would then establish what services are to be provided in the Carlisle Ward when it re-opens.

The re-opening would then need to be organised, which includes the recruitment of appropriate staff, depending on the services that would be required. This process is envisaged to take approximately 3 to 4 months.

78. Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Malcolm Graham, Sector Inspector for Wisbech, accompanied by another officer informed Council about the powers of the proposed DPPO (street drinking ban). Designating the DPPO is not a police function. Under the Police Act 2001, Fenland District Council have the power to designate certain areas. The

Cont.....



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proposal is that the DPPO covers a slightly larger area than that covered by the dispersal order.

Once the area is designated the Police then have powers to enforce. They can ask offenders to stop drinking or dispose of the alcohol. Failure to do so may mean being arrested. The police will be enforcing standards of behaviour in a responsible way, targeting nuisance or anti-social drinking. The ability to enforce has improved because PCSO's can be deployed more freely. The PCSO's have the power to detain for up to half an hour while police officers are deployed to make the arrest. They have the use of language line should there be any language difficulties to avoid misunderstandings.

Any police action must satisfy the 'necessity' principle. They must be able to justify their actions. Until the DPPO the police could not act until an illegal action had been committed. With the DPPO they can act to prevent an illegal action.

On the proposal of Councillor King, Seconded by Councillor Wheeler, with 17 in favour and 1 abstention:

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT: The Council supports this measure.

79. Fenland District Council Liaison Officer – Gary Garford

- a) There appears to be a prospect that the number of travellers' sites may be halved. Members asked if this meant that the Cox's Lane site would be re-erected. The clerk is to write to Tim Mills for clarification.
- b) The "Heat, Power and Light" sign has been put into storage, and Mr Garford confirmed that it will be preserved as part of the history.

On the proposal by Councillor King, seconded by Councillor Green and agreed unanimously:

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT: Mr Garford takes back to Fenland District that Wisbech Town Council wishes for the "Heat, Power and Light" sign to be re-erected.

- c) The Council asked for the feedback requested at the last meeting of the Town Council about Non Market day trading on Wisbech Market Place with the number of stalls being raised from three to seven. Mr Garford did not remember being asked to provide feedback, and is only sent an agenda for meetings, and not previous minutes. The Town Clerk was asked to send Mr Garford a copy of the Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 10 December 2008.
- d) It was reported that there had been an easing of traffic over Freedom Bridge, and that this was likely to have been due to roads being re-opened around the port development site.

Cont.....



2007/2008 – 23

80. Apologies

There were no apologies

81. Declaration of Interest

Councillor King declared a personal interest as a member of both Cambridgeshire County and Fenland District Councils.

The Town Clerk is to clarify under what circumstances the declaration of interests are required for other Council membership, where that membership is recorded on the declaration forms in the Clerks office and are public knowledge.

82. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 26 November 2007, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Town Mayor as a true and correct record

83. Finance & General Purposes Committee

On the Motion of Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor Wheeler:

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT: The report comprising the Minutes of the Meeting of this Committee held on 10 December 2007, be hereby approved and adopted.

84. Town Planning Committee

On the Motion of Councillor Wright, seconded by Councillor O'Dell:

IT WAS RESOLVED that the report comprising the Minutes of the Meetings of this Committee held on To receive a report comprising the Minutes of this Committee held on 12 and 26 November, and 10 December 2007 (the former two previously circulated the latter circulated herewith) be hereby approved and adopted.

85. Allotment Committee

There have been no further meetings.

86. Retirement of former Town Clerk

Christine Newman formally retired on 31 December 2007, and a presentation of flowers was made by the Mayoress at the Carol Service. The new Town Clerk, Erbie Murat, formally took over on 1 January 2008.

87. Application for Quality Status

It was reported that the Cambridgeshire Quality panel met on 19 December 2007, and awarded this Council Quality Status, confirmed in a letter (circulated herewith). The Town Clerk has contacted the Interim CEO of CPALC to satisfy the condition described.

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2007/2008 – 24

88. Mayor's Diary and Announcements

The Mayor reported that he and the Mayoress were very busy over the last few weeks. His civic engagements have been non-stop since the last meeting. For further information about the mayor's engagements Members could speak with the Clerk or the deputy Clerk.

89. Transport

A report was received (circulated herewith)

90. Cambridgeshire County Council

- a) Winter Gritting and Snow Clearing information was noted. (see notice board).
- b) Parish Paths Partnership scheme – request to join (circulated herewith).

On the Motion of Cllr Mrs MacRae, seconded by Cllr King:

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT: Cllr Mrs MacRae should represent this Council on the partnership. The Clerk to confirm

- c) Tackling congestion in Cambs – evening briefing (circulated herewith).

On the Motion of Cllr Green, seconded by Cllr King:

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT: Cllr Mrs MacRae, and Cllr King should represent this Council on this forum.

91. Fenland District Council

The following were received from Fenland District Council, and displayed on notice board.

- a) Agenda for Fenland District Council Meeting held on 20 December 2007. It was noted that this meeting took place prior to the Town council Meeting. Members were asked to note the item below relating to Culture and Tourism.
- b) Fenland Culture and Tourism Strategy. (see notice board)
- c) CCTV update for 1 – 31 October 2007 (see notice board)

92. Further information requested at the Town Council meeting of 26 November 2007

- a) Wisbech flood defences (circulated) for Members information.

93. Communications

The following communications may be found on the notice board for Members information.

Cont.....



2007/2008 – 25

- a) Inspire East - Newsletter November 2007 (see notice board)
- b) Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order - A short guide to making premises safe from fire.
c)
- Ormiston Centre Annual Review and Strategic Plan (see notice board)
- d) Luminus Group Newsletter issue 31 and Performance Review 2006/2007
- e) Fenland CVS Training leaflets for: PQASSO; First Aid; Monitoring and Evaluation; The Charities Act 2006; and Treasurer's Training.
- f) Queen Elizabeth Hospital briefing.
- g) European Union – Inforegio News no 161 – regional policy.
- h) COPE Newsletter no 40; letter against congestion charges; and invitations to Forum on elder abuse and New Years Tea Dance.
- i) CATCH Newsletter issue 2. – Cambridgeshire PCT
- k) Westminster Briefing : Tackling Social Exclusion: Raising Aspirations and Removing the Barriers.
- l) Westminster Briefing : New Challenges, New Opportunities: What Now for Local Government.
- m) The House Magazine.

The Meeting ended at 9.09 pm

Signed.....

Dated.....



2007/2008 – 25

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 10 March 2008 at 7.45pm.

Press and public were welcomed by the mayor to the public participation session at 7.30 pm.

Lynda Martin, the Partnership and Development Manager, for Cambridgeshire County Council delivered a presentation about The Wisbech Community Library and Learning Centre, which included leaving the Council with a set of the plans, and analyses of two public consultation/surveys of architectural plans conducted both amongst Library users (approx 120 users), and the general public (approx 300 people) in Wisbech Town Centre.

She was joined by Librarian, Sylvia Voden, who presented an overview of the extensive consultation that they undertook last year with both users of the library and the general public in Wisbech Town Centre.

The lottery bid paying for the development was £2 million, and was one of the best bids the lottery had received because of its community involvement. It is to be managed, developed and planned by the community. Their inaugural management board meeting will be at the Town Council on Tuesday 18 March at 5.30 pm. They envisage having focus groups to inform the process too, such as: culture and history; children and young people; and learning and development.

The outcomes they expect include communities being actively engaged; the skills base being increased. This will be achieved by: 2,000 people having more opportunities to develop and use the facilities; 80 people from the migrant communities will improve their language skills through ESOL; and 300 people will improve their history and culture knowledge. The new meeting room will accommodate 70 people. There will be lifts, coffee bar and toilets.

It was noted that the Mayor Cllr David Oliver, and the Clerk, Erbie Murat will be part of the management committee for the library

The library is due to move to the Queen Mary centre in September 2008, to enable preparatory work to be undertaken to remove asbestos from the existing library, to enable the contract works to begin on 1 October 2008. The project has appointed local contactors French Kier. The lottery is very strict and they have one year to complete the project. The new library will be open 1 October 2009.

The Town Council meeting opened at 7.45pm

Present:

The Town Mayor, Councillor D.C. Oliver, Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor J.R. Farmer and Councillors L.R.V. Fulcher, N.W. Frusher, A.R. Green, M. Hill, Mrs J.R. Jolley, S. King, Mrs V.M. MacRae, N.A. Meekins, P.B. O'Dell, M.A. Parker, L. Sims, D.A. Wheeler, and B Wegg.

In attendance: Mrs S Farmer - Deputy Clerk; Gary Garford - Liaison Officer from Fenland District Council; and Nick Reinis from the Fenland Citizen.

cont.....



2007/2008 – 26

The Mayor thanked Mrs Martin and her colleague for their presentation and welcomed Gary Garford, and Nick Reinis.

94. Fenland District Council (FDC) Liaison Officer

Gary Garford reported to the Council on the Nene Waterfront development.

- The Foyer, which was the first part of the development was opened in December 2006, and formally opened in May 2007. It is full to capacity.
- The Pontoon is complete.
- The fuelling dock is complete.
- The Wet Dock is complete.
- There is significant use of berths in the river.
- The Slipway is being refurbished.
- All 8 sites have been granted planning permission.
- Tenders are in for the remediation of the gas works.
- It will take 4-6 months remediation.
- Former nightclub is down and the foundations are being scoured out.
- The land has been levelled and excess trees and scrub has been removed.
- The proposed Link road will be part of the Planning process. It must be put in before second phase. It will go across the gas works site and therefore cannot be done until after remediation.
- There will be 375 units, houses and flats, at a rate of 60-70 dwellings per year.
- Cambridgeshire County council has assessed traffic requirements and this forms part of the development.
- The Cedar wood finish to the Foyer and to the Port authority building is sustainable and energy efficient and Gary Garford likes it.

Also Mr Garford presented the report-back document (circulated herewith). Under the item on Wisbech Market Place, Cllr King up-dated the Council.

- FDC Cabinet has deferred the decision on the two available options, and asked for a report to be presented by Mr Garford to Cabinet on 27 March 2008 on full pedestrianisation, as a third option.
- As a result of this additional delay Cambridgeshire County Council has allocated the Market Place Provision funding to another project.
- FDC will have to submit another application for 2009/10.

Members agreed unanimously that the Council should write to FDC expressing its concerns about the backtracking and delays, and that this was done without consulting Wisbech Town Councillors.

Members asked the Mayor or the Clerk to write to the leader of FDC and the Chief Executive expressing this Council's deep concern that Wisbech Town is not represented on FDC's Cabinet.

95. Apologies

a) Apologies

Mrs Cllr C.R. Cox, food poisoning
Mrs Cllr Y.P. Lawrence, food poisoning
Cllr T. Wright, holiday

cont



2007/2008 – 27

b) The above absences were approved.

96. Declarations of Interests

Cllr King asked for clarification of declaration of membership of Fenland District and Cambridgeshire County councils. The Clerk confirmed that it was not necessary for elected members to declare that interest at the start of each Town council meeting.

The Deputy Mayor declared an interest in item 101, and noted for the record that he had not taken part in the Staff Review.

97. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2008 having been circulated were approved then signed as a true and correct record.

98. Finance & General Purposes Committee

On a proposal by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Sims the minutes of Finance & General Purposes committee held on 11 February 2008 were received and approved.

99. Town Planning Committee

On a proposal by Cllr O'Dell and seconded by Cllr Meekins the minutes of The Town Planning were received and approved for the following dates: 14 and 28 January 2008, and 11 and 25 February 2008.

100. Allotment Committee

On a proposal by Cllr Sims and seconded by Cllr Hill the minutes of Allotment committee held on 21 February 2008 were received and approved.

101. Staff Review Working Party

On a proposal by Cllr Sims and seconded by Cllr Hill the minutes of Staff Review Working Party held on 25 February 2008 were received and approved.

102. Confirmation of Town Clerk

It was noted that the decision to confirm the Clerk following a three month probationary period was agreed at Staff Review Working Party as a recommendation to council. On a proposal by Cllr Oliver and seconded by Cllr Green it was RESOLVED that Mr Murat be confirmed in his post of Town Clerk to Wisbech Town Council.

103. Office Furniture

On a proposal by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr O'Dell, it was RESOLVED to authorise the Clerk to purchase office chairs.

104. Quality Status

It was noted that the Clerk has met with the acting County Executive Officer for CPALC, and that the 'Introduction' to the application for Quality Status has been amended to satisfy the requirements of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Board. The full application has now been sent to London to the offices of the national Quality Board.

cont



2007/2008 – 28

It was noted that the Clerk has submitted a further document to CPALC on their request, and as part of the Quality Status process describing the 'Direction of Travel' of the council.

It was noted that this forms the basis for the first draft of a Town Plan that is to be initially circulated to members for any considerations, and then would be followed by public consultation, as part of the process for preparing a full Town Plan for the council to consider and adopt.

Cllr King advised that this should dovetail in with the Local Area Agreement and with Cambridgeshire's and Fenland's local plans.

105. Mayor's Diary and Announcements

The Mayor reported that he had been very busy with swans by floodlight; two performances at Wisbech Grammar School; the refurbishment at the hospital and the new x-ray equipment; founders day for the Air Training Corps; the youth advisory group at the Queen Mary Centre who have been awarded £100,000 and many others.

The Mayor read out Christine Newman's letter of thanks to members for the presentation of the rose bowl.

The Mayor was also pleased to report the 'Action for Market Towns' conference and consultation that has been arranged by the East of England Development Agency (EEDA), which will be held at the Rose and Crown on 9 and 10 April, and members are invited to participate fully. The event will be housed in the Council Chamber on Thursday 10 April between 9am and 12 noon and more details will be forwarded to members, when they are available.

Members noted that Council Chamber has been booked for the Wisbech Rising of the Court Luncheon on Friday 28 March 2008, and that the catering will be done by the East of England Agricultural Society.

Members also noted that the Chamber has been booked by Fenland District Council for a Planning Appeal Hearing on 22 April 2008, and Members will be apprised of the details when they have been published.

106. Insurance

On a proposal from Cllr Wheeler and seconded by Cllr King it was RESOLVED that the Clerk renew the insurance policy with Zurich Municipal for the 'Select' local council policy schedule at a renewal cost of £7,444.92, which is an increase of £316.06 on last year. The renewal date is 25 March 2008 for one year.

107. CCTV

It was noted that the latest CCTV report is to be found in members correspondence boxes for their collection.

At the Mayor's request the Clerk has organised two visits for members with Mick Napier of FDC to visit the CCTV centre. Members were asked at the end of the meeting to let the Clerk know if they are interested in visiting the centre, and which of the two evenings they preferred. Both evenings are available (It was noted that one of them was on Good Friday)

cont



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Members can go on either or both dates: **Friday 21 March 2008 – 7pm**
Friday 28 March 2008 – 7pm

108. Cllr Hills Proposal

Cllr Hill, as ward councillor for Wisbech Town centre, proposed that the Town Council writes to Fenland District Council regarding the state of the buildings in the High Street that are covered with scaffolding and the gap behind the hoarding and the progress of the compulsory purchase of the buildings. This was seconded by Cllr Sims. It was RESOLVED that the Town Clerk write to the appropriate officer.

109. Arles Twinning request

It was noted that this council wholeheartedly supports the twinning with Arles.

On a proposal by Cllr King and seconded by Cllr Sims it was RESOLVED that this council facilitates a public meeting to raise public awareness of the Wisbech Town's twinning with Arles. It was further agreed that the meeting could be held in the Council Chamber.

On a proposal by Cllr King and seconded by Cllr Sims it was agreed to include the Arles logo on the Town Council's letterhead.

110. Kiffy Steiner – picture restorer from Kings Lynn

On a proposal by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Sims it was RESOLVED to arrange for Kiffy Steiner to do an assessment of the Leach painting to assess its restorability. The cost of the initial assessment will be £400.00 + VAT.

111. Portrait of Thomas Steed Watson

On a proposal by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Oliver it was RESOLVED to accept the portrait of Thomas Steed Watson, and it was noted that he was Mayor of Wisbech in 1840.

The Clerk was asked to contact Mr John Taylor to make the necessary arrangements.

112. Window repairs

On a proposal from Cllr Meekins and seconded by Cllr Sims it was RESOLVED to authorise the Deputy Clerk to investigate funding opportunities, through the F.E. Cleary Heritage fund towards window repairs (or any other funding source).

113. The Over 40's ride for Macmillan Cancer Support Charity

On a proposal by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Sims it was RESOLVED to arrange for a formal reception committee, and press and publicity for 'the over 40's Ride' on Thursday 26 June 2008 arriving outside the Town Council at 1pm. There will be ten motorcyclists attempting a total of 1450 miles, setting off from Cranwell. Wisbech will be their first stop.

114. Neighbourhood Policing Panel - Fenland Links Breakfast meeting at the Elme Hall Hotel.

On a proposal from Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Meekins it was RESOLVED that the Council's two nominees will be Cllr Wright and Cllr Farmer (with Cllr Oliver as a substitute should it).

cont



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115. Cambridgeshire County Council

Members noted the following items which were displayed on the notice board for members information:

- a) New Speed Limit Policy.
- b) Country-side access Issues.
- c) Building Schools for the Future programme.

- d) Cllr King presented the transport report circulated to members.

116. Fenland District Council

- a) Agenda and contact details for officers to contact in relation to Fenland Traffic Management Area Joint Committee.
- b) HGV routes within the Port of Wisbech Estate.
- c) New Standard Planning form notification letter.
- d) Wisbech Market Place Review 2007/08.

117. Communications

The following items were note by members, as displayed on the notice board.

- a) Distraction Burglary Poster and information.
- b) NALC model of an effective Community Anchor.
- c) Email of concern about Rose and Crown.
- d) Email about Kids Aloud Drama presentation on 7th April in Ely.
- e) COPE newsletter and other information.

The Meeting closed at 9.09 pm

Signed.....

Dated.....