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ANNUAL WISBECH TOWN COUNCIL MAYOR MAKING CEREMONY AND TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Friday 9 May 2008 at 12noon, and Monday 12 May 2008 at 7.30.

MAYOR MAKING 9 May 2008

At the commencement of proceedings Prayers were said by the Mayor's Chaplain, The Reverend Canon Wim Zwalf.

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

In attendance:

Guests

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

a) [b] On a nomination from Cllr Frusher, seconded by Cllr Hill, Cllr Jonathan Rodney Farmer was elected Mayor with an allowance of £3,020.

[c] [d] Cllr Farmer and his consort proceeded to the parlour, where Cllr Farmer was robed, and invested with the Chain of Office. He was then escorted to take his place on the dais.

[e] The Town Mayor recited and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

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

[g] Cllr Sims toasted the Town Mayor. The Town Mayor addressed the Chamber.

[h] An apology for absence was received from Cllrs King and Parker which were approved by Council.

2. Cllr Green gave a vote of thanks to the outgoing Town Mayor, Cllr David Oliver.

Cllr Oliver replied.

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3. The Town Mayor presented Cllr David Oliver and Mrs Barbara Oliver Past Mayor and Past Mayoress badges.

4. On a nomination by Cllr Mrs Cox, and seconded by Cllr Mrs Macrae, Cllr Mrs Yvonne Lawrence was elected Deputy Mayor. After being robed the Deputy Mayor took her seat beside the Mayor, and addressed the Chamber.

5. On a proposal from Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Oliver, Council accepted the minutes of the Town Council Meeting of 10 March 2008, and the Mayor signed them as a true record.

The Town Mayor announced the appointment of The Reverend Canon Wim Zwalf as Town Mayor's Chaplain.

The Town Mayor adjourned the Annual Town Council meeting, with members' approval to 7.30 on 12 May 2008 in the Council Chamber, and invited the dignitaries and guests to join him to partake of refreshments at the Octavia Hill Birthplace House where he was to make a presentation of the Wisbech Rural District Housing Shield for it to be on loan and displayed in honour of the work of Octavia Hill.

THE MEETING RECONVENED ON Monday 12 May 2008 at 7.30

Cllr Green advised the Town Council that he was to stand down as leader of the council, and that Cllr Oliver would take office as the new leader.

PRESENT: The Town Mayor, Councillor JR Farmer, and Councillors Mrs C Cox, 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, D Oliver, M. Parker, L. Sims, D.A. Wheeler, and T. Wright.

In attendance:

Sue Irving, Fenland Citizen; Susanah Farmer, the Deputy Clerk.

6. Apologies.

a) Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs Y Lawrence who was attending a civic duty, Cllr B Wegg who was on holiday and Cllr Fulcher who had been called away from the meeting due to an emergency at home.

b) The above apologies were approved.

7. Declarations of interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

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8. Appointment of Standing Committees.

On a proposal by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr O'Dell it was AGREED to continue with three standing Committees, Finance & General Purposes, Planning, and Allotments. It was AGREED to accept the circulated committee structure paper as presented by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr O'Dell (attached to Minute Book at Appendix 1).

The circulated paper on representation on Outside Bodies was also APPROVED on a proposal by Cllr King and seconded by Cllr Wheeler, including representation on the Fenland Area Joint Committee, which is to be added to the list. On a proposal by Cllr King and seconded by Cllr Green, the Council representative is to be Cllr Mrs Macrae, with Cllr Meekins as her substitute (copy attached to Minute Book at Appendix 2).

9. Finance & General Purposes Committee

On a proposal from Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Sims the F&GP minutes for 28 April 2008 were APPROVED.

10. Planning Committee

On a proposal from Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Meekins the minutes of the Planning meetings of 10 & 25 March and 14 & 28 April 2008 were APPROVED.

11. Signatories to Bank Account

On a proposal from Cllr Oliver and seconded by Cllr Sims it was RESOLVED that Cllr Mrs Lawrence be added as the Deputy Mayor, to sign cheques for and on behalf of the Council. Signatories to be the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chairman of F&GP.

12. Frequency of Town Council Meetings

On a proposal from Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr King Council RESOLVED to have Full Town Council Meetings once a month instead of bi-monthly, and agreed that the dates for the additional meetings would be on the dates currently allocated to Finance and General Purposes on the committee list as circulated with the exception of F&GP on 9 June. This would remain as F&GP and the additional Town Council would be on 27 May 2008. F&GP is then to be convened as required, with the proviso that there is an F&GP at budget making time to inform that process. The Clerk was asked to prepare an up-dated committee dates list to be circulated to Members, the media, and other local authorities (copy attached to Minute Book at Appendix 3)

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13. Appointment of Internal Auditor

On a proposal from Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Sims in was AGREED to continue with the services of John Smith as Internal Auditor.

14. Calendar of meetings

On a proposal from Cllr Green and seconded by Oliver it was AGREED to adopt the circulated committee calendar subject to the amendments made under **item 12.**

15. Analysis of attendance

On a proposal from Cllr King and seconded by Cllr Sims it was AGREED to postpone this item to a future meeting, questioning its accuracy and its validity. It was noted that the requirement is for Councillors to attend or to have an acceptable reason for not attending, approved by committee.

16. Transport report

The transport report presented by Cllr King was noted. The Clerk was asked to write to the County Council to establish when the railings are to be erected.

17. Fenland District Council

Although Members noted that the agenda posted on the notice board was for a meeting held before this Town Council meeting; as members had been informed of the date of the meeting in advance, the Clerk was asked to continue posting items on the notice board for members' information.

18. Communications

The following communications were noted for members' information

- a) Inspire East
- a. Community Empowerment – notice of roadshow
- b. e-newsletter April 2008
- b) Regions for economic change: sharing excellence

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm. It was noted that the next Town Council meeting, as agreed, would be on Tuesday 27 May 2008.

Signed.....

Dated.....



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WISBECH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 27 May 2008 at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: The Deputy Town Mayor Cllr Mrs Y Lawrence (in the Chair), Councillor D.C. Oliver, N.W. Frusher, A.R. Green, Mrs J.R. Jolley, Mrs V.M. MacRae, N.A. Meekins, P.B. O'Dell, D.A. Wheeler, R Fulcher, S King, M Parker, and T. Wright.

In attendance:

Mrs D Murat, and Master S Murat

19. Apologies

a) Apologies and reasons for absences were received from:

The Mayor Cllr JR Farmer – Civic duties

Cllr M Hill – Holiday

Cllr HB Wegg – Concert rehearsal

Cllr Mrs Cox – Work commitments

b) On a proposal from Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Mrs Macrae the above absences were APPROVED.

It was noted that Cllr Sims was absent.

20. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

21. Minutes

On a proposal from Cllr Meekins and seconded by Cllr Wright members APPROVED the Minutes of Meeting of the Town Council held on Friday 9 May and Monday 12 May 2008.

22. Finance & General Purposes Committee

There have been no meetings of F & GP since the last Town Council Meeting

23. Town Planning Committee

On a proposal from Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Meekins members APPROVED the Minutes of Meeting of the Planning Committee held on Monday 12 May 2008, and noted that 'Tribal' are to be invited to the next planning committee together with all members of the Town Council so that this council can respond to their letter in detail.

24. Allotment Committee

There have been no meetings of Allotment Committee since the last Town Council Meeting.

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25. Staff Review Working Party

On a proposal from the Deputy Mayor and seconded by Cllr Green it was AGREED to defer this item to the end of the Agenda to follow item 38.

26. Mayor's Diary and Announcements

In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor gave the following as examples of her civic engagements: Ely (Mayor making); Chatteris (Mayors Ball); Kings Lynn (Civic service), and events in Cambridge and St. Ives.

27. Documentary on Thomas Clarkson

It was noted that the Clerk has spoken with a researcher who is researching Thomas Clarkson for a programme which the BBC is producing later in the year. It is possible they will wish to come to Wisbech to film.

28. Jointly Funded Minor Highways

Members were asked to consider projects that they would wish the Town Council to become involved with and let the Clerk know for consideration at the next Town Council Meeting in order to submit bids to the County Council no later than 18 July 2008.

On a proposal from Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr O'Dell it was AGREED to ask the Clerk to write to the County Council advising them that this Town Council would like to see at least one of the previously agreed projects completed before the council commits to another one.

29. Vehicles for sale

Members noted the letter that has been received in response to complaints regarding vehicles for sale on Lynn Road. Members noted that the Highways Supervisor for Cambridgeshire County Council has forwarded the matter to the Anti Social Behaviour Caseworker at FDC.

On a proposal from Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr O'Dell it was AGREED that the Clerk be asked to write to the anti-social caseworker for FDC to establish whether s/he is able to do anything.

30. Thomas Steed Watson

Members are asked to note that the portrait now displayed in the Chamber is on permanent loan to Wisbech Town Council for as long as the Council is able to display it; it being returned to The Right Reverend John B Taylor KCVO or his heirs, should the council be unable to display the portrait at any time. Members are also asked to note that we were supplied with a brief history of our esteemed former Mayor.

On a proposal from Cllr Oliver and seconded by Cllr O'Dell it was AGREED that the Clerk be asked to write formally to The Right Reverend John B Taylor KCVO on behalf of the Council thanking him.

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31. Corn Exchange.

Members noted that the Clerk has had a brief conversation with the owner of the Corn Exchange, and that Mr Jacobs feels that we may be able to do something with it. He has agreed for the Clerk to look at options and grant availability for its future use. On a proposal from Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Oliver it was AGREED that the Clerk investigates the options and reports back to Town Council at a future date.

32. Redundancies affecting Electoral Services

It was noted that the Clerk had written a letter to the Returning Officer of FDC about a review of electoral services that has meant that two members of staff have been made redundant, immediately following the retirement of the third member of the team, and asking for assurances that there are sufficiently qualified and experienced staff to provide adequate and appropriate electoral services and support to both the returning officer and this Town Council in the event of a by-election or in the event of a national election being called.

Members noted that the Clerk has had no response from the Returning Officer, but is given to understand that the more junior of the two officers has secured a position in another section of FDC. The senior officer is due to leave the authority on 25 July 2008.

The clerk is to keep members informed.

33. College of West Anglia Youth Project - display cabinet.

Members noted that the work is almost complete and that the cabinet will be ready for the Council Chamber by the end of July following an exhibition to which Members will be invited.

The Cabinet is the student's final exam piece, and it has been constructed for the Council for the cost of materials and special tools needed to build it.

The Leader and the Beadle have monitored the work during the year.

34. Alderman Frederick John Hobourn

Members noted that The Town Council has been offered a photographic portrait of this former Mayor of Wisbech, and one of his consort, together with an illuminated scroll in a Wisbech Town presentation box. On a proposal from Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Oliver members AGREED to authorise the Clerk to arrange for a courier service to collect the items from Exmouth.

35. Annual Accounts

Members noted that the Internal Auditor has signed off the annual accounts, and on a proposal from Cllr King and seconded by Cllr Green members APPROVED the annual accounts and annual governance for the financial year 2007/2008.

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The clerk anticipates being able to meet the deadline of 2 June 2008 for sending the accounts to Moore Stephens, the external auditors.

On a proposal from Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Green it was AGREED that the next meeting of Finance & General Purposes Committee, on 9 June 2008, would undertake a review of the accounting systems.

36. Transport Report

Cllr King presented his Transport report (as circulated). A discussion ensued regarding the Market Place. On a proposal from Cllr King and seconded by Cllr Green it was AGREED to call an extraordinary meeting of the Town Council on 11/12/13 June, subject to the availability of Fenland District Council officers, Trevor Watson, and John Hooper. On a proposal from Cllr Wheeler and seconded by Cllr Green it was AGREED that this is to be a single item agenda, and it is to be confidential as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest.

Cllr King would liaise with the Clerk. The Council will also ask for a report on costings and resource implications to be submitted to the Council by FDC officers prior to the meeting.

On a proposal from Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr King it was AGREED that the Clerk be asked to write to FDC expressing Members concerns on the process for decision making with regard to the Market Place.

37. Fenland District Council

Members noted that the following communications were to be found on the notice board for Members information.

- a) Fenland District Council – promoting Fenlands Great Nature Challenge
- b) Officer reports and public access to planning applications

38. Communications

Members noted that the following communications were to be found on the notice board for Members information.

- a) Peterborough Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) – Preferred Options stage Consultation.
- b) Clerks and Councils Direct
- c) FCVS Newsletter
- d) Fenland Mencap briefing
- e) Bowthorpe Centre new ownership note
- f) Advice and solutions – sales pitch on monitoring the council's procedures.
- g) Newsletter for Queen Elizabeth Hospital Trust.
- h) War Memorials Trust bulletin.

Cont



25. Staff Review Working Party

The Chairman returned to this item as agreed, and asked the Clerk to read the motion to exclude Public and Press:

“It will be hereby moved that in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted at agenda item 25. To consider Staff Review Committee minutes of 19 May 2008, and the recommendations therein, it is advisable in the public interest that the Public and Press be temporarily excluded from this meeting and they are herewith instructed to withdraw.”

The attendees left the Chamber.

On a proposal from Cllr King and seconded by Cllr Wheeler the above exclusion was AGREED, and the meeting went into private session.

On a proposal from Cllr King and seconded by Cllr Wright the minutes of the Staff Review Working Party held Monday 9 May 2008 were APPROVED and signed by the Chairman.

On a proposal by Cllr King and seconded by Cllr Wheeler all the recommendations of the Staff Review Working Party of 9 May 2008 were AGREED.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....



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WISBECH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Thursday 12 June 2008 at 5.00 pm.

PRESENT: The Mayor Cllr J Farmer (in the Chair), Cllr D Oliver, L Sims, R Green, Mrs J Jolley, Mrs V MacRae, N Meekins, P O'Dell, M Hill (5.15), B Wegg, Mrs C Cox, R Fulcher (5.15), S King, M Parker, and T Wright.

In attendance:

From Fenland District Council: J Hooper (5pm), I Hunt (5.15) and G Garford (6pm)
From Fenland Citizen: Sue Irving
Plus one parishioner

39. Apologies

- a) Apologies and reasons for absences were received from:
The Deputy Town Mayor Cllr Mrs Y Lawrence – Holiday
Cllr Hill – late due to work commitments
- b) On a proposal from Cllr King and seconded by Cllr Oliver the above absences were APPROVED.

It was noted that Cllr N Frusher had also extended his apologies as he was on holiday, and his absence was ACCEPTED by members.

It was noted that Cllr D Wheeler was absent.

40. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

41. Minutes

On a proposal from Cllr Meekins and seconded by Cllr Wright members APPROVED the Minutes of Meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 27 May 2008.

42. Fenland District Council Officers

John Hooper (JH) gave the apologies of the Director, Gary Garford, who had also advised the Clerk that he would be arriving at 6pm due to another commitment. JH confirmed that Ian Hunt was on his way, and Members AGREED to await his arrival before starting the meeting proper.

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The Mayor advised Members that this was a Extraordinary Council Meeting that had been called specifically so that this Council could inform a report that was being prepared by FDC officers to be presented to FDC Cabinet in two weeks.

JH confirmed that officers had been asked by FDC Cabinet to prepare a further report to include two additional options for Wisbech Market Place:

- (b) The Market Place being transferred back to Wisbech Town Council
- (a) Full Pedestrianisation

The officers were asked to give a presentation on financial and resource implications for Wisbech Town Council taking over the market place, and what that would mean legally. It is envisaged that this will include a detailed analysis of responsibilities currently undertaken by Cambridgeshire County Council, Fenland District Council, and the Police, and which of those responsibilities would remain with those authorities in the transfer, and the costs if any to the Town Council.

It was suggested that it would also be useful to have an overview of any constraints that may be placed upon the Town Council in terms of its usage of the Town Centre.

JH apologised that the information he was able to give Members was incomplete as he had not had much time to prepare.

He and Ian Hunt were able to outline the following:

1. The **central area** of the market place is the land being considered for transfer. The roadway (Cambs County Highways) and the perimeter shops were not.
2. The ownership of the land and the operating of the markets etc. were legally **separate considerations**, although they may be considered together in any negotiations.
3. **Simple transfer**, either as freehold or leasehold, would be a cost/value agreement – perhaps the same arrangements as the Council Chamber.
4. **Operating the markets**, and any other uses would have staffing and resource implications.
5. **Income:** The Income from Wisbech Town centre was £63,000 last year, which equals 54% of the total income from the four market towns in Fenland District.
6. **Apportionment:** JH used 54% as the apportionment of costs.



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7. **COSTS:** (i) Approx. £13,000 direct costs i.e. electricity & water.
(ii) Approx. £19,000 = 54% of staffing costs for Markets Manager etc.
(iii) Approx. £80,000 for on-costs for support services such as HR, legal etc. It was noted that these were FDC specific costs, and Members noted that this should not form part of the contract.

The following were also confirmed:

- **No change:** Anything to do with Highways would remain the responsibility of the County Council, and anything to do with the Police would remain their responsibility.
- **Central area only:** The discussions with FDC can only consider the central area of the Market Place, where the markets etc. are held.
- **The old market:** This is owned by Cambridgeshire County Council, and would form part of different negotiations.
- **Freehold transfer:** This would be the cleanest option, as The Town Council could expect to have total control with no strings.
- **Underground toilets etc:** Officers confirmed that so far as they are aware these were filled in completely and correctly.
- **Right to market & Freehold ownership are two separate things:** There has been no discussion, however, about them being separated in reality. For simplicity they could remain linked.
- **The transfer agreement** (due diligence) would detail whether the market would continue, and rights to hold fairs etc.

At this point Gary Garford (GG) arrived, and stated that he thought the meeting was due to start at 6pm. He advised Members that it was difficult to discuss costings and resource implications.

He asked Members to consider the following options:

1. Full Freehold Transfer, with all functions, with full control.
2. Freehold and transfer of Markets function with a say on parking.
3. Transfer of market place and market function with a partnership approach to parking similar to AJC in dealing with joint management issues.
4. FDC and WTC would work together with FDC offering help support and advice.
5. Market Place is a community space – if FDC have the expertise they would share it with WTC.

Cont



6. The maintenance of the trees is part of a large 6 yearly contract, and therefore the cost to WTC would be a percentage of the whole contract figure. GG advised that the contractor would not object if Wisbech market place was taken out of the contract, and that FDC would be flexible.

7. It was noted that there were a number of different charters, rights and obligations for fairs, markets etc.

43. Motion to Exclude Public and Press

The motion to exclude public and press was read out and on a proposal from Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Hill it was AGREED to exclude public and press.

It was moved that in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted at agenda item 44. To consider the Acquisition of Wisbech Market Place by Wisbech Town Council it would be advisable in the public interest that the Public and Press be temporarily excluded from this meeting and they were instructed to withdraw

44. To consider the Acquisition of Wisbech Market Place, by Wisbech Town Council, from Fenland District Council

On a proposal from Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Green, the Council AGREED that:

‘Wisbech Town Council have agreed in principle to enter into discussion with Fenland District Council on the subject of the future ownership of the Market Place.’

Following a request from Gary Garford, and on a proposal from Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Hill it was AGREED that the Clerk would write to FDC to advise them of the decision formally, by the end of the month, and to ask for additional information as detailed on the Agenda.

The meeting closed at 7 pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....



2008/2009 – 14

WISBECH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 14 July 2008 at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: The Mayor Cllr J Farmer (in the Chair), the Deputy Mayor Cllr Mrs Y Lawrence, Cllrs D Oliver, L Sims, R Green, Mrs J Jolley, N Meekins, P O'Dell, M Hill, B Wegg, N Frusher, R Fulcher , S King, M Parker, M Hill, and T Wright.

In attendance:

From Downham Market Town Council, the Mayor, Cllr John Leach and the Clerk, Jean Markwell.

From Fenland Citizen, Nick Reinis

Plus two parishioners, one of whom was Nisha Maiya from Harecroft Road Post Office.

The Deputy Clerk, Susanah Farmer.

Presentation on Harecroft Post Office

Parishioner Nisha Maiya gave members a detailed presentation expressing her view that the proposed closure of Harecroft Road Post Office would be detrimental to the community.

Apparently the decision makers are saying that she is not busy enough and not profitable enough, but she was able to supply ample evidence that she is both profitable and busy, and provided a first class community service.

Several Members spoke in support of the post office from personal experience and in terms of a loss of amenity. Members generally agreed that the post office provided a good service for Wisbech, and that it should not close.

It was noted that there was more information about the proposed closures, from Cllr Fred Yeullett, Chairman of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Post Office Network Change Group, under item 65 c on the agenda.

45. Apologies

a) Apologies and reasons for absences were received from:

Cllr Mrs V MacRae – Holiday

Cllr Mrs C Cox – Training course in London

Cont



- b) On a proposal from Cllr Oliver and seconded by Cllr Sims the above absences were APPROVED.

46. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

47. Minutes

On a proposal from Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Parker Members APPROVED the Minutes of Meeting of the Town Council held on Thursday 12 June 2008.

48. Letter to Fenland District Council about the Market Place

Members noted the letter and that the Council has received no further information.

49. Report Back on Market Acquisition – Gary Garfoot

Mr Garfoot was absent, and no apology had been received. Members were assured that he had received a copy of the Agenda in good time, and had been sent a copy of the draft minutes of the meeting of 12 June 2008, under separate cover.

The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Garfoot expressing the Council's concerns that he was not able to attend, and had not been able to send a substitute. He is to be asked to attend each Town Council meeting or to send a substitute. An item is to be put on the agenda for a report back from Fenland District Council.

On a proposal from Cllr King and seconded by Cllr Oliver it was AGREED that the Leader and the Chairman of this Council ensure that the views of this Council are presented to Fenland's Cabinet committee on 31 July 2008, so that it can form part of the consideration presented to the Area Joint Committee meeting in October.

50. Market Place acquisition – The Downham Market Experience

Members heard from the Mayor of Downham Market, Cllr John Leach, and their Clerk, Jean Markwell.

They kept ownership of the Market Place in 1974, but relinquished the running of the Markets, because they were told by district that they no longer held the license. Since then there have been several considerations about taking the Market place back, and they were able to do so, eventually, ten years ago. In 1998 they got the Market Place back as part of a regeneration package 'if they were prepared to take back the Town Hall'.

Cont



Downham Market now have a thriving Heritage Centre, with a large public hall, restaurant and bar, exhibition room, and the heritage centre itself, as well as offices and up-to-date toilets etc.

They also have a thriving Market Place. Cllr Leach described how successful it is. The market is operated by a part-time supervisor employed by the Town Council. When it is not being used as a market the town centre reverts to a car-park.

Cllr Leach said, "The more locally you own a thing, the more local people respond to it", and "The more that is owned at local level the more the local people support the Town Council."

Their new venture is the old fire station which they are buying to convert into a new heritage centre and 70 space car-park.

The Market place costs them around ten thousand pounds to operate, with an income of around twenty-three thousand pounds, and the Mayor of Downham market described it as the best move they ever made.

The Mayor thanked Cllr Leach, and Mrs Markwell, and asked if we could have a copy of the presentation. Mrs Markwell will email it to the Clerk.

51. Finance and General Purposes

On a proposal from Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Oliver, Members APPROVED the minutes of the F&GP Committee meeting of 9 June 2008.

52. Allotments

On a proposal from Cllr Sims and seconded by Cllr Hill, members APPROVED the minutes of the Allotments committee meeting held on 23 June 2008.

53. Planning

On a proposal from Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Meekins, members APPROVED the minutes of the Planning committee meetings held on 9 and 23 June 2008.

54. College site development

Cllr Wright up-dated members in detail about the proposed developments on Ramnoth Road (main college site), and Elm Road(Agricultural college site) as minuted in Town Council Planning Committee minutes, schedules, and the presentation that Cllr Wright gave to the District Council Planning Committee on behalf of this Council. He also up-dated Members on the meetings held with Tribal and the College of West Anglia.



Cllr Wright reminded Members that we have to view it as a straightforward planning application and make our recommendations on those merits, concerns and considerations.

Cllr Wright as Chairman of Planning commended the Deputy Clerk on the quality of the information she prepared for the meeting with Tribal.

55. Port Development Site

On a proposal from Cllr Oliver and seconded by Cllr Green It was AGREED to that the Clerk writes to FDC to clear the area, and have it grassed over, to avoid it becoming an eyesore while the building programme is re-negotiated with the developers.

55. (to be known as 55A) Accounts - Quarterly Report

The Clerk presented the quarterly report to Members, for information and took questions. Cllr Green as Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee commended the Clerk on the fact that the quarterly report was easy to understand, and that expenditure was within budget. The Clerk was also commended on the increases to General Fund.

Members noted that the Clerk had not contacted Fenland District Council with the quarterly report. (Minute 4 (d) of the F&GP minutes for the meeting held on 9 June 2008 relates).

The Clerk sought clarification, and this Minute was read out to Members.

Members re-affirmed that the contact should be informal, and clarified that this was to be the FORMAT of the quarterly report, and not the financial content.

56. Health & Safety

Members noted the report. The Clerk further reported that he had attended a Seminar on the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order, and he would be carrying out a comprehensive Fire Risk Assessment as required by the Order. The Deputy Clerk is also booked to do the training.

Members noted that this Council had been assessed as High Risk Last year, and that the Clerk is confident that there has been sufficient work done to achieve a reduction to low risk.

57. Former Mayor Frederick John Hobourn

It was noted that the Council had now received the two pictures, and the Freedom of the Borough Scroll.

It was noted that the Clerk has formally thanked Mr and Mrs R.J. Hobourn of Exmouth for their gift.

Cont



58. Chairman's Professional Development Training

Members were asked to let the Clerk know if they were interested, and it was noted that there would be no charge to Members.

59. Street naming

On a proposal from Cllr King and seconded by Cllr Wright it was AGREED to put forward Bruce Court, as this Council's option to honour the four Bruce brothers killed in the second world war. Cllr Wegg abstained.

60. Jointly Funded Improvement Schemes

On a proposal from Cllr Sims and seconded by Cllr King it was AGREED to put forward Improvements to the Traffic Calming on Clarkson Avenue.

On a proposal from Cllr King and seconded by Cllr Hill it was AGREED to put forward traffic calming measures on Bowthorpe Road.

The Clerk was asked to forward the above proposals to Cambridgeshire County Council for the 2009/2010 bidding round.

61. Election Services

Members noted that this Council had received assurances from the Monitoring Officer for Fenland District Council that there are currently no plans to increase the charges made for by-elections or general elections (The Clerk's letter to him of 25 June 2008 refers.)

62. Smart Water – Property Marking

The Clerk was asked to organise a demonstration date and time and to notify Members. (8-10 Members indicated that they wished to attend).

63. North Level District Drainage Board

The Clerk is to let the Board know that Cllr Meekins and Cllr O'Dell would like to visit the pumping station, and to ask them if it is possible for a group to go from this council.

64. Overview of Transport Strategy for Wisbech.

Members queried much of the content of the letter from the Transport and Assessment Manager for Cambridgeshire County Council. On a proposal from Cllr King and seconded by Cllr Meekins, it was AGREED that the Clerk was asked to organise a meeting between officers from the County and Cllrs King, Oliver, and Farmer, to discuss the use of 106 money from the Isle College development.

Members noted the transport report presented by Cllr King.

Cont



65. Cambridgeshire County Council

- a) Members noted the proposed highways improvements to Sandown Rd/Cromwell Rd junction.
- b) Cllr King asked that it be noted that he is the substitute for Cllr Macrae on the Parish Path Partnership.
- c) On a proposal for Cllr King and seconded by Cllr Meekins it was AGREED to ask the Clerk to write supporting the post office in Harecroft Road, in consultation with Cllr Farmer.

66. Fenland District Council

- a) On a proposal from Cllr King and seconded by Cllr Hill it was AGREED to ask the Clerk to write to Fenland District Council's Cabinet letting them know that without their help Rose Fair would not have gone ahead this year, and that in supporting the Church Hall they have assisted in the provision of a much needed facility for the town.
- b)& c) Members noted the CCTV and Streetsave statistics.
- d) Those Members who had not already done so, and wished to do so were asked to complete questionnaires about Wisbech Park, and to let the Clerk have copies to send in.

67. Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Members were asked to note the correspondence on the notice board about operation Tolerance.

68. Other Correspondence

Members were asked to note the general correspondence on the notice board.

The meeting closed at 10.10 pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....



2008/2009 – 14

WISBECH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 11 August 2008 at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: The Mayor Cllr J Farmer (in the Chair), the Deputy Mayor Cllr Mrs Y Lawrence, Cllrs D Oliver, L Sims, R Green, P O'Dell, B Wegg, Mrs C Cox, T Wright, Mrs J Jolley, Mrs V Macrae, N Meekins, , M Hill, N Frusher, R Fulcher , D Wheeler, and M Parker.

In attendance:

The Deputy Clerk, Susanah Farmer.
PS Dave Bax – Cambs Constabulary
Gary Garford – Director of Business and Infrastructure FDC
Bob Ollier – Parks and Open Spaces Manager FDC

Fire Safety Procedures

The Clerk detailed the Town Council's new fire safety procedures and the plan for evacuation in the event of an emergency (as detailed on the Agenda – and in the Risk Assessments prepared by the Town Clerk).

69. Apologies

- a) Apologies and reasons for absences were received from:
Cllr M Hill - holiday
Cllr S King – CCC meeting
- b) On a proposal from Cllr Oliver and seconded by Cllr Sims the above absences were APPROVED.

70. Declarations of Interests

Cllr Green and Cllr Wegg declared an interest in agenda item 76, as members of the Planning Committee for Fenland District Council (FDC)

71. Minutes

On a proposal from Cllr Wheeler and seconded by Cllr O'Dell, Members APPROVED the Minutes of Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 14 July 2008.

72. FDC report back – Bob Ollier – Parks and Open Spaces Manager.

The Mayor agreed to bring forward this item (originally agenda item 74) as Mr Ollier needed to leave early.

Cont



Mr Ollier was pleased to note that the achievement of Green Flag status for the Park and for St Peter and St Pauls Church Gardens, were recognised on the agenda by the Town Council.

Members were pleased to recognise the achievement for Wisbech and congratulated Mr Ollier, and the Friends organisations for both the Park and St Peter and St Pauls Church for all the work they did to achieve the award. It was noted that Members of Wisbech Town Council were active members of both groups.

Mr Ollier advised Members that FDC were seeking to apply for Heritage Lottery funding for the Park. The types of funding that may be supported by the fund include: repair and restoration of landscapes or historic built features, and they expect the project to conserve and improve the heritage value. It was noted that a long-standing part of the heritage of the fens is speed skating.

The first master plan for Wisbech Park was presented at Rose Fair, and he was pleased with the responses, many of them from Wisbech Town Councillors. 60% of the respondents favoured: Pavilion; Bandstand; Lighting; and a Park Ranger.

FDC are considering applying for one million pounds with a 50% , match funding. Were they to apply they would expect a final response in 2010, after two rounds of applications.

Mr Ollier raised the possibility of the Town Council contributing to that match funding element with £50,000 split over two years.

The Clerk advised Members that it was inappropriate to discuss this at this meeting as the Town Council would need a copy of at least the first stage application before it could give a considered response. It was noted that this would constitute 30% of this Councils annual budget.

73. Police report back – PS Dave Bax

It is proposed to extend the area covered by the Wisbech Designated Public Places Order, and PS Bax circulated copies of the proposals (attached). On a proposal by Cllr Wheeler and seconded by Cllr Mrs Cox, the Town Council welcomed this proposal.

PS Bax confirmed that the order would be reviewed annually, but that it was envisaged that the order would be in place for the foreseeable future.

PS Bax assured Members that this council would be given an update on the order at review stage.

Cont



74. FDC report back – Gary Garford – Director of Business and Infrastructure.

On a proposal from Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Parker a letter is to be sent to The Chief Executive of Fenland District Council by the Mayor, and the Leader expressing this Council's concerns about the press article in the Wisbech Standard quoting a report that went to FDC Cabinet from Mr Garford about the management of the Market Place.

a) Mr Garford explained that the port development had been delayed , and that the reports in the media were highly exaggerated about the loss to Wisbech. 43 affordable Houses had in fact been re-allocated to other parts of Fenland District but the 1.7 million will be available to be drawn down at a later date.

b) Mr Garford responded to the letter sent by the Clerk on behalf of this Council, about the possibility of landscaping the port development site. He explained that there was a great deal of remediation works to be carried out in the interim, such as making safe the underground tanks and hazardous waste. This would take time and a lot of money.

He also explained that the site had a lot of lower grade waste, such as asbestos that had to be cleared and removed form site. It would all have to be sieved and classified.

There was also a lot of concrete waste that would be reduced and left on site for the developers to use as hardcore. This would ordinarily be left in heaps on site to save a great deal of money.

To landscape the site and grass it over would require thousands of tons of top soil, which was not cost effective if the site was only to be vacant for two years. If FDC expected it to be left idle for ten years that might be a different consideration, but that sort of delay is not anticipated.

If the current developer cannot reach agreement the site would be opened up to alternative developers.

The crushed concrete could be levelled a flat landscape made of it, but the site would have to be comprehensively fenced to avoid health and safety issues or inappropriate use being made of it, which could create even more of an eye sore.

c) He explained that the cost of a northern relief road to Wisbech was prohibitive at 2.5 million pounds per kilometre, which would mean a cost of 12/15 million pounds, and if a bridge were involved that would be a further 10 million pounds.

Cont



-17-

d) He anticipated that the majority of traffic to the new slipway would be by river.

e) There has been a new study of traffic in conjunction with CCC – the results will be available by the end of August. FDC will then consult in September. Mr Garford is to report back to next Town Council.

f) Mr Garford is to obtain an up-date on the Cromwell Road Development and let the Clerk have details.

75. Planning

On a proposal from Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Meekins the minutes of both Planning Meetings were approved (14 and 28 July 2008). Cllrs Green and Wegg abstained.

76. College Site Development

The Mayor reported back on the meeting with Cambridgeshire County Highways (email of outcomes circulated) held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday 15 July 2008. This meeting was not organised through the Clerk's office. It was arranged by Cllr King, and the notes were taken by the CCC officer present – the email confirms the details of the discussions and the outcomes.

The Mayor reported back on the meeting with the College of West Anglia (copy of notes circulated), held in the Council Chamber on Friday 18 July 2008. This meeting was requested by college representatives directly through the Mayor. The Deputy Clerk was able to take notes formally, and they form part of the public record.

The Mayor apologised to the Chairman of Planning that he forgot to invite him. The Chairman of Planning was concerned that there was a protocol for organising meetings and that this needed to be adhered to.

Members were concerned that Members should not be representing their individual views as the views of this Council in ad hoc meetings.

Councillor Oliver, as Leader, assured Members that individual Councillors attended meetings in order to take forward decisions made by this Council, or to gather information, or explore opportunities that could then be presented to Council for consideration as appropriate.

The Mayor reported back on the FDC Planning committee – This Council has raised protocol issues about how the FDC Planning Committee was run, and their Head of Legal has taken the issues on board to deal with.

Cont



77. Health & Safety

Members noted that the Clerk has completed a full fire risk assessment as recommended by the Fire and Rescue service in their letter of 9 July. Contained within the risk assessment is the emergency plan and p[rocedures, which formed part of the recommendations and were detailed at the start of this meeting.

Members also noted that under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, and the Fire Officers inspection and report, the Council can accommodate up to a maximum of 60 people because there is only one escape route.

The Clerk is looking at alternatives for an escape route, but in the meantime, alternative arrangements will need to be made if this Council expects more than 60 people to attend at any one time. Also the doors from rooms leading on to the staircase must be closed when the Council Chamber is in use.

78. Allotments

Members noted that this Council had received a letter from the National Society of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners Ltd, which confirms that this Council has a case for insisting on the return of allotments from FDC.

On a proposal from Cllr Sims and seconded by Cllr Wheeler the letter is to go to the next Allotments committee so they can devise an Acquisition Strategy for this Council to consider.

79. NACRO – Entry to Employment – exhibition of photographs

Members commended the work done, and the quality of the photographs.

80. Transport report from Cllr King

In the absence of Cllr King Members were advised that they should address any questions to the Clerk or direct to Cllr King. There were no questions raised at the meeting.

81. New Town Magazine

On a proposal from Cllr Wegg and seconded by Cllr Wheeler, Members AGREED for the Clerk to contract with the new publisher.

On a proposal for Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Sims it was AGREED, and to set up a working party with delegated authority to edit the magazine consisting of Cllr Green as Editor in Chief, the Mayor, the Leader and the Clerk.

On a proposal from Cllr Oliver and seconded by Cllr Green, it was AGREED to ask if NACRO are prepared to take on the photography of the new magazine as a youth project.

Cont



82. Dedicated hearing support system for Chamber

On a proposal from Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Meekins the purchase and installation of a hearing loop was AGREED at a cost not exceeding £2,290.94 + VAT.

83. Christmas

Members were reminded that the existing contractor had been contracted for three years. Members were also advised that to have the RCDs was a requirement of the new 17th edition electrical regulations. Members noted that once the RCDS have been changed there would be adequate for many years to come.

On a proposal form Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Oliver it was AGREED to ask our existing contractor to supply five two point RCDs at a cost of £330 + VAT each, and a six point RCD at a cost of £520 + VAT, on a written quotation.

On a proposal from Cllr Fulcher and seconded by Cllr Mrs Lawrence it was AGREED that the Clerk should delay ordering new scaffolding to ascertain whether 6.4 metre lengths were available second hand, and to proceed with purchasing adequate, appropriate scaffolding.

Members noted that storage would be in a container at Cllr Sims site.

On a proposal from Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Mrs Cox it was AGREED to purchase 300 more LED lights to compliment what we already had.

84. Friend of St Peter & St Paul Church Membership

On a proposal from Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Meekins it was AGREED to take membership on a majority vote, with Cllr Macrae against and Cllrs Mrs Cox, Sims, Green, Farmer, O'Dell, and Mrs Lawrence abstaining.

85. Rail Future

Members noted the two proposals from Rail future: Wisbech-Cambridge-London, and March Wisbech. On a proposal from Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Wheeler it was AGREED that Cllr King be elected as the Rail Future Champion to take the proposals forward.

The Clerk also advised Members that he had forwarded the Rail Future paperwork to the Bramley line and had spoken with them about coming to a future Town Council meeting to do a presentation. They would select a meeting date and let the Clerk know when they were able to do so.



86. Visit to Pumping Station

Three Councillors wish to attend on Wednesday 8 October from 9am to 4pm: Cllrs O'Dell, Meekins and Fulcher. The Clerk was asked to notify the Drainage Board.

87. Cambridgeshire County Council

Members noted the correspondence from CCC

88. General Correspondence

Members noted the general correspondence.

On a proposal from Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Meekins it was AGREED that the Clerk write to CCC Highways expressing this Council's wish to see additional high level signage and more visible road markings that can be seen at the Churchill Road roundabout and at the South Brink approach to Nene Quay and the Town Centre with a copy of that letter to be forwarded to parishioners who have raised their concerns.

It was noted that Cllr King had passed on concerns to Peter Vale and that there will be a review of the Town Bridge soon.

The meeting closed at 10.05 pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....



2008/2009 – 21

WISBECH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 8 September 2008 at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: The Deputy Mayor Cllr Mrs Y Lawrence (in the Chair), Cllrs D Oliver, L Sims, R Green, P O'Dell, B Wegg, Mrs C Cox, T Wright, S King, Mrs J Jolley, Mrs V Macrae, N Meekins, N Frusher, R Fulcher, D Wheeler, and M Parker.

In attendance:

The Deputy Clerk, Susanah Farmer.
Gary Garford – Director of Business and Infrastructure FDC
Rev. Canon Wim Zwalf, Sue Beel and Kathy Cornell – Rose Fair and Wisbech Area Regeneration and Development Trust (WisARD)
Mr and Mrs Wayne Oliver - parishioners

Public Forum – Youth Day for Wisbech

Mr Wayne Oliver presented a proposal to the Council for a Youth Day to be organised for the whole of Wisbech, where different organisations could lay on special events such as sports, dance, and crafts – using the Park, Town Centre, schools and playing fields. He would be prepared in being involved with organising it.

Several Members spoke and all expressed enthusiasm and support for such an event.

Lizzi Wales from the office of Children and Young Peoples services, said that the last event that was organised for 'Looked After Young People' at the Hudson last year had approx. a thousand people through the door. She said that it was a great idea and the County Council would be behind it.

Cllr Oliver suggested that it might fit in with the Council's Youth Council due to have its first meeting on Tuesday 23 September (see agenda item 102), and that they may consider putting it on the agenda for a future meeting.

This was agreeable to Mr Oliver.

Cont



87. Apologies

a) Apologies and reasons for absences were received from:

The Mayor, Cllr J Farmer – Annual training

Cllr M Hill – Work commitments

b) On a proposal from Cllr O'Dell and seconded by Cllr Sims the above absences were APPROVED.

88. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest

89. Minutes

On a proposal from Cllr Wheeler and seconded by Cllr Parker, Members APPROVED the Minutes of Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 11 August 2008 - subject to three amendments - a) Cllr Wheeler was present, b) the date of the meeting was 11 August, and c) Cllr O'Dell abstained from item 84.

90. Report from WisARD/RoseFair Committee

Sue Beel from the Rose Fair Committee reported to Council that the leaflet and programme had been improved, and it had been decided that the priority for next year was going to be to improve publicity.

The Park and Ride was improved. Members were asked to note that the grant from the Rural Transport Partnership had only been for one year.

Kathy Cornell from the Wisbech Area Regeneration and Development Trust (WisARD) (hosted in the offices of Wisbech Town Council), advised Members that she had not been very involved with Rose Fair last year having come into post in November. Her intention was to become much more involved in future years.

Her first involvement was to train 8 volunteers from NACRO and the Volunteer Centre.

Evisons supplied high visibility jackets and tabards for them, so that they could also act as support workers.

They also helped people with questionnaires:

A large proportion of newcomers came from Lincolnshire and may have been as a direct result of the stand Kathy had had at the Springfield Show.

The Reverend Canon Wim Zwalf, told Members that he had just completed eighteen years as **Chairman of the Rose Fair Committee**.

Cont



It had originally been established over 50 years ago to raise funds for the fabric of the Church. Now it is much more and serves the whole of Wisbech – fundraising for forty local charities and organisations that heavily rely on the income that is generated by Rose Fair.

Also the other churches join in.

Equally, for many years St Peters funded the whole event, but it has become massive, and has become so bound in regulatory requirements from the District Council that it has become dependant on other sources of funding.

It has also become clear that the Rose Fair has become very important for the economic boost it brings to the town. Six years ago Fenland's Economic Development Team established that it brought in half a million pounds.

The Rose Fair was recognised by all as a very important event for the town.

91. FDC report back – Gary Garford – Director of Business and Infrastructure.

GG asked which Traffic survey the agenda referred to. Cllr Wheeler referred him to the minutes of the last meeting, p 17 item 74 (e)

“There has been a new study of traffic in conjunction with CCC – the results will be available by the end of August. FDC will then consult in September. Mr Garford is to report back to next Town Council.”

GG advised Members that this was currently being finalised and Wisbech Members had been invited to a meeting in Exchange Tower of Wednesday morning at 9.30 am.

Other FDC business pertinent to Wisbech.

i) GG has not been able to establish why LDL development has been delayed – it may be a water or sewage connections. He was not able to comment on the newspaper report that there was a disagreement between the Council and the developer about who should discharge the responsibility for the roundabout modifications required. He will report back to the next meeting.

ii) GG was not aware that people were being shown around the new harbour office and suites. He assured Members that a list was being drawn up for tours for the public, Members and Investors, and that the Town Council would be invited.

Cont



- iii) GG agreed to give an up-date on the situation regarding derelict buildings in the town centre at the next meeting.
- iv) GG is to provide the Town Council with a breakdown of figures spent on various projects in Wisbech.
- v) The nightclub operator has relocated in Royal Place. FDC felt that having a nightclub adjacent to a housing development was inappropriate.
- vi) GG will report back on what is happening with the former Belfast building.

It was noted that FDC try to encourage owners to keep properties in good repair – FDC can offer grants and support. All buildings are regularly inspected by FDC building control team to ensure that they are not a hazard to the public. GG will check to see what interventions FDC can do – if it is a matter of public safety FDC have the power – if the issue is one of a visual nature then private action would need to be taken.

92. Mayor’s Diary and Announcements.

The Mayor is on annual training and sent his apologies. There were no announcements.

93. Clerk’s report

This item is to be on the Agenda for future meetings to enable Members to ask questions. Questions are to be sent/given to the Clerk in writing three working days before the meeting to give the Clerk time to research and prepare as full a response as possible.

Members noted that a briefing on Roles and Responsibilities had been circulated. There were no questions on that paper.

The Clerk reported on the Heritage Weekend and the Statute Fair asking Members to support both events.

94. Dignity at Work Policy

Members were asked to consider this as an addition to Standing Orders and the Council’s Code of Conduct, as this was a particular issue at this time.

On a proposal from Cllr Oliver and seconded by Cllr Sims it was AGREED that the policy document was referred for consideration to the next Staff Review Working Party.

95. Planning

On a proposal from Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Meekins, the approved minutes for the Planning Committee meetings of 11 and 26 August were RECEIVED by Members.

Cont



On a proposal from Cllr King and seconded by Cllr Mrs Macrae, it was AGREED that future Planning Committee minutes would be approved by the Planning Committee, and items for Town Council approval would be put on the Town Council agenda as separate items.

96. Allotments

On proposal from Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Oliver, Allotment Committee members are to be asked to approve the minutes of their meeting as part of the agenda item of Town Council Agendas, so that decisions made at allotments committee can be considered by Town Council without delay .

The minutes as circulated to this meeting were considered by the Allotments Committee Members. On a proposal from Cllr Mrs Jolley and Seconded by Cllr Frusher, the minutes of the Allotments Committee meeting of the 26 August 2008 were APPROVED.

On a proposal from Cllr Sims and second by Cllr Parker, the minutes of the above meeting were ACCEPTED by Council, and the decisions APPROVED.

97. Allotments Presentation Evening

Members noted that the presentation evening would take place on Wednesday 17 September, at Elgoods brewery between 7pm and 9 pm immediately following the opening of the Statute Fair. Invitations were circulated.

98. Statute Fair 2008

The Statute Fair is to be opened by the Mayoress and the Rose Queen at 6pm on Wednesday 17 September 2008. Members are asked to congregate at the Council Chamber at 5.30 to join the formal procession.

99. Transport Report

Members were informed that the format had been changed so that up-dated items appeared first on the report. Members noted the Transport Report from Cllr King (circulated).

100. Members' reports from outside bodies

On a proposal fro Cllr Wheeler and seconded by Cllr Oliver Members AGREED that Town Council representatives on outside bodies should present reports to Council. Members were asked to let the Clerk have a brief written report on their various committees following any meetings so that they could be reported to the Council.

Cont



101. Heritage Weekend 12,13,14 September

Members were asked for additional volunteers for the Heritage Weekend. This is becoming a very important civic function.

Members noted that the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk would be on duty for all three days, but Members support was vital.

102. Wisbech Youth Council

Members noted that the first Youth Council meeting for Wisbech was to be held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday 23 September 2008, where young people will be attending to set up the Youth Council and agree terms of reference. It has the full support of the Cambridgeshire County Council Youth Coordinator for Wisbech and surrounding villages, and also of the Community Development officer for Fenland District Council, Fenland Links, college of West Anglia, and schools.

In attendance at the first meeting will be the Leader of the Council, the Mayor, and the Clerk who will be acting as Clerk to the Youth Council.

103. Neighbourhood Engagement and management Review – Consultation.

On a proposal from Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Sims, it was AGREED that the Leader of the Council join the Mayor as this Council's representatives at the consultation meeting.

104. Cambridgeshire Local Involvement Network (LINK)

Members were invited to the launch of the Cambridgeshire LINK at the Burgess Hall St Ives on 25 September 2008, at 6,30 pm. Members noted that the invitations were on the notice board, and Members were asked to respond if they are able to attend.

105. Band Concerts 200 and 2009

On a proposal from Cllr King and seconded by Cllr Wegg it was AGREED to refer this to Civic Amenities Committee, to consider the Council's options and the Council's involvement commensurate with its financial commitment. Friends of the Park and FDC are to be invited.

106. Further report on the Downham Market, market Place

Members noted the report from the Clerk of Downham Market, and that the Clerk had thanked both the Clerk and the Chairman for their time and hard work in presenting the options to this Town Council.

On a proposal from Cllr King and seconded by Cllr Meekins Members re-affirmed their preparedness to consider taking over the market Place subject to adequate and appropriate information being forthcoming from Fenland District Council, and AGREED that the report from the Clerk of Downham Market could be used as the starting point for negotiations.



107. FDC Community Grants

Members noted that the closing dates for applications to be submitted to Fenland District Council for the Community Grants Funding stream was 11 October 2008, and noted that the Clerk would be applying for appropriate funding for projects such as the Christmas Lights.

On a proposal from Cllr Oliver and seconded by Cllr Green it was AGREED that the Clerk should also apply for a Community Grant from FDC for the Youth Council, and for any projects emanating from it.

108. Correspondence

Members noted that this was correspondence dealt with by the Clerk, the detail of which was read out.

109. General Correspondence

Members noted that these were items to be found on the notice board.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....



2008/2009 – 28

WISBECH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 13 October 2008 at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: The Mayor, Cllr J Farmer, the Deputy Mayor Cllr Mrs Y Lawrence, Cllrs D Oliver, L Sims, R Green, P O'Dell, B Wegg, Mrs C Cox, Cllr M Hill, Mrs J Jolley, Mrs V Macrae, N Meekins, N Frusher, R Fulcher, D Wheeler, and M Parker.

In attendance:

Erbie Murat – the Clerk WTC

Gary Garford – Director of Business and Infrastructure FDC

Brian Baylis – Wisbech & March Bramley Line

N S H de Prochnow – Parishioner and FDC's Standards Committee

Jonathan Clogg - Vyrnwy Estates

Sue Irving – Fenland Citizen

Susanah Farmer - the Deputy Clerk for WTC

Public Forum

a) Mr de Prochnow, parishioner, asked the following questions in relation to the railings on the Town Bridge:

- Who authorised the replacement?
- On what basis?
- At what cost (to the Town Council)?

It was noted that the project was the responsibility of Cambridgeshire County Council, and the Clerk will write to Mr de Prochnow with the details.

b) Mr Clogg of Vyrnwy Estates gave a presentation regarding the Cromwell Park (Wisbech Stadium) Retail Site. He gave an update on the current situation for members' information. There were still one or two retailers needed to sign up before the funding would be released for the final stage of the project. However, even in the current economic climate this was looking positive and it was hoped that the critical, retailer, sign-up level would be reached soon in order to start construction work at the end of November 2008. The project was expected to take 14-15 months to complete.

110. Apologies

a) Apologies and reasons for absences were received from:

Cllr King - another meeting (unspecified)

Cllr Wright - holiday

Cont



- b) On a proposal from Cllr Sims and seconded by Cllr Green the above absences were APPROVED. Cllr Oliver abstained.

111. Declarations of Interests

The were no declarations of interests

112. Minutes

On a proposal from Cllr Meekins and seconded by Cllr Parker, the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 8 September were APPROVED.

113. FDC Report Back

- a) Work has started on the roundabout for the LDL's site.
- b) FDC has taken enforcement action and the gap site is being shored up for safety reasons, with the cost to be recharged to the owner.
- c) The scaffolding over the road was the result of enforcement action taken by FDC, and they will check what can be done to bring the pavement back into use. **GG will let the Clerk know if the scaffolding licence is up-to-date, and whether the licence issued by FDC is up-to-date.**

There is an audit of buildings being carried out in Fenland. FDC can only take action if it is a danger to the public.

- d) **Nene Development** – FDC committed £1.3 million to lever in £50 million regeneration funds of which £40 million was private sector investment. The boathouse cost £4.1 million, and provided premises for 120 business people. It is bringing a lot of skilled jobs into the area also with the current boatlift and boat refurbishment and repairs, and even more so when the larger boatlift is completed.

The Yacht Harbour now has over 70 berth holders in town. The lift has been used 120 times, and the Cambridge Ferry has been lifted recently so the word is spreading that it is a useful facility. The project is brining more skilled jobs to the town, and the shipbuilding trade. The slipway will be completed soon facilitating 120 tonnes.

The Boathouse is to open in November with ample office space, conference suites and training facilities. It also has a gallery on the ground for exhibitions for schools, photo clubs etc. There were showers and other facilities for Yacht visitors. The boathouse was made of Cedar and there was no need for maintenance. The wood would mature rather than degenerate. It was energy efficient. **GG would let the Clerk have details.**

Cont



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The development is a hub for Wisbech to be proud of. The leisure facilities were expected to bring in £150,000 to the Town this year.

Conversely, the site had been heavily contaminated and an eyesore, which had been thoroughly cleared and cleaned ready for further development. The proposed housing development on the Nene waterfront sites form part of the local planning framework and any developer will have to adhere to those conditions.

GG is to arrange for Town Councillors to have a tour of the Boathouse.

e) The Belfast building is owned by the same person as the gap site. It is not a danger therefore FDC cannot take any action for enforcement. **GG will look into Compulsory Purchase possibilities for derelict sites.**

114. Bramley Line

Brian Baylis described the progress of the Wisbech & March Bramley Line for Member's information.

They are negotiating a lease price with Network rail. The lease agreement would then need to be drawn up through legal representatives. Funding needs to be sought to pay the legal fees. They have raised some funds through the sale of redundant stock.

He believes that it will bring tourism to Wisbech and make access to the Town better. They will need to find a location for a station/platform at which the trains could stop.

115. Mayor's announcements

The Mayor thanked Cllr Sims, as the Chairman of Allotments, for accompanying the Mayoress, and representing the Council for the Wisbech in Bloom and allotments presentations, and Cllr Oliver as the Leader of the Council for similarly representing the Council at the opening of the Statute Fair, supported by the Mayoress and the Rose Queen. He also thanked the Mayoress for her support of a number of events, where he had not been able to attend due to his Territorial Army commitments.

The Deputy Mayor was able to officiate at other functions.

The Mayor then listed many other engagements that he and the Mayoress were able to attend on behalf of the Council. A full list may be obtained through the Clerk's office.

The Mayor gave permission for Cllr Cox to leave at 8.50 pm as she was unwell, and for Cllr Wegg to accompany her.

Cont



116. Quarterly financial report

The Clerk presented the quarterly report for the second period, showing expenditure analysis for the first six months of the financial year. On a proposal from Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr O'Dell Members APPROVED the quarterly financial report presented by the Clerk. There were no questions.

117. Clerk's up-date

Members noted the Clerk's report. There were no questions. Under Item 9, it was noted that Cllr O'Dell had replaced Cllr Green on CPALC, and **the Clerk was asked to remind CPALC of this.**

Cllr Macrae is to do a presentation on the Paths survey in Wisbech under Outside body up-dates at a future meeting. She is to let the Clerk have a copy to be circulated with the Agenda, when she is able to do so.

118. Planning

On a proposal from Cllr Meekins and seconded by Cllr O'Dell, the Minutes of the Planning Committees of 8 and 22 September 2008 were received and APPROVED.

119. Civic Amenities

On a proposal from Cllr Oliver and seconded by Cllr Parker the Minutes of the Civic Amenities Committee of 4 September 2008 were received and APPROVED.

120. Members up-dates from Outside Bodies

Cllr Wheeler presented a report from Fenland Links, (circulated), and informed Members that the control of the funding for Fenland Links had passed from County Council to Fenland District Council and that FDC were reviewing the service with a view to implementing the review from April 2009. Cllr Wheeler would keep Members informed.

Cllr King's Transport report was received by Members in his absence. There were no questions.

121. Interfaith Forum

On a proposal from Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Sims Members AGREED not to allow the free use of the Chamber. Members believed that this would set a precedent and that there were sufficient faith related halls and facilities in the Town to accommodate the Interfaith Conferences.

122/123/and 124. Archaeological Dig, Byelaws & Twinning

On a proposal from Cllr Oliver and seconded by Cllr Sims, Members AGREED to defer the three items to F&GP committee. **The Clerk is to glean additional information about the proposed dig in Wisbech.**

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125. Spending Priorities Roadshow

Members noted the opportunity for them to visit the Roadshow organised by Cambridgeshire County Council in Wisbech on 21 October 2008.

126. Correspondence

Members noted the correspondence displayed on the notice board.

The Clerk was asked to write to the North Level Drainage Board to thank them for the visit they arranged which Cllrs Meekins, O'Dell and Fulcher attended.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....



2008/2009 – 33

WISBECH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 10 November 2008 at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: The Mayor, Cllr J Farmer, Cllrs D Oliver, L Sims, R Green, P O'Dell, B Wegg, Mrs C Cox, T Wright, M Hill, Mrs J Jolley, Mrs V Macrae, N Meekins, N Frusher, R Fulcher, D Wheeler, and M Parker.

In attendance:

Erbie Murat – Wisbech Town Clerk (Clerk to the meeting)
Cllr Mac Cotterell MBE – Fenland District Councillor
Gary Garford – Director of Business and Infrastructure FDC
Susanah Farmer - the Deputy Clerk for WTC

Public Forum

- i) The Deputy Clerk let it be known that it was Cllr Sims' birthday and that he was 81 years old. He has served for 31 years on Wisbech Town Council and 51 years on Walsoken Parish Council. Members sang happy birthday.
- ii) Cllr Oliver presented a series of letters from the children at The Peckover School expressing concerns about traffic/accidents on Freedom Bridge offering solutions such as an additional bridge. Members asked the Clerk to forward copies of the letters to Peter Vale at Cambridgeshire County Council.
- iii) Cllr Cotterell added his congratulations for Cllr Sims birthday.

127. Apologies

Apologies and reasons for absences were received from:
Deputy Mayor Cllr Mrs Y Lawrence – Ill Health

On a proposal from Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Sims the above absence was APPROVED.

128. Declarations of Interests

The were no declarations of interests

129. Minutes

On a proposal from Cllr Wheeler and seconded by Cllr Parker, the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 13 October 2008 were APPROVED.

130. Fenland District Council (FDC) Report Back

It was noted that the Clerk wrote to Gary Garford confirming the questions that had been raised at the last Town Council. A response was received from Chris Hodson FDC's Strategic Planning Manager (after the agenda was circulated), and this was copied and tabled for Members to note.

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The Clerk added that he had received a telephone call from Justin Wingfield, the Business Premises Manager for FDC, to arrange visits for Town Council Members. Two had been arranged, and Members could attend on either evening: Wednesday 19 November or Thursday 20 November 2008, at 6.30 pm.

Gary Garford also responded to further questions from Members:

- i) Catering in the boathouse for meetings, seminars etc. Would be provided by outside caterers. There would also be vending machine refreshments available, generally. It was not possible to extend the catering any further at this time.
- ii) The Kawasaki site was a private site and not owned by FDC. GG cannot necessarily enforce development of the site, although he will ask one of his officers to speak to the owner about the environmental aspect of the hoarding.
- iii) The life expectance of the boathouse is 40 to 50 years, and with maintenance we would hope for a great deal longer.
- iv) The Mayor reported that he would be officiating at the opening the LiDL shop on 8 December at 7am, and invited everyone to join him.
- v) The Clerk was asked to write to the County Council and then to let Cllr Hill know whether they were responsible for licensing the scaffolding at 11 & 12 High Street, Wisbech, and if s whether it was properly licenced.

131. Mayor's announcements

The Mayor listed the engagements that he and the Mayoress were able to attend on behalf of the Council. A full list may be obtained through the Clerk's office. The following engagements were highlighted.

- It was noted that the two concerts and the training tasters for schoolchildren by the Mozart Players, were funded by Wisbech Town Council.
- It was noted that the public turnout for Remembrance Sunday was double that of previous years, and that the event was very well appreciated.
- It was noted that the Sausage and Cider evenings had raised £750 towards the Mayors charities.

132. Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee

Members of the F&GP Committee convened and the Minutes of the F&GP Committee held on Tuesday 4 November 2008 were APPROVED on a proposal from Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Sims.

Cllr Green also explained that the Clerk's annual appraisal would be done in future by the any two of the following three Members: Leader of the Council, the Mayor and the Chairman of F&GP.

On a proposal from Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Sims the Minutes of the F&GP meeting of 4 November, the recommendations contained therein, the budget proposals and the appraisal of the Clerk were AGREED by the Town Council.

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133. Planning

On a proposal for Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Meekins the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings of 13 and 27 October 2008 were APPROVED.

134. Allotments

Members of the Allotments Committee convened and the Minutes of the Allotment Committee of 27 October 2008 were APPROVED on a proposal from Cllr Sims and seconded by Cllr Hill.

On a proposal from Cllr Sims and seconded by Cllr Hill the Allotments Committee minutes of the 27 October, and the recommendations contained therein were AGREED.

135. Clerk's up-date

Members noted the Clerk's report. There were no questions. Under Item 12 it was suggested that the Deputy Mayor could also attend the Seminar on the Standards Committee. The Clerk is to ask her if she is able to attend, and let her have the details.

136. Outside body up-dates

Members noted the reports.

137. Ownership of Land & Property

On a proposal from Cllr Oliver and seconded by Cllr Wheeler it was AGREED that the Clerk be authorised to investigate the status of ownership and to seek legal advice to establish and register ownership as necessary.

138. The National Association of British Market Authorities

Members noted the this Council has taken out membership of NABMA, and that this would give the Council opportunities to take specific legal advice should it become necessary.

139. Archaeological Report Wisbech Library

Members noted the findings of the report.

140. Fenland District Council Correspondence

Members noted the correspondence form FDC.

141. Cambridgeshire County Council Correspondence

Members noted the correspondence from CCC.

142. General Correspondence

Members noted the correspondence displayed on the notice board.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Signed.....

Dated



2008/2009 – 36

WISBECH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 8 December 2008 at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: The Mayor, Cllr Farmer; Deputy Mayor, Cllr Mrs Lawrence; and Cllrs Mrs Cox; Frusher; Fulcher; Green; Hill; Mrs Jolley; Mrs Macrae; Meekins; O'Dell; Oliver; Parker; Sims; Wheeler; and Wright.

In attendance:

E Murat – Wisbech Town Clerk (Clerk to the meeting)
B Ollier - Fenland District Council (FDC)
S Farmer - the Deputy Clerk for WTC

Public Forum

There being no members of the public the meeting commenced at 7.30 pm.

141. Apologies and absences

An Apology and reason for absence was received from:
Cllr Wegg - Church duties

On a proposal from Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Sims the above absence was APPROVED.

An apology was received from Gary Garford, which was acknowledged by Members.

Absent: Cllr King

142. Declarations of Interests

The following Members declared an interest as Members of the Friends of Wisbech Park, in anticipation of Bob Ollier's presentation: Cllrs: Mrs Cox, Mrs Macrae; Mrs Jolley; and Wheeler.

143. Minutes

On a proposal from Cllr Parker and seconded by Cllr Sims, the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 10 November 2008 were APPROVED.

144. Report Back from Gary Garford – FDC

145. Bob Ollier – FDC

The Parks and Open Spaces Manager gave a comprehensive update on the achievements of Wisbech in 2008.

Cont



Wisbech achieved two Green Flag awards in 2008 for Wisbech Park and St Peter's Church Gardens. The town was also awarded the ultimate honour in the local Anglia in Bloom competition, achieving gold for standard across all areas including; best local authority parks displays; best schools project; most Improved entry and in 2008.

A Royal Horticultural Society Gold Medal Award was awarded and Wisbech was judged the Best Large Town in the Anglia Region. During the summer of 2009, Wisbech goes on to be judged in The National Britain in Bloom Competition.

The Park was awarded a Green Flag, which is the national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales, judges seven key criteria: a Welcoming Place; Healthy; Safe and Secure; Well Maintained and Clean; Environmental Sustainability; Biodiversity and Heritage; and Community Involvement and Management.

An application has been submitted for Heritage lottery funding. The final decision on stage one will be in March 2009, and this will determine whether stage two may be submitted. Stage 2 will then take a further 6 months to prepare. The first stage was prepared at a cost of £45,000 consultancy fees. If the bid is successful the Lottery will accept this expenditure as part of FDC's match funding commitment.

In terms of the application the Total cost of the project will be £1.5 million. FDC have committed themselves to supplying 55% of the total cost by match funding, with 45% coming from the Lottery. FDC are hoping that the Town Council will be able to contribute financial support for the heritage project spread over two years at a cost of £25,000 each year. This will need to be considered in setting the next budget for 2010/2011.

Of the options outlined initially, the following have been included in the application: repair Bandstand; repair Monument; railings; tree management; entrance improvements; replacement of lighting and some paths; new play equipment (in existing play area); new community facilities such as toilets, cafe, changing rooms, parks ranger, and rangers office, and meeting place.

a) Options not included in the application, which would therefore need to be funded from other sources were: Skate Park; Bowling Green; new tennis courts; basketball facilities; more CCTV; putting course; Tank.

b) Members were particularly disappointed that there were not more facilities for young people especially the Skate Park.

Cont



“WHAT HAVE WE GOT FOR TEENAGERS – ABSOLUTELY NOTHING - THE IDEA WAS FOR FDC TO PROVIDE A SKATE PARK – IT IS IN THE MASTER PLAN”

c) Members asked that Bob Ollier obtain a copy of the master plan for Leisure provision in Fenland District Council, and to let the Clerk have a copy.

d) Members noted that the decision on what should be axed was made by a group which was led by Bob Ollier. The other members of the group were a member of the Friends of the Park Group, a Member of the Heritage Lottery Fund Board, and the consultant appointed by FDC. Town Council Members felt that they should have been formally invited to contribute to the discussions.

e) Members were surprised that FDC had not been able to place the tank which had been offered free and would have required only transport and siting costs. Mr Ollier confirmed that FDC would be prepared to site the tank if there was no cost to FDC.

146. Mayor’s Diary & Announcements

The Mayor detailed the Mayor’s extensive engagements leading up to Christmas. A copy may be obtained from the Deputy Clerk.

147. Wisbech Youth Council

Members noted the Minutes of the Wisbech Youth Council held on Tuesday 11 November, and the Working Party held on Tuesday 18 November (as circulated). Members also noted that white hooded sweatshirts had been ordered for the Youth Council to be worn at the Christmas Lights Switch on whilst manning a stall and taking questionnaires from young people in the town. The cost of the hoodies would be shared with Fenland District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council.

148. Civic Amenities

On a proposal from Cllr Oliver and seconded by Cllr Sims the Minutes of the Civic Amenities Working party held on Wednesday 19 November 2008 (as circulated) were APPROVED subject to the addition of Cllr Wheelers apology.

149. Clerk’s up-date

Member’s noted the following update, and confirmed that questions were to be sent to the Clerk in writing three days before the meeting where possible.

1. The Clerk has renewed his Membership of the Society of Local Council Clerks. (Introduction to SLCC circulated herewith).

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2. The Deputy Clerk has prepared an analysis of the powers that Wisbech Town Council may choose to exercise. (Circulated herewith).
3. The Clerk has forwarded the attached letter from Mrs Margaret Connor to Colonel Buckenham for his comments, and also referred it to the next Civic Amenities Committee).
4. FDC have issued the Town Council with a notice to quit two strips of dyke that FDC has agreed to sell consequent to a letter from the former Clerk on 30 November 2007 indicating no objection.
5. The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Clerk have been confirmed to attend the Standards Committee Seminar at FDC on Tuesday 16 December 2008.
6. The Clerk has written to the Head of Legal at FDC, formerly requesting the deeds to all allotment land (illegally) transferred in 1974.
7. The Environment Agency commissioned a condition survey for the Corn Exchange and the Council Chamber, which the Clerk was able to organise with Norman Jacobs – the Council will receive a copy free of charge.
8. The Clerk had further discussions with the owner of the Corn Exchange, who kindly gave a guided tour to the Officer from the Heritage Lottery.
9. Wisbech Town Council has become a Member of the National Association of British Market Authorities (see noticeboard for information).
10. Christmas Lights Switch on – a roaring success. A massive thank you to all those involved + for the kind donations from the Lions, LiDL, Norman Jacobs, and Tesco. The Clerk is expecting further donations to be finalised prior to the meeting.
11. The final draft of the editorial for the new magazine has been circulated to the Members of the Editorial Working Party. The Advertising agents have been set on to begin selling advertising. It is anticipated that we will be on target for a 48 page magazine in the Spring with 15,000 free copies.
12. Justin Wingfield has very kindly offered Wisbech Town Council three complementary events at the Boathouse, where the Council would not be charged for the venue.
13. Christmas Takeaway is an exciting selection of affordable art for you to pop in, pick up and takeaway at the Angles Theatre from 5 – 31 December presented by Atelier East.
14. Wisbech Youth Council, the Mayor, the Leader and the Clerk attended the opening of the Centre 4 Youth Centre in Wisbech, by invitation of the Office of Children and Young People's Services at Cambridgeshire County Council.

Cont



The Clerk also confirmed that F&GP meetings would be arranged for 26 January at 7.30, following Planning, and on 6 April at 6.30 preceding the Annual Assembly.

Finally, Members were invited to have mince pies etc with the Youth Council in the Council Chamber at 2pm on Monday 22 December.

150. Request from Wisbech & Fenland Museum

On a proposal from Cllr Mrs Cox and seconded by Cllr Wright it was AGREED to support the digitisation of Borough Minutes from 1894 to 1970 and beyond if they chose. Clerk to write a letter of support on behalf of the Council.

151. Register of Electors

Members asked the Clerk to write to FDC on behalf of all councillors requesting a register of electors for each of them for their wards.

152. Allotment repairs

On a proposal from Cllr Sims and Seconded by Cllr Green it was AGREED to refer this request to Allotment Committee in the first instance.

153. New Model Publication scheme

On a proposal from Cllr Meekins and seconded by Cllr Green it was AGREED to adopt the new model publication scheme as approved by the Information Commissioner in line with section 20 of the Freedom of Information Act , as displayed on the notice board, and available on the website of the commission at <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

154. Cambridgeshire County Council Correspondence

Members noted the correspondence from CCC.

155. Fenland District Council Correspondence

Members noted the correspondence from FDC.

156. General Correspondence

Members noted the correspondence displayed on the notice board.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

Signed.....

Dated



2008/2009 – 41

WISBECH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 12 January 2009 at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: The Mayor, Cllr Farmer; and Cllrs Mrs Cox; Frusher; Hill; Mrs Jolley; Mrs Macrae; Meekins; O'Dell; Oliver; Parker; Sims; Wegg; Wheeler; and Wright.

In attendance:

E Murat – Wisbech Town Clerk (Clerk to the meeting)
Cllr Fred Yeullett - Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC)
Gloria Culyer - Director Age Concern and Chair of Fenland Strategic Partnership
Lesley Noblett - CCC
Hetty Thornton - Fenland District Council (FDC)
S Farmer - the Deputy Clerk for WTC

Public Forum

i) John Smith gave Members an outline of Jody Cundy's achievements complemented by the Mayor.

A former swimmer with three Paralympics golds, Jody Cundy has enjoyed more success since switching from the pool to the velodrome in May 2006.

The Paralympics were the 29-year-old's fourth Games, and he brought home the gold again with two gold medals for his cycling debut.

Jody Cundy is a below-the-knee amputee having been born with a deformed foot which was amputated when he was just three-years-old.

Mr Smith asked that the sportsman be honoured with a civic reception organised by Wisbech Town Council, and the Mayor confirmed that having met Jody twice, he was already considering arranging an event, subject to Jody's availability.

i) John Smith then asked Members if they would be able to minimise the traffic control measures affecting other roads when the Churchill Road works are carried out – Cllr Sims said that he would speak with the County Council as a Ward Councillor.

157. Apologies and absences

An Apology and reason for absence was received from:

Cllr Fulcher - accident at work
Cllr Green - holiday
Cllr Lawrence – ill health

On a proposal from Cllr Oliver and seconded by Cllr Wright the above absences was APPROVED.

An apology was also received from Gary Garford (FDC), which was acknowledged by Members.

Absent: Cllr King

Cont



158. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

159. Minutes

On a proposal from Cllr Sims and seconded by Cllr O'Dell, the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 10 November 2008 were APPROVED.

160 (a) Report Back from Hetty Thornton – FDC

The Fenland Play Strategy and Action plan 2007-2012 was devised by the Fenland Play Partnership which is made up of key partners in Cambridgeshire. The Strategy was adopted by Cabinet on 26th July 2007. The main purpose of the strategy is to help improve play facilities, increase health and well-being and help to improve the life chances of children and young people in Fenland. It also supports the Big Plan for Cambridgeshire which is a Cambridgeshire County Council strategy for improving the lives of children in the county.

In May 2008 Fenland District Council was awarded £200,000 from the Big Lottery Fund under the auspice of the "Children's Play" grant. The project "Fenland Play" supports a 3 year funded program which is broken down into two strands:

1. Better Equipment, Better play- This project aims to establish, enhance and/or replace inadequate play equipment in 7 sites in Fenland (sites shown below with the corresponding financial contribution from the grant). The project is being delivered by Cambridgeshire Acre with the help of a part-time Family Play Worker to negotiate and agree the facility development with local children, young people and their families.
2. Fenland Play Ranger- The project will provide a dedicated play ranger on a part-time basis who will carry out play sessions with children, young people and families from the sites below to encourage them to get more active, utilise their surroundings for play and use the new equipment effectively. The Ormiston Children and Families Trust are delivering the project and deploy a part-time Play Ranger in the 7 proposed sites as follows:

- Gorfield-£1,028
- Newton-£10,293
- Guyhirn - £14,259
- Doddington- Manor Estate -£4,130 and Benwick Road £1,028
- Waterlees Ward- £21,922 (plus £3,078 from Fenland District Council)
- Wisbech St Mary - £10723

The Play Pathfinder- 15 local authorities were selected as play pathfinders with the average award being £2m for capital funding plus additional revenue funding. The play pathfinders will work with children, young people and their families to develop innovative play areas in sites where there is very little play provision. The aimed age range is 8-13 year olds.

In April 2008 Cambridgeshire County Council were awarded £2.5m over 3 years from the Department for Children, Schools and Families to help develop play spaces in Cambridgeshire. There are 2 main strands to this project:

Adventure playground- (over £800,000). This strand of the project includes an adventure playground, which will encourage children to use the space in a creative and imaginative way. The site will be staffed and it is anticipated that the building work will start towards

Cont



the middle of July. The tender for this project will go out in Jan 09. The preferred area where this will be sited is on the Waterlees Road in an area known as the Spinney.

There is a consultation sub-group which looks at liaising closely with the local community and to date there has been 2 consultation events to ascertain local views and opinions.

Play Spaces- (Approx £1m available for this)- This strand is being delivered by Cambridgeshire Acre and will help to facilitate the enhancement of 28 play spaces across Cambridgeshire. The focus on this element is to create play landscapes which encourage creative play, to which there is an element of risk attached. This is to engage children to learn in different ways and experience new and challenging play which gives them the freedom of choice.

Communities can bid into this funding where they must satisfy certain criteria including; the impact on the community, play deprivation, accessibility and the age of beneficiaries.

The project will take place over 2 phases. In Phase 1 Fenland has secured funding for play enhancement in the following localities:

- Wisbech St. Mary- £50,000
- Robin Goodfellows Lane, March £40,000
- Wisbech Park, £40,000

Identification of the sites in Phase 2 will be allocated when the bidding process starts in 2009 (date as yet unknown).

160 (b) Wisbech Library Community Management Board Report Back presented by Cllr Fred Yeullett, Gloria Culyer, and Lesley Noblett.

Cllr Yeullett spoke as the CCC Cabinet Member for Communities. The Council are acutely aware of areas of severe deprivation in the County. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment highlights the differences in pupil attainment, job opportunities, health and longevity. CCC is working to channel more resources to the North of the County as a result, especially Wisbech. They are also appointing a new Director to look specifically at service provision in Fenland.

The Wisbech Library Development is part of that commitment. There were only six projects in the country that got the maximum Big Lottery grant of £2 million, so the team that put the bid together had done an excellent job.

Gloria Culyer spoke as the Chair of the Community Management Board, Director of Age Concern and Chair of the Fenland Strategic Partnership. She has been involved with the development since the early days as a voice for old people and a voice for the community. She praised the work of the team, and in particular the way they had consulted from the outset. From what she had seen around a thousand people had contributed to the consultation and dozens of organisations. She affirmed that from the point of view of her client group – older persons – a Town Centre location was vital.

She described the make up of the Community Management Board which included, Cllr Oliver, Wheeler and King (Wisbech Councillors), and also Erbie Murat (Wisbech Town Clerk)

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originally in his role as Communities Together in Wisbech, through Fenland Citizens Advice Bureau. It also includes members from WisARD, Rosmini, Schools, College, as well as library staff.

There are also Focus groups on Learning; Heritage, and Children and Young People. It is envisaged that the Community Management Board will continue working with the service once the new library is opened.

Lesley Noblett as Head of the County's Library services spoke of the new provisions to be made at the new library, such as toilets and lift. Members are referred to the initial briefing from Lynda Martin and the plans that were displayed on the wall outside the Council Chamber from 10 March 2008.

The lottery bid is paying for the development with £2 million. It is being managed, developed and planned by the community. The inaugural management board meeting was in the Town Council Chamber 18 March 2008. CCC are also putting in a further £680,000 towards the main works, and the Library Service is putting in a further £100,000 for books etc.

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.

The library is currently at the Queen Mary centre, since September 2008. The development work is in progress on site, and the new library is on target for opening in October 2008.

The Mayor asked a number of questions, where there was a difference of opinion, and where he requested information that was not readily to hand. Lesley Noblett offered to meet with the Mayor outside of this forum to have a full and frank discussion. Cllr Yeulett suggested also that Members put questions to Lesley Noblett and that she would respond in writing or at a future meeting.

A number of Members spoke in favour of the Library Development, and Cllr Wright as Chair of WTC's Planning Committee reminded Members that the proposal had been before Planning and that the Council had welcomed the development.

On a proposal from Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Meekins Members **AGREED** that any Member of the Council who had any questions, should put them in writing and send them to the Clerk so that he could bring them to the next Town Council meeting for Members to sanction. Cllr O'Dell abstained and Cllr Sims voted against the proposal.

161. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor detailed his engagements since the last meeting. Details may be obtained from the Deputy Clerk. The Mayor was very impressed with the amount and quality of voluntary effort that goes into the events he and the Mayoress have attended. The Charity Bag Pack at Asda raised over £1,000 and the Mayor thanked all the young people that worked with them on the day.

Cont



162. Planning

Members noted the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 8 December 2008, and that the Planning Committee of 22 December had been cancelled due to there being insufficient business.

163. Allotments

On a proposal from Cllr Sims and seconded by Cllr Hill the Minutes of the Allotments Committee of 22 December 2008 were **AGREED** by allotments committee Members.

On a proposal from Cllr Sims and seconded by Cllr Hill the minutes of the Allotments Committee of 22 December 2008 were **APPROVED**.

164 (a) Clerk's up-date

Member's noted the following update:

- a) **Moore Stephens has audited the annual accounts for Year ended March 2008, and signed them off.**
- b) **FDC have confirmed that Cabinet has approved £1500 grant support to the council towards Christmas lights. This will be finally determined as part of FDC's corporate plan and general budget for 2009/10 in February 2009. They will be in touch after that date to confirm whether this council has been successful.**
- c) FDC has confirmed that their Cabinet has not been able to support the grant application for Wisbech Youth Council.
- d) Both FDC and CCC have agreed to share the cost of the hooded sweatshirts for Wisbech Youth Council members to wear at the Christmas Lights Switch on.
- e) There have been some issues with some lights not working along the river and in Hill Street. The Clerk is investigating to ensure that they are properly checked in the future.
- f) The letter of support for Wisbech Castle's Heritage Lottery fund bid has been sent.
- g) A letter has been forwarded to FDC from a parishioner requesting a new bus shelter in Norwich Road. Members are asked to note that FDC own and maintain bus shelters in Wisbech.
- h) Members are asked to note the attached 'Meetings' calendar adding F&GP meetings in January and April.
- i) Members of Wisbech Youth Council met with Members of the Town Council on Monday 22 December over a mince pie or two in the Council Chamber.
- j) The Council has trialed a postal franking system and it has proved to be too expensive for the limited use made of it by the Council.
- k) The Clerk's amendments to contract has been signed by the Mayor, the Leader, and the Clerk to account for the changes agreed by Council.

164 (b). Boundary Changes

On a proposal from Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Parker it was **AGREED** to ask the Clerk to investigate the consequences of Wisbech becoming part of NW Norfolk as part of the boundary review.

164 (c). General Register Office – Wisbech

On a proposal from Cllr Wheeler and seconded by Cllr Mrs Cox it was **AGREED** that the Clerk ask the Registrar to assess the suitability of the Council Chamber being used as an approved marriage room.

Cont



165. English Historic Towns Forum

On a proposal from Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Meekins it was **AGREED** to ask the Clerk to obtain more information about membership and the benefits to Wisbech.

166. Members reports from Outside Bodies

Cllr Mrs Macrae invited Members to let her have information about any paths they know of in their wards and their condition.

167. Cllr Wegg's Fellowship of the London College of Music

Members congratulated Cllr Wegg on his outstanding achievement.

168. Jointly funded Minor Works

Members noted the report from Thomas Emmett as circulated.

169. Fenland Strategic Partnership

Members noted the Planning Workshop at Guyhirn Village Hall organised for 19 January.

170. Safety & Health Awareness day for Agricultural Workers

Members noted that this would be held at the College of West Anglia on 14 March.

171. Twinning Visit to Stadt Nettetal, Germany

Members noted that they should notify the Clerk if they wish to go. Families are also welcome.

172. Cambridgeshire County Council Correspondence

Members noted the correspondence from CCC displayed on the notice board.

173. Fenland District Council Correspondence

Members noted the general correspondence from FDC displayed on the notice board.

174. General Correspondence

Members noted the general correspondence displayed on the notice board.

The meeting closed at 9.08 pm.

Signed.....

Dated



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WISBECH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of the Town Council held on
Monday 9 February 2009 at 7.30 pm.**

PRESENT: The Mayor, Cllr Farmer; the Deputy Mayor Cllr Mrs Lawrence; and Cllrs Mrs Cox; Frusher; Fulcher; Green; Mrs Jolley; O'Dell; Oliver; Parker; Sims; Wegg; and Wright.

In attendance:

E Murat – Wisbech Town Clerk (Clerk to the meeting)
Gary Garford – FDC
Chris Banks – Chief Exec. Cambridgeshire NHS
S Farmer - Deputy Clerk for WTC

Public Forum

There were no members of the public present. The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm.

175. Apologies and absences

An Apology and reason for absence was received from:
Cllr Mrs Macrae – School Governors meeting
Cllr Hill – Holiday
Cllr Meekins – Ill health

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

Absent: Cllr King and Cllr Wheeler

176. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

177. Minutes

On a proposal from Cllr Fulcher and seconded by Cllr Parker, the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 12 January 2009 were APPROVED.

178. Report Back from Gary Garford – FDC

GG was concerned that the Town Council had not notified him of specific questions that he could report back on. Members reminded him that this was FDC's opportunity to bring to the Town Council's attention matters and up-dates that had relevance to Wisbech.

GG responded to questions as follows:

- i) Gritting is Cambridgeshire County Council's responsibility.
- ii) FDC has limited powers to compulsory purchase empty and derelict buildings – still have not exercised their power to compulsorily purchase any of the buildings on the High Street. They have to make a strong business case to do so.

Cont ...



179. General Up-date - Chris Banks – Chief Executive for Cambridgeshire NHS Health Service.

The Chief Executive explained some of the changes that were going on and that were being considered in re-distributing resources:

- i) There has been an historic and cumulative debt build up in Cambridge City and S. Cambs, which has impacted on available resources.
- ii) There is a move to allocate a greater share of the resources to the North of the County (Fenland).
- iii) The life expectancy in North Cambridgeshire is lower than the South of the County, significantly so amongst males.
- iv) They are launching a consultation on the five year strategic plan they are planning for Cambridgeshire – Members will be welcomed to participate in that consultation.
- v) There is an increasing focus on the provision of outreach services rather than dependency on bed care.
- vi) It is unlikely that the Carlisle Ward will be re-opened for bed-care although it was being kept commissioned to take up any service requirements that were not being catered for.
- vii) Any overflow situations from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital were only ever short-term and did not require the use (and therefore the opening) of the Carlisle Ward continuously.

There followed an impassioned plea from several Members that the Carlisle Ward had been used for re-habilitation in the past which seemed like a sensible use – even in the current climate.

180. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor detailed his engagements since the last meeting. Details may be obtained from the Deputy Clerk. The Mayor highlighted his visit to the Oasis on 20 January to Surestart and paid tribute to Neil Sears, former Headmaster, whose death was a great loss to Wisbech.

The Mayor also commended Wisbech Children's Charities for having raised £5,000 for distribution.

181. Finance & General Purposes

On a proposal from Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Sims the Minutes of the F&GP meeting of 26 January were AGREED by the F&GP Committee.

On a proposal from Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Sims the F&GP minutes of 26 January and the recommendations were APPROVED.

Members noted that the Planning Committee Minutes of 12 and 26 January would be referred to the next Town Council meeting on 9 March 2009.

182. Civic Amenities

On a proposal from Cllr Oliver and seconded by Cllr Mrs Lawrence the Minutes of the Civic Amenities Working Party were APPROVED by Members that had attended that meeting.

On a proposal from Cllr Oliver and seconded by Cllr Mrs Lawrence the minutes and the recommendations were APPROVED.

Cont ...



183. Clerk's up-date

Members noted the Clerk's up-date with clarification from the Clerk on a number of items.

- a) Leaflet for Rose Fair.
- b) Report about play developments within the Fenland area.
- c) Background information on Fenland Arts.
- d) Proposed community development team created by the TUPE transfer of Fenland Links Staff.
- e) Civic reception for the Showman's Guild is to be held on Friday 6 March at 6.30 pm and Members were urged to attend.
- f) Civic procession to open the Fair is leaving the Council Chamber at around 1.30 – 1.40 on Saturday 7 March. Members were urged to participate.
- g) Letter to Youth Council Members inviting them to the Reception for the Showman's Guild on 6 March and the procession on Saturday 7 March.
- h) Town Council's success in its Premises Licence application.
- j) Council's success in its Small Lottery Registration in accordance with the Gambling Act.
- k) The Council trialled a franking machine through Pitney Bowes for a month before Christmas – there would be a rental fee of £27.00 per month and the benefits were found to be marginal. The Council will not be pursuing this course of action, and the equipment is being returned.
- l) The new Wisbech Town Guide was on target for being a 48 page one instead of 32, and the Council is on target to receive 15,000 free copies for distribution in the spring.
- m) Notification had been received of a proposed channel four episode of The Hotel Inspector about the Rose and Crown Hotel.
- n) Members were asked to note that Fenland District Council have registered ownership of the Market Place with statements of ownership made by Ernest Stafford–Thompson in 1992 (former Wisbech Borough Clerk), and in 2009 by Steve Napier.

184. Historic Towns Forum

The Clerk was asked to clarify the benefit to the Council of Membership – to enable Members to make a decision on whether to join. On a proposal from Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Wegg it was AGREED that the Town Council join for a fee of £200 per annum - with the expectation that Town Councils assume greater responsibility in the future.

Information about what they have done over the past few years can be seen on the HTF website www.historictownsforum.org

185. Members reports from Outside Bodies

- a) Waterlees Voice – from Cllr Wheeler
- b) Cllr Sims has been elected to the Executive Committee of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association for Local Councils (CPALC).

186. Correspondence from Cambridgeshire County Council

The following correspondence was to be found on the notice-board:

- i) Policy Briefing – Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder Reports.

Cont ...



187. Correspondence from Fenland District Council

The following correspondence was to be found on the notice-board:

- i) Letter from Hetty Thornton detailing a new project to photograph local organisations and projects. Wisbech Town Council may be involved in this.

188. General Correspondence

The following correspondence was to be found on the notice-board:

- I. Email from Fenland Arts detailing works they have done in Wisbech.
- II. The Clerk Magazine.
- III. Cope Newsletter and letter
- IV. Fenland Council for Voluntary Service – Newsletter
- V. Headline News from The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King’s Lynn.
- VI. CPALC AGM Minutes.
- VII. Table of Parochial Fees.
- VIII. East of England Development Agency - The Business map letter.
- IX. Inside Housing Magazine.
- X. Rural Services Network Letter.
- XI. Cambridgeshire Acre Case Study & report on Recession & Credit Crunch in Cambridgeshire’s Rural Economy.

-ENDS-

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Signed

Dated



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WISBECH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 9 March 2009 at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: The Mayor, Cllr Farmer; the Deputy Mayor Cllr Mrs Lawrence; and Cllrs Mrs Cox; Frusher; Fulcher; Hill; Mrs Jolley; Mrs Macrae; O'Dell; Oliver; Parker; Sims; Wegg; Wheeler and Wright.

In attendance:

E Murat – Wisbech Town Clerk (Clerk to the meeting)
Richard Mortimer – Oxford Archaeology East
Pauline Ford – Managing Director, Roddens Housing Association
S Farmer - Deputy Clerk for WTC

Public Forum

There were no members of the public present. The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm.

189. Apologies and absences

An Apology and reasons for absence was received from:
Cllr Green - Holiday
Cllr Meekins – Work commitments

On a proposal from Cllr Oliver and seconded by Cllr Sims the above absences were APPROVED.

Absent: Cllr King

190. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

191. Minutes

On a proposal from Cllr Wheeler and seconded by Cllr Parker, the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 9 February 2009 were APPROVED.

192. Report from Richard Mortimer – Oxford Archaeology East.

Cambridgeshire Archaeology used to be a part of Cambridgeshire County Council, until a few months ago when it was outsourced and the section became a part of Oxford Archaeology, and known as Oxford Archaeology East.

Richard delivered a lively presentation on the excavations in the courtyard and main body of Wisbech Library.

According to expectations, the 4 yard square excavation in the courtyard should not have yielded anything pre Norman Conquest BUT 3 yards down they found a ditch which was full of charred wood, which was subsequently dated to the 8th Century AD.

Cont ...



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This is up to 400 years earlier than the Norman Conquests and, Richard believed, formed part of an original Saxon fortified settlement.

A second hole was sunk 30 yards to the North at the far end of the library. They found a huge ditch 5 yards down – east/west fashion - and in black silt they found charcoal and seeds.

He explained that Wisbech had been rebuilt many times due to flooding; like the significant flood in 1230 AD which destroyed the Norman Castle (it was explained that the flood water at this time would have come up to the present level of the Council Chamber windows). Every time there was a flood a great deal of silt was deposited and most buildings were demolished and subsequent replacements took place on top of the previous build. Due to its importance, St Peter's Church was repeatedly excavated hence the lower placement to surrounding land and buildings.

Funding is currently being sought for a community funded excavation to take place in the central part of Wisbech Castle grounds.

Wisbech has had very few excavations compared to other places – four in the last 20 years, and it is considered to be a wealth of opportunity in archaeological terms, especially around the central part of the old town. It is the most 'fascinating of the towns in East Anglia due to the speed of the floods in the past'. There have been very useful excavations in Market Mews and Church Mews in the past. The more recent excavation on the Cromwell Road development found only that lots of silt had been deposited which had built up the river's edge. The Nene Infants School site had also been excavated but nothing of significance found. The next place to investigate might be the College Of West Anglia site.

Richard will try to obtain some kind of a guideline map based upon which the Town Council could call for excavations when planning permissions are sought – these may yield important archaeological information.

The library site has also uncovered some massive chunks of the Church that had been on the library site in about 1820, a couple of which will be displayed, perhaps in the museum.

Richard will ensure that the Town Council receives a copy of the second report on the library excavations – this should be available within around 12 weeks.

193. Presentation by Pauline Ford – Managing Director of Roddens.

Roddens Housing Association is 16 months old and is part of Circle Anglia, which has regional offices in Norwich and national offices in Islington in London. The majority of staff transferred to Roddens from Fenland District Council 16 months ago, but much of their workforce has been in shared accommodation since then. Last month they moved into their new purpose built premises opposite Tesco in March.

They have a management board which has a strong community and tenant involvement.

Cont ...



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Her presentation was on Powerpoint and is available to Members through the Town Clerk's office.

She also asked that her direct dial telephone number be in the Minutes and that Members were welcome to bring issues direct to her attention. The number is 01354 607202.

The Onus is for Roddens to build trust with residents and to work with other partners.

The partnership with the police is bearing fruit with the first joint ASBO having been issued recently, and there are joint visits with the police where necessary.

Having good quality housing is the springboard to addressing other needs.

Roddens has spent £7.5million improving homes. They will be focussing on Wisbech for 2009/2010. They are programmed to spend £1million in Wisbech and £1.7million in surrounding villages. They have also won an EEDA bid enabling them to give grants for private sector houses to have similar improvements made. They have a long-term strategy for Sheltered Housing as there is a large percentage of the population who are older persons. They have also allocated £10,000 for each of their 15 sheltered schemes.

Pauline gave examples of smaller works such as the very successful clear-up of rubbish at Edinburgh Drive shops, where the area was cleared and secured; Stowe Road with new roofing and off street parking, and the committed £66,000 to improve facilities at Lime Avenue to include a weatherproof football pitch.

Roddens is focussing on improved security and modernised bathrooms and kitchens. They are also looking at the provision of off-street parking.

They have £1million invested in aids and adaptations – mostly level access showers and stairlifts. There have been 120 adaptations in Wisbech. It was noted that of all the stairlifts installed in the Fenland district, the majority have been in Wisbech.

Roddens is currently piloting two types of heat pumps: Air source (absorb heat from the outside) in Wisbech St Mary, and Ground source (an electrically powered system that uses the natural energy stored in the earth) in Christchurch.

New services provided by Roddens include:

- Decorating, gardening and home MOT - tenants provide materials, Roddens do the rest free of charge.
- Prizes for clear rent accounts.
- Cash incentives to move if occupying large houses ie 4 bed to 2 bed bungalow.
- Community Fund (£1million) in grant support - last year Community fund gave out £200,000.
- They have a financial inclusion officer.
- Moved to new purpose built offices and depot on 9 February 2009.
- Have reception and receptionists of their own for the first time.
- They are expanding their Direct Labour force.

Cont ...



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- They have a new apprentice scheme.
- They have £35million worth of improvements to deliver in the first five years.
- They welcome feedback from residents, local councillors, and from MP's.
- They run Housing register on behalf of Fenland District Council.
- Part of transfer agreement meant that FDC had to declare any known defects.

194. Mayor's Diary and Announcements

The Mayor detailed his engagements since the last meeting. Details may be obtained from the Deputy Clerk.

195. Planning Committee

On a proposal from Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Mrs Cox the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings of 12 and 26 January and the 9 and 23 February were APPROVED.

196. Clerk's up-date

- a) There has been a meeting with Land Registry and an application has been made to register allotment land belonging to the Town Council where there is no relationship with Fenland District Council.
- b) The case relating to the other allotments has been passed to FDC's legal team, and they are awaiting advice on 'a number of legal issues' that this Council has raised. In the meantime it appears that FDC have put forward a proposal for a package of registrations to Land Registry.
- c) A request has been made to Land Registry for details of the 'proposal for a registration package' made recently to them by Fenland District Council. Copies of all correspondence have been forwarded to the Council's solicitor. His response confirms and consolidates the Council's position. The Deputy Mayor and the Deputy Chair of allotments are fully briefed.
- d) Members of the Youth Council were invited to a pizza and planning meeting at Centre 4 to discuss the Wisbech Youth Extravaganza – it was very well attended.
- e) Youth Council members were invited to join the Council at the reception for the Showman's Guild on Friday 6 March at 6.30 in the Council Chamber. Members of the Youth Council were also invited to join the Council for the procession for the official opening of the Mart Fair, meeting at the Town Council at 1.30 on Saturday 7 March.
- f) The stairlift and the security systems have been serviced.
- g) Two dates have been set aside for new fire officers to visit the Town Council for familiarisation.
- h) Mr & Mrs Haig and other descendents of Richard Young will spend some time in the Chamber on Saturday 21 March from 11 am when they will be given light refreshments by the Mayor and Mayoress. This follows a visit by them to the Museum and precedes a visit by them to the Boathouse.
- i) An application has been made to Roddens Housing Association for grants to match fund the two festivals being organised by Wisbech Youth Council, and the Youth magazine.
- j) Unfortunately the Council's application for funding for the Youth Council from Fenland District Council's Community fund is likely to be unsuccessful. There may be opportunities for funding from FDC from the £630,000 they have for 'Cohesion.'
- k) Members received a copy of the latest CPALC bulletin that they have just started producing again in response to Members' requests.
- l) Members received a 'Friends of Wisbech Library' membership Form
- m) Members were invited to attend a Standards Committee Seminar at Exchange Tower on Monday 16 March with a buffet available from 6.00 pm. Cont ...



Members also noted the following up-dates from Gary Garford (FDC):

- i) Formal Action has been served on the owners to carry out remedial work to the derelict buildings in the High Street or FDC will carry out the work and charge the owners for it.
- ii) Permanent traffic lights will be working at the Tesco/LiDL site this week.
- iii) Wisbech Market - drop in stalls is 1% on Saturday, and 10% drop on Thursday. FDC is advertising widely, with free week offers, review of layout and frozen fees to encourage market stall holders to stay – the expectation is that stallholder numbers will increase with improvement in the weather.

Members asked that Gary Garford be invited to the next meeting and asked what more could be done for the market and for local businesses in general.

197. Members reports from Outside Bodies

There were no members' reports.

198. Draft Committee Dates for 2010/2011

On a proposal from Cllr Oliver and seconded by Cllr Sims the draft committee dates were APPROVED subject to the following considerations:

The column showing Caucus meetings would become the column for deadlines for agenda items; Caucus dates to be discussed at next Caucus for agreement; Mayor-Making and Annual Council Meeting should not be on the same day.

The Clerk was asked to make the necessary changes and to publish the meeting dates on the Council's website, as well as circulate it through normal channels.

199. Wisbech Town Plan

On a proposal from Cllr Wheeler and seconded by Cllr O'Dell the Draft Town Plan was APPROVED, and it was AGREED that it be formally launched for public consultation at the Town Assembly on 6 April 2009, and to be published on the Town Council's website as well as circulated.

200. CCTV

On a proposal from Cllr Farmer, the originator of the item, and Cllr Oliver, this item was withdrawn, as it will be the subject of negotiations with FDC later in the year.

201. Correspondence from Cambridgeshire County Council

The following correspondence was to be found on the notice-board and noted by Members:

- a) Letter from Area Maintenance engineer – works to resurface southbound carriageway from Fire station to Weasenham Lane has been put back to Feb/March 2010 subject to availability of finance.
- b) Countryside access poster.



202. Correspondence from Fenland District Council

The following correspondence was to be found on the notice-board and noted by Members:

- a) Progress letter on FDC's proposal on effective three tier working. The Mayor encouraged Members to consider these proposals carefully as the proposal is to have Community Boards chaired by FDC Cabinet members and Wisbech has no Cabinet members.

203. General Correspondence

The following correspondence was to be found on the notice-board and noted by Members:

- a) Submission from NABMA (National Association of British Market Authorities) to Communities & Local Government Select Committee. Essentially they are saying that 'It is vital that retail and wholesale markets work together towards common objectives'; that policy on food and health recognises the significant role the markets can play; and NABMA encourages interaction (co-operation) between wholesalers and retailers.
- b) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2008 – 2022. This is a massive report and the Council does not have a hard copy. Members with an interest should log on to www.recap.co.uk.
- c) Local Development Framework Core Strategy Regulation 25 for King's Lynn & West Norfolk.
- d) Fenland Council for Voluntary Service Directory of Members 2009 – WTC is a member.
- e) Town and Parish Standard.
- f) Froglife leaflet.
- g) War Memorials Trust Bulletin.
- h) Weekly News & Views from LGA (Local Government Association)
- i) Cope Newsletter
- j) Opportunities
- k) Inside Housing

-ENDS-

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Signed

Dated



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WISBECH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 14 April 2009 at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: The Mayor, Cllr Farmer; the Deputy Mayor Cllr Mrs Lawrence; and Cllrs Mrs Cox; Frusher; Green; Hill; Mrs Jolley; Mrs Macrae; Meekins; O'Dell; Oliver; Parker; Sims; Wegg; Wheeler and Wright.

In attendance:

E Murat – Wisbech Town Clerk (Clerk to the meeting)
G Garford – Director of Business and Infrastructure FDC
L Warren – Streetscene Officer FDC
M Mathews – Environmental Services Manager FDC
S Farmer - Deputy Clerk for WTC

Public Forum

There were no members of the public present. The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm.

204. Apologies and absences

An Apology and reason for absence was received from:
Cllr Fulcher – Work commitments

On a proposal from Cllr Oliver and seconded by Cllr Sims the above absence was APPROVED.

Absent: Cllr King

205. Declarations of Interests

The Mayor declared an interest in item 211, the F&GP Minutes and recommendations.

206. Minutes

On a proposal from Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Sims, the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 9 March 2009 were APPROVED.

207. Reports from Fenland District Council (FDC)

i) Mark Mathews and Layna Warren gave an up-date on the litter picking and dog fouling initiatives provided by FDC.

There are four posts of Streetscene Officer, one for each of the Market Towns in Fenland – Whittlesey, Chatteris and March are in post, and the Wisbech officer has been appointed awaiting references.

FDC want Town Councillors to help identify priorities, and priority areas. Five areas will be selected in Wisbech as the main focus of the campaign. It is part of the ENCAMS (Keep Britain Tidy) national campaign. Information packs were handed out to all members.

Cont ...



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Feedback forms were also handed out, and members were asked to complete them for return to the Clerk and the Streetscene officer.

There is also money set aside for new litter bins and dog fouling bins. Members were asked to identify locations to the Streetscene Officer. It is important for the community to lead the campaign.

There will be an action day on Saturday 13 June, with a stall on the market place, and litter-picking activities etc. The 15 June is National Environment Day.

The Streetscene Officers give presentations to organisations; and fixed penalty fines for litter and dog fouling. They deal mainly with environmental crime and work with schools and businesses.

£50.00 dog fouling
£75.00 litter

They are able to issue fines on the basis of signed statements from members of the public. There have been four people fined so far for litter and 5 for dog fouling.

Pubs and other businesses will be encouraged to put cigarette waste receptacles outside their premises, as cigarettes make up a very large proportion of litter.

The Town Council may consider having one.

It was noted that:

- FDC have a joint contract with Huntingdonshire DC for all waste to go to Milton Keynes for recycling.
- Prices for waste are going up again.
- Businesses are responsible for clearing any waste generated by their business or customers – cigarettes are a major issue.
- This generally works on a voluntary code of practice. If not then action may be taken.
- FDC officers carry out patrols in and out of uniform.
- + they can make use of public scrutiny and issue notices on the basis of statements.
- FDC's priority is to educate first and then to prosecute.
- Different types of bins for different types of recycling/waste are more cost effective, and avoid spoilage.
- Wisbech has two operatives that clear litter in the town and one in the Park. The operative for Waterlees is off ill at present.
- In the park dog walkers are allowed to put dog waste into the ordinary bins.

Cont ...



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- There is one compact sweeper in Wisbech + two HGV sweepers.
- Litter in hedges can be gathered by long-arm pickers.
- FDC have decided not to use CCTV pictures for evidence for prosecution or for fine purposes.

The following were outcomes to suggestions from Councillors:

- Cllr Wheeler will discuss with Mark Mathews on where wheelie bins are possible in certain locations.
- Mark will provide the Clerk with locations of litter bins in Wisbech. There are no bins along Cromwell Road, Mark to look into provision possibilities.
- Mark to look into the possibility of re-introducing dog litter bags. He noted however that it was really cheap to buy some from the pound shop.
- Deterrent must be used for those who won't be educated.
- Council to consider putting cigarette stubbing bin outside.
- Members to let Clerk know of any litter bin needs they identify.

Gary Garford reported back on the following.

- FDC have applied for funding to improve the roads in the area of the port development to make the development more attractive for potential new developers.
- The matrix of 106 money will stay in place for the development.
- The state of the roads is a County responsibility.
- Any road works will not impinge on the Environment Agencies work along North and South Brink.
- It will all be co-ordinated properly – there is a lot going on in Wisbech at the moment.

On a proposal from Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Wheeler it was AGREED to put Streetscene up-dates on future agendas.

208. Mayor's Diary and Announcements

The Mayor detailed his engagements since the last meeting. Details may be obtained from the Deputy Clerk.

209. Planning Committee

On a proposal from Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Mrs Cox the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 9 March and 23 March 2009 were APPROVED.

210. Allotments Committee

On a proposal from Cllr Mrs Jolley and seconded by Cllr Hill, members of the Allotments Committee AGREED the minutes of the 23 March 2009.

On a proposal from Cllr Sims and seconded by Cllr Hill the minutes of the 23 March 2009 were APPROVED.

Cont ...



211. Finance & General Purposes Committee (F&GP)

On a proposal from Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Sims the minutes of the F&GP meeting of 6 April (as tabled) were AGREED by members of the F&GP committee.

Cllr Farmer declared an interest in item 31 of F&GP meeting of 6 April and withdrew from the debate.

On a proposal from Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Sims the minutes and the recommendations of the F&GP committee of 6 April 2009 were APPROVED, with the exception of Item 21 (Clerk's up-date) a) and b), where on a proposal from Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Sims, the Clerk was asked to prepare more detailed information about the kitchen re-furbishment and the fire escape to be considered by special F&GP committee meetings (dates to be agreed by Chairman and Clerk).

This also refers to the Clerk's up-date on this agenda – item 212 b) and f).

All other items were APPROVED and to be actioned by the Clerk.

212. Clerk's up-date

- a) The annual account has been completed with an addition to reserves of £21,790.41 (attached).
- b) A schematic has been prepared showing the proposed fire-escape to the rear of the Chamber. We will be going out for estimates, and speaking with emergency services, highways and the planning authorities so that we can prepare a report for members' decision (schematic attached).
- c) We have had a new photocopier delivered at a cost of £220 per quarter, and cost per copy charges of 0.47p black and white with 3.45p for colour. We will be able to produce our own newsletter for the Council and also perhaps a Youth newsletter.
- d) Update on the Town Assembly held on 6 April.
- e) The offices have been re-organised for greater efficiency.
- f) We have had a water leak affecting our fire alarm and security systems. The alarms have been sorted and we have unblocked the gent's loo, but we must now replace the kitchen so that the waste water can be discharged into the new drainage at the front of the building instead of to the rear where the old drainage seems to be failing regularly. This has become a regular occurrence and is costly. We are taking the opportunity to ensure that we have a kitchen that is fit for the purpose of hiring out the chamber, and also ready for being a civic centre for marriages. The money is in the budget to facilitate this change, but it may mean that we will have to delay repairs to windows and replacement of the floor to next year.
- g) Unfortunately, we have been unsuccessful in our bid for match funding from Roddens, but the Festivals in Wisbech will proceed on 1st and 2nd August - we will cut our cloth, as the saying goes.
- h) The Youth Council meeting with Malcolm Moss was very successful. There will be a working party of the Youth Council on Saturday 25 April in the Council chamber regarding the organisation of the August Festival.
- i) There will be a re-launch of the Rose and Crown hotel organised by The Hotel Inspector in late May/June – to which Members will be invited.
- j) The CPALC Assembly Meeting has been put back from 25 April 2009 to Saturday 16 May 2009, 11am at 33 Stephenson Rd. St. Ives. PE27 3WJ. Agendas will be circulated nearer the time.

Cont ...



213. Motion to exclude public and press

On a proposal from Cllr Farmer and seconded by Cllr O'Dell it was AGREED to exclude public and press on the following motion "It is hereby moved that in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted at agenda item 214: Members are asked to consider a nomination in respect of granting the Freedom of the Town, it is advisable in the public interest that the Public and Press be temporarily excluded from this meeting and they are herewith instructed to withdraw."

The Deputy Clerk withdrew from the meeting.

214. Freedom of the Town

On a proposal from Cllr Farmer and seconded by Cllr Green one nomination was APPROVED in respect of granting the Freedom of the Town, and the Clerk was asked to contact the nominee to offer the Freedom. Upon acceptance the arrangements could then be made to confer the Freedom of the Town as directed. The name of the nominee is to be kept out of the public arena until the offer of the Freedom has been accepted.

The meeting was re-opened to the press and public

215. Correspondence from Cambridgeshire County Council

The following correspondence was to be found on the notice-board:

- a) Cambridgeshire COMPACT
- b) Play Spaces funding leaflet.

216. Correspondence from Fenland District Council

The following correspondence was to be found on the notice-board:

- b) Letter about 'Fenland Play' CCC looking to support development of 16 more sites across the County.

217. General Correspondence

The following correspondence was to be found on the notice-board:

- a) Rural Digest
- b) Safety and Health Practitioner
- c) FACT magazine
- d) FCVS newsletter
- e) Friends of Wisbech Park Dawn Chorus Day poster.

-ENDS-

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

Signed

Dated