



2010/2011 – 39

WISBECH TOWN FULL COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council of Wisbech Town Council held on
Monday 24 January 2011 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr N A Meekins, Town Mayor; and Cllrs Mrs CR Cox; JR Farmer; LRV Fulcher; AR Green; M Hill; Miss S Hoy; Mrs JR Jolley; Mrs YP Lawrence; Mrs VM Macrae; PB O'Dell; DC Oliver; DR Patrick; HB Wegg; DA Wheeler; and T Wright.

In attendance: E Murat (Town Clerk); A Sullivan (Cambs Constabulary); G Garford (Fenland District Council).

There were no parishioners.

122. Apologies and absences

An Apology was received from Cllr Parker – work commitments.

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

Cllr Frusher was absent without apology

123. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

124. Minutes of the meeting of Full Town Council held on 13 December 2010 (as circulated).

On a proposal from Cllr Wheeler and seconded by Cllr Oliver members APPROVED the minutes of the above meeting.

125. Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 13 December 2010 and 10 January 2011 (attached)

On a proposal from Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Oliver members ADOPTED the minutes of the above meetings, which were actioned under delegated authority.

126. Civic Amenities

Members NOTED that the scheduled meeting of Civic Amenities and Mayor's Charity Fund committee was cancelled due to insufficient business.

127. Report Back by Gary Garford (Fenland District Council) and other FDC matters.

Members NOTED the quarterly report from FDC (circulated), the feedback form from Mike Chapman, Markets and Events Manager, and the prioritisation form from FDC (previously circulated by email with hard copy to members without email). GG reported that the purpose of the form was to engage the community. Also the questions may be accessed on line in different languages.

Members were concerned that the prioritisation form is not comparing like with like, and that it was misleading to include functions that were statutory like bin collection alongside non-statutory functions, and that FDC could be more sophisticated without losing the public.

GG stated that statutory services may be varied to reflect prioritization because the function is statutory not how it is undertaken i.e. having one planning officer instead of six.

Cont



2010/2011 – 40

- The three concrete columns that are to be re-instated on the Nene Development site say – ‘Gas’, ‘Light’ and ‘Power’ and are being put back as a heritage feature.
- The traffic Lights on the De Havilland Road/Lynn Road junction are due to be completed by the end of March 2011. It will be a three way system and incorporating cycle ways and pedestrian crossing.
- The play area on the Spinney is a Cambs County Council project and GG was not able to report on it.

Inspector Andy Sullivan reminded the Council that the play area is designed as an Adventure Play Park. He reported that the police are getting less calls out to it now, although tempers appear to remain high amongst some residents.

He also reported that Lighting and CCTV did not feature in the original planning approval and that these were ‘work in progress’.

Cllr Wheeler reported that the person charged with £60,000 worth of criminal damage is a resident of Ollard Ave, and the case is with the criminal courts now. Inspector Sullivan was not able to comment.

Mr Garford left the meeting.

128. Report Back by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

Members welcomed Inspector Sullivan back after his period of absence. He advised members that he had been to a rehabilitation centre for his knee. He reported the following:

- There were 255 (8.9%) less victims of crimes in Wisbech in the last year.
- Fear of crime was going up but it is not helped by emotive articles in the papers.
- There were 92 offences less on anti-social behaviour.
- Fenland has been selected to pilot new methods of policing through the Fenland Safer Partnership, and the new mechanisms are to be put in place soon.
- He identified priority areas as the Spinney; the town centre; the Park; and Peckover School.
- The DPPO is due to be reviewed this year.
- There were 1470 seizures of alcohol in 2010 of which there were 33 in October; 16 in November; and 11 in December – less than five in total led to arrestable offences.
- The police have recently objected to two licensed premises applications: The Rosmini which has agreed to operating procedure; and a 24 hours a day off licence where they objected on the grounds of crime and disorder. The proprietors have agreed with the Inspector to compromise to 1 pm at the moment.
- It was noted that overgrown areas are being cut back revealing people sleeping rough. This is a factor to be dealt with under the Cohesion Strategy. Police sign post people to FDC.
- With regard to the Court Closure - it is all one building (with the Police station) – if sold it could be an issue. The police are looking at a strategy to establish what they can do in Wisbech when the court closes in March 2011.
- Officers are told not to enter the Spinney after 8pm – in the Summer the 8 pm policy will be reviewed + councillors may contact the Inspector direct with any issues.
- Cambridgeshire County Council has employed security on site at great expense.

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- Members were asked to note that residents put in planning objections against lighting and higher fencing. Originally CCC did propose lighting and higher fencing. They are now considering lower brightness lights.

Inspector Sullivan left the meeting. Cllr Farmer left the meeting for two minutes.

129. Mayor's update

Members NOTED that the Mayor has visited many schools as part of his Christmas visiting, and also formally opened the Christmas market which he said was 'very good indeed – a superb event'. He thanked Cllr O'Dell for his involvement in organising the event.

130. Clerk's up-date

This includes items in addition to the work we are doing with Fenland District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council dealt with elsewhere on the agenda – as circulated by email to members and hard copies put into the boxes of those members without email (over the past month). Members NOTED the following:

- a) Letter received from Royal Air Force Association thanking us for flying the ensign to celebrate the Battle of Britain.
- b) Email from CPALC describing the changing role of Town and Parish Councillors with an invitation to attend the next meeting of CPALC at which this topic is to be discussed circulated to members on 11 January 2011.
- c) Details of the new 'Localism Bill' giving Town and Parish Councils statutory powers on Planning matters (email circulated 13 January 2011) – see item 131 below.

131. Localism Bill: Real planning powers handed to parishes (and towns).

Members considered setting up a planning working party to recommend commitment to the four elements of the Bill which was published by the Government on 13 December 2010:

- a) Neighbourhood Plans.
- b) Neighbourhood Development Orders.
- c) Duty to consult local communities on major planning applications.
- d) Local referendum on key issues.

On a proposal from Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Miss Hoy members AGREED to refer this aspect of the Localism Bill to the Council's Planning Committee.

132. Membership of outside bodies

Members NOTED the following.

- a) Thomas Clarkson Community College Trust has been notified that Cllr Wheeler is to be the representative from the Town Council on their Trustees Board.
- b) Wisbech in Bloom have asked for a Councillor to be selected to represent the Council. We had very short notice for a meeting on Tuesday 25 January and Cllr Hill as Chairman of Allotments very kindly agreed to attend on our behalf. For future Wisbech in Bloom meetings, members were asked to formally select a representative.

On a proposal from Cllr Meekins and seconded by Cllr Wheeler, Cllr Hill was selected to be the Council's representative.



133. Octavia Hill’s Birthplace House

Members are asked to consider a request from the Trustees of Octavia Hill’s Birthplace House for support from the Council in their wish to acquire the large open space opposite ‘Sessions Hall’, and to decide what form that support should take.

On a proposal from Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Oliver it was AGREED that Wisbech Town Council supports the Octavia Hill Birthplace House project in principle, and to refer the matter to the next F&GP committee meeting on 14 February for specific consideration.

134. Poll Cards

Members NOTED the following advice we have had relating to the cost of poll card provision, to enable the Town Council to make a decision about whether or not we will require them for Wisbech, in the event that seats are contested.

Regarding combined poll cards. The current draft bill for the referendum allows combined poll cards for the referendum and principal area elections but not for parish/town elections. I am afraid that parish/town poll cards (if used) will have to be separate. The Electoral Commission will however provide wording to be included on combined poll cards in areas where parish/town council elections may be contested to alert voters to this fact. The draft bill states the following:

Official poll cards - Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill Schedule 5 — Combination of polls: England Part 1 — Provision about combination

17 (1) If the counting officer thinks fit, the official poll cards used for the referendum and for the relevant elections may be combined. In sub-paragraph (1) “relevant election” does not include the election of a councillor of a parish council.

(2) In that case, the forms required to be used for official poll cards for the referendum and relevant elections must be adapted in whatever manner seems necessary.

This paragraph applies instead of—

- (a) rule 25(6) of the Local Elections (Combination of Polls) Rules;
- (b) rule 16(6) of the Local Referendums (Combination of Polls) Rules;
- (c) rule 27(6) of the Mayoral Elections (Combination of Polls) Rules.

Regarding potential costs associated with poll cards FDC has contacted the printers and has requested potential costs for town/parish councils, which they have not yet received. But they are saying, ‘it would however be useful if we could get an ‘in principle’ decision from town/ parish Councils regarding their preference about poll cards’.

On a proposal from Cllr Oliver and seconded by Cllr Wright members AGREED that the Clerk should request that poll cards be sent to all wards and to have electoral commission recommended wording used on them.

135. Correspondence from Cambridgeshire County Council – displayed on the notice board and circulated to members by email and hard copy as appropriate.

Members NOTED the following correspondence.

- a) Consultation on County budget plans email circulated 14/12/2010 with links to website.
- b) Boleness Road and Algores way re-surfacing of short section of roads – email circulated 12 January 2011.



2010/2011 – 43

- c) Salt Bins clarification circulated 24 December 2010.
- d) Sure Start Children's Centres newsletter (on notice board)

136. Correspondence General – displayed on the notice board.

Members NOTED the following correspondence

- a) Clerk Direct newsletter + training opportunities
- b) CCVS community news.
- c) The Clerk magazine
- d) Providing Lifetime care - NHS
- e) West Norfolk Life magazine
- f) Cambridgeshire Pride magazine
- g) SLCC training opportunities
- h) Life Fenland magazine

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm

Signed.....

Dated.....

