



ATTLEBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

Town Hall, Queens Square, Attleborough, Norfolk, NR17 2AF
Tel: 01953 456194 - email: enquiries@attleboroughtc.org.uk

Minutes of the Meeting of Attleborough Town Council Held on Monday, 11 January 2016 at 7.00pm in the Town Hall

Present:

Cllr A Perkins – presiding

Cllr G Ellis	Cllr G Dickerson	Cllr E Tyrer	Cllr T Crouch
Cllr M Weaver	Cllr J Williams	Cllr S Taylor	Cllr T Taylor
Cllr J Burton	Cllr R Bond	Cllr C Kilby	Cllr V Dale
Cllr T Cobb			

In attendance – Gina Lopes – Clerk to Attleborough Town Council
Dist Cllr T Ashby Dist Cllr K Martin Dist Cllr A Stasiak
4 x public

215.15) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted as follows:-
Cllr J Blyth - illness

216.15) Declarations of Interest

a) To receive and consider declarations of interest in items below

Declarations of interest were received as follows:-

Cllr C Kilby - Agenda Item 8 (Boxing Club)
Cllr E Tyrer - Agenda Item 10 (Create Consulting)
Cllr Crouch - Agenda Item 7 (cheques)
Cllr Perkins - Agenda Item 7 (cheques)
Cllr Ellis - Agenda Item 7 (cheques)

b) To receive and consider dispensations in respect of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – None received

217.15) Public Participation

RESOLVED to suspend the meeting to allow the public to speak – See “Public Participation Notes” attached

218.15a) Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 7 December 2015

RESOLVED to approve and accept the minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 7 December 2015 as a true and accurate record of the meeting, subject to the minor amendment below; the Chairman duly signed the minutes

Min 212.15a – ~~delete~~ “Bond”

218.15b) Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee meeting held on 7 December 2015

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the meeting of the Planning & Highways Committee held on 7 December 2015 and the recommendations therein

218.15c) Minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 7 December 2015

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 7 December 2015 and the recommendations therein

219.15) Councillors Reports

Brief verbal reports were received and included the following:-

Cllr Dale – street lights 570, 571 and 573 are all unlit, the repeating sign at the top of New North Road is unlit, there are lights from Banham Poultry which helps but first thing in the morning it is hard to see the white lining and is dangerous and a resident recently fell over – to report to Amey. Also reported that the Grounds staff had done a very good job in tidying and clearing the old closed churchyard which now looked “very nice” and thanks were expressed

Cllr Bond – Near the bus stop outside the Academy there is currently a large puddle – to report to Highways

Cllr Williams – White House Lane, Buckenham Road and by the side of the garages, the ditches/dykes were full of rubbish including plastic bottles and looks untidy – query as to when these would be cleared and also suggestion to consider community payback scheme. Additionally reported a pothole in Exchange Street – to report to Highways

Cllr Kilby – Confirmed that Attleborough had put on a fantastic show with the Christmas lights but queried why they could not be switched on earlier as this would be beneficial to the town and the businesses

Cllr Ellis – confirmed that the date for the light switch on would be earlier as scheduled for 27 November 2016 and also advised that the electricity costs would be higher if switched on earlier and longer

Cllr Cobb – wanted the lights to go on as the children came out of school and also queried membership of the Christmas Carnival committee and queried District Cllr Pettitt’s absence. After brief discussion it was confirmed that Cllr Pettitt was currently abroad but the Carnival was being covered by someone else and that this committee was independent of the Town Council – the Clerk was asked to write to the carnival committee and request the date of the AGM

Cllr T Taylor – reported that the path near the entrance at Norfolk Drive needs cutting back as overgrown with brambles

Cllr S Taylor – reported that there was a bin missing by Lloyds Bank and several bins broken – Queen’s Square, Cyprus Road and missing by Mckays. Noted that Serco had been litter picking after New Year’s Eve celebrations which was good

Cllr Crouch – update on Community Speedwatch as now have the required number of volunteers and just waiting for training

Cllr Perkins – members of the public had raised concern regarding the state of the verge in Cyprus Road but noted this had now been cleared

Cllr Cobb – reported that the business forum had about 100 people on an email list and is meeting once a month and councillors are welcome to attend and can also be added to the email list. Provisional event list which includes Valentine’s Dance, Queen’s 90th Birthday and a Firework party on 5 November 2016 with funds being sourced from big businesses

Cllr Weaver – White House Lane is flooded and the ditches are full and in Slough Lane there is fibreglass on the road that has been there for 4 months and needs tidying up. Reiterated that the Christmas lights were very good

Cllr Dickerson – requested that the unmade area to the rear of the Town Hall used for staff parking be tidied up as the tape and pins looked untidy

Cllr Ellis – Noted that although reported, the potholes in New North Road and Connaught Road, outside Myhills and outside Royal Hotel, had still not been repaired. Also advised that legally ditches must be kept clear by the landowner but this is not being done

ACTION: CLERK

220.15) Other Reports

Reports were received and accepted as below:-

a) Mayor's diary – Cllr Perkins presented his diary and advised that there were funds available through the market town's initiative and he and the Clerk had met with the Breckland Officer to discuss; thanks were expressed to all involved with the excellent Christmas lights; reference made to potential improvements for the station by Abellio amongst other events during the month

b) County and District Councillors

Dist Cllr Stasiak – Attended a meeting at Breckland re Local Plan and pointed out that all applications were in but there was nothing on the link road; additionally most new dwellings had parking provision but in relation to parking for the town there did not seem to be answers and stated there was a need to be more proactive when developers have informal discussions. Reported that the Grampian site is ready to be considered and suggested that Breckland and the Town Council ask for some land to be set aside for a car park. Another issue was Snetterton as it was hoped jobs would be created but there was a problem with the electric supply, however, there is an option to upgrade the supply at a cost of £1.6million and Breckland is asking for views

Dist Cllr Ashby – Attended the Local Plan meeting as well. Confirmed that currently Dist Cllr Pettitt is abroad and he and Dist Cllr Oliver will cover all her previously agreed bookings. He and Cllr Ellis raised an issue with the Police regarding Travis Perkins and HGVs parking and unloading on the highway and this has not happened since the Police became involved. Confirmed that he will investigate the S106 health provision but at the Carvers Lane meeting was advised it was not for the District to provide health care. Confirmed there is a £200 grant available for the Queen's birthday celebrations. Future meetings to attend on the Neighbourhood Plan and also on the link road

Dist Cllr Martin – Regular meetings with Julie Kennealy, attended a planning meeting earlier in the day with 14 items which included a debate on the crematorium which was given permission. Attended a site visit to Natures food factory and this application was also approved as well as other applications and noted that one application received concerns regarding sewage and drainage

8.30pm Cllr Dickerson left the meeting

c) Other representatives & Town Affairs

Cllr Burton – Attended a meeting of the Attleborough Football Club on 30 December 2015 and was very impressed at how the club had been "turned around" and was well maintained. Cllr Burton has also attended a recent meeting of the Boxing Club and this is one of the leading clubs in East Anglia

d) Clerk's report – No report at this time

221.15) Financial Matters

a) To authorise the payment of cheques

On the motion of Cllr S Taylor, seconded by Cllr Dale, it was

RESOLVED to approve and accept the payment of cheques as per tabled list - Total £41,913.09

b) To agree direct debits

On the motion of Cllr Bond, seconded by Cllr Crouch, it was

RESOLVED to approve and accept the direct debits as per tabled list - Total £13,408.62

c) To receive Income

On the motion of Cllr Bond, seconded by Cllr Williams, it was

RESOLVED to approve and accept the income for December as per tabled list – Total £820.09

d) Income & Expenditure Report to 30 November 2015 – Noted for information

e) Tour of Britain fund raising - donation cheques – Cllr Perkins confirmed that £2,550 had been raised during the Tour of Britain “Bike fest” events and donations of £1,000 each for Attleborough Day Centre & Club 99 had been agreed by the Town Team fundraisers.

RESOLVED to approve payment of £1,000 each to Attleborough Day Centre & Club 99 from fund raising money

f) Review of allotment deposits – The Clerk explained that allotment tenants often left debris on their plots when they decided to terminate their tenancy and the grounds staff had to spend time tidying up and clearing the rubbish which also could incur skip costs. The Clerk asked members to consider increasing the £20 deposit and this was discussed at length. Members were generally in favour of increasing the deposit but agreed this item should be debated further at the next Environment Committee meeting

ACTION: CLERK

222.15) S106 fund proposals

(Cllr Kilby left the meeting for this item)

a) Boxing Club & Gaymers sports area and floodlights – Cllr Burton gave a brief verbal update; the Attleborough Boxing Club will apply direct for £10,000 in funds. Mr Seaman is going to apply for approx. £20,000 on behalf of Attleborough Football Club and the Club is excited at the prospect of the funds. Mr Hall has done a lot of research on the S106 agreements and has established there is approximately £80,000 available for London Road and £70,000 for Norfolk Drive play area. This was discussed and the use of match funding was suggested and also that there should be sufficient funding available to install the MUGA discussed at the last meeting. Cllr Burton assured members he would keep them informed of progress made

223.15) Decoy Common

Transfer of land to the Town Council – The response letter received from the Attleborough Town Lands Charity was noted at this time

(RESOLVED to continue the meeting past the two hour deadline)

224.15) Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan

a) Update – Cllr Tyrer gave a brief report which included the following:

- Liz Wrigley had sent out the draft Plan document but this is not ready for public circulation and there is still more to do
- There has been a lot of work and the next stage is to go through the draft with Breckland planning officers and consider it with the draft Local Plan and consider if there are significant differences
- Waiting for Breckland to confirm if we need an assessment and for confirmation of timetable – suggest that District Councillors may help on this
- Once clarification from Breckland is received, the group can reschedule
- Assurance given that no further money is required
- Comments on the draft are invited
- The supporting documentation is continuing; the delivery strategy can be taken to the Development Partnership
- “Urbanblu” has offered the services of an intern to work for free but would require a mapping system at a cost of £1,800 but in discussion with others Cllr Tyrer felt there was not the desire for this so could decline the offer
- The Town Council could shape the Local Plan by the production of the Neighbourhood Plan

Concern was raised that significant items such as the link road and employment seemed to be missing from the draft document and assurance was given that these would be included in the final document. Further concern raised on the timescale and Cllr Tyrer advised that they were aiming for March, however, it was subjective **RESOLVED** that Mr Gibb from Urbanblu should be invited to present his proposals for the mapping system to the Council

RESOLVED that Cllr Bond, the Town Clerk and Mr Middleton would attend the Development Partnership meeting on 22 January 2016

ACTION: CLERK/RB

9.50pm Cllr Bond, Cllr Kilby and Cllr Tyrer left the meeting

b) Appointment of Create Consulting –

There was a lengthy discussion on the appointment of Create Consulting as members of the Steering Group now felt the services of this company were no longer required because Cllr Tyrer was no longer employed by them. Several concerns were raised including the Council’s liability, Cllr Tyrer’ availability and whether there was a need for technical expertise.

On the motion of Cllr S Taylor, seconded by Cllr Weaver, it was

RESOLVED that Cllr Perkins, Cllr Burton, Cllr Kilby and the Town Clerk should arrange to meet with Create Consulting to review their service and progress forward on behalf of Attleborough Town Council

ACTION: CLERK/TP/JBTN/CK

225.15) Correspondence

a) **HSBC Closure** – Noted for information

b) **Thank You letter – Poppy appeal** – Noted for information

c) **Attleborough Heritage Group – Blue plaques** – General support for proposals

d) **Flexibus service** – Suggest service to the Hospital is provided by the Flexibus

226.15) Date of next Meeting

1 February 2016

The meeting closed at 10.15pm

Public Participation Notes

The Chairman invited members of the public to speak and comments received included the following:-

- There was a problem with the doctors which the EDP has highlighted as the practice in Attleborough is being asked to accommodate an additional 10,000 patients
- It is not a problem to recruit doctors, however, there is no room for any additional partners and currently they are “hot-desking”
- Request that S106 funding could be directed towards health provision and ask that the Town Council lobby the District Council to avoid closure of lists and inability to recruit partners
- It was refuted that any of the doctors had ever been formally consulted by planners although they were involved with the Neighbourhood Plan Group, however, it was stressed no-one had ever visited or spoken to the doctors or offered any additional funding
- Suggestion that Orbit Homes should be sent a letter expressing disappointment that they have not spoken to the doctors as councillors were assured in a previous meeting that this would happen
- Stated that the District Council is in charge and should be asked why they have not carried out this consultation with the doctors but moving forward the Neighbourhood Plan gives the Town Council more involvement, reference to delivery strategy and S106 agreements
- Concern raised that opportunities have been lost because of failure of S106 process
- Reported that in conversation with the surgery, there had been shock that 1,500 houses had already been built and confirmation that they had in excess of 250 new patients sign on in the six weeks before Christmas
- Concern that the situation could not wait until the Neighbourhood Plan was finalised as needed addressing immediately and residents were lucky if they could get a doctor’s appointment the same day
- Suggestion to compile a register of S106 agreements and concern that money was being spent where there was not a need