

HUNSTANTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Full Council held in the Council Chamber on Wednesday 27th November 2024 at 6pm

Present: Cllrs: Ruston (Chair), Howard (Deputy Chair), Barber, Bishopp, Carruthers, Corby, Croucher, Easeman, Fuchter, Smith

Also Present: BCLlr Angie Dickinson
Cllr Rawnsley (Heacham Parish Council)
Town Clerk Jan Roomes
Admin Officer Louise Parton
Members of the public x 2
Police Officer x 1
Press x 1

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence received from Cllrs: Cribb, Kidd, Williamson & BCLlr Beal.
No apologies received from Cllr Jawed.

2. Public Question Time

A member of the public commented she had received no update of Chatsworth Road Property and the situation is deteriorating.

A second member of the public asked if there was any further information regarding the building of flats at the library site.

It was also noted that complaints had been received to a Cllr regarding music from holiday sites.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no members' declarations of interest.

4. Minutes – confirmation of

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held 25th October 2024 were confirmed and signed as a true record (Proposed Cllr Bishopp, seconded Cllr Barber, 8 for, 1 against & 1 abstention).

5. Police Report

A brief report was given, 6 recorded offences, 1 Drug related, 2 thefts in the last month.

6. Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk

BCLlr Dickinson advised she had nothing new to report only that she was as disappointed as HTC that the first they know about anything happening in Hunstanton is from a press release.

Cllr Croucher pointed out the flats on Southend Road had been removed from the market and that a consultation was taking place but asked who was this with as HTC have not been asked?

Cllr Bishopp noted the next meeting held by the BC regarding the planning of more flats in the town is a closed meeting not to be aired on-line and questioned why this was.

7. Heacham Recycling Centre

Cllr Rawnsley from Heacham Parish Council was welcomed to the meeting and gave a report about Heacham PC's concerns regarding the appointment system at Heacham Recycling Centre. The majority of members present agreed they too had concerns. Cllr Corby to write to NCC Cllr Jamieson asking for an update on how the system at Heacham Recycling Centre is working and report back to next Full Council meeting.

8. Norfolk County Council

A generic report relating to all Norfolk business was received in the office from Norfolk County Councillor Andrew Jamieson and circulated to all members.

9. Mayors Report

Interesting month meeting great people young and old.

Remembrance Service on 10th November was well attended but disappointing we had to vary the parade route at the last minute.

Next day was the 11am silence in the High Street

12th was a meeting on Recreation Ground future activity. It was not a HAG meeting but called by Charles Meakin involving representatives of sports groups. I went in a private capacity having provided name/contacts of various people.

20th was Glebe House School open day with a tour of the school at 9.30. Nice event particularly the Pre-prep which I had never been into. Children having a great rapport with teachers. Followed at 12.00 with meeting Roger Partridge and his successor, Jessica Parker, a very capable lady who was the wedding organiser at Heacham Manor previously. We kicked ideas about for an hour.

21st – Jan, Tony and I went to KL for a meeting with BCKLWN Finance Officers and learned much about Council Tax and the impact on precepts of “Double Council Tax on 2nd homes” (with effect from 1st April 2025).

25th was a Teams meeting on Prosperity Funding Partnership for 90 mins chaired by Cllr. Simon Ring. Gov’t money for UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund. I think we have largely been unaware of these (as have many others). They exist to fund “High Street Improvements”, “Community Infrastructure Projects”, “Business Grants” and “Platform 30” (young people’s activities) among others. They will circulate the slides shown. There were 30 participants. Mentioned was “VENI” Visitor Economy Network Initiative – I need to find out more, but coach tourism is growing fast. I am now up to 58 new operators in town this year. Recently from Wigan and Darlington!!

26th last night – Great evening at Smithdon School prizegiving for this year’s leavers. All so very impressive young people. Gave them a plug to join Councils and get their voices heard – they are the future.

Tomorrow, Jan and I meet Louise Godfrey, Regeneration and Economic Support Officer at BCKLWN to hear about “Project Opportunities” and will report back.

10. Accounts

10.1 Consideration and authorisation was given to payment of Schedules of Accounts for the Town Council No’s. 25/07 TH & 2/07 CC. Copies circulated to members prior to the meeting. Proposed Cllr Smith, seconded Cllr Corby (unanimous).

10.2 The Mayor advised members there would no longer be Schedule no.’s (a) & CC (a) presented to council. Any additional payments for consideration since paperwork went out would be listed in bold on the current schedules, amended copies to be tabled.

11. Committees

11.1 Highways & Byways Committee meeting held 13th November 2024

RESOLVED: Cllr Fuchter, seconded Cllr Croucher (unanimous) to accept the Highways & Byways Terms of Reference.

11.2 Personnel Committee meeting held 7th November 2024

RESOLVED: Cllr Fuchter, seconded Cllr Croucher, (unanimous) to accept the Personnel Committee Terms of Reference.

12. Planning

Nothing to report.

13. HAG Report

Last meeting was 20th November attended only by Charles Meakin, Paul Beal and me so general chat and nothing formal!!

The two projects undertaken have been “Improved road and street signage” and a “Seafront lido”, both stalled. The former due to County Council indecision and the latter because it would need to go alongside Oasis redevelopment on or near the seafront. HAG will cease meeting monthly, maybe bi-monthly, quarterly or cease to exist.

14. Precept

14.1 The Mayor & Cllr Bishopp gave a report relating to 2nd home ownership following attendance at the recent meeting with BC, slide of meeting sent out to all Cllrs.

14.2 A discussion took place, members resolved the Precept figure for 2025/26 to remain the same as the past 3 years at £195,000. Cllr Bishopp, seconded Cllr Fuchter, (unanimous) to accept the Precept figures for 2025/24 to remain the same as the past 3 years at £195,000.

15. Parish Partnership Scheme

Cllr Fuchter gave the following report:

The much-delayed meeting with the Highway Engineer finally took place on Tuesday 19.11.24. The post of Highway Engineer assigned to our area has been vacant since July and Andy Wallace stood in to cover our request. We went through the draft list of projects one by one and he gave advice on each one. This was noted and summarised back to him in an email, with a request that he confirm the advice and specifics such as costs.

Once this is finalised (expected today) this will be circulated to Highways and Byways Committee for in depth review and formulation of a proposal which will be submitted to the next Full Council on 11 December for decisions on whether to submit a bid, and its scope.

The revised deadline for submission of our bid is Friday 13th December.

16. Volunteers for Upcoming Events

Clerk requested volunteers for the following 2 upcoming events:

16.1 Christmas Lights Switch On 1st Dec, event runs from 8am through to 6pm
Cllr Carruthers, Smith, Croucher, Howard, Bishopp, Ruston & Corby offered their support.

16.2 Children’s Christmas Party 15th Dec, assistance required from 10.30am – 2.30pm
Cllr Corby, Howard, Carruthers, Croucher, Ruston, Barber offered their support.

17. Standing Orders

Members resolved (Cllr Smith, Seconded Barber, 8 for, 1 against, 1abstention) to accept the amendment to Standing Order 4.1 to read:

A quorum of the council shall be 6

This was a proposal made at the Full Council meeting held 23rd October 2024.

For Information: Standing Orders: 21.2 A motion permanently to vary or revoke a Standing Order or Financial Regulation shall, when proposed and seconded, stand adjourned without discussion to the next or other specified meeting of the Council.

18. Zero Tolerance Policy

Members considered implementing a Zero Tolerance Policy.

Proposed to accept Cllr Howard, seconded Cllr Corby (9 for 1 abstention). The Zero Tolerance Policy was accepted.

19. Hunstanton Christmas Lights

Members considered starting discussions with BC for HTC to assist with the cost of purchasing additional Christmas lights for 2025 for the Town.

Cllr Bishopp proposed talks to commence, seconded Cllr Corby (unanimous).

20. Committees, Task & Finish Groups & Representatives

20.1 Members considered and resolved to open a **Venue Promotional Events Task & Finish Group** requested by Cllr Carruthers & Cllr Williamson (proposed Cllr Carruthers, seconded Cllr Croucher 9 for 1 abstention).

20.2 Members considered and resolved to open a **VE Day 80th Anniversary Task & Finish Group** (Cllr Bishopp, seconded Cllr Carruthers, unanimous).

20.3 Consideration was given to any member who wished to join or leave any Committee and/or Task & Finish Group.
Cllr Carruthers to join General Purpose and Venue Promotional Events Task & Finish Group.
Cllr Croucher to join Venue Promotional Events Task & Finish Group.
Cllr Ruston to join Venue Promotional Events Task & Finish Group & VE Day 80th Anniversary Task & Finish Group.
Cllr Easeman, Cllr Corby & Cllr Howard to join VE Day 80th Anniversary Task & Finish Group.

21. Public Question Time

A member of the public asked for an update on Cliff Terrace / Northgate junction.

Meeting closed 7.25