

HUNSTANTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Full Council held in the Town Hall on
Wednesday 22nd January 2025 at 6pm

Present: Mayor of Hunstanton Cllr Ruston, Deputy Mayor Cllr Howard
Cllrs: Barber, Carruthers, Corby, Cribb, Croucher, Easeman, Kidd, Smith,
Williamson

Also Present: Town Clerk Jan Roomes
NCC Cllr Andrew Jamieson
James Sutcliffe
Members of the public x 3
Press x 1

The Mayor held a 1 minute silence in memory of ex Cllr Simon Bower & Lin Devlin

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence received from Cllr Bishopp, Cllr Fuchter, BCllr Dickinson & BCllr Beal.

2. Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

3. Co-Option

Members considered 1 qualifying candidate standing for co-option to be a Councillor with Hunstanton Town Council.

Cllr Howard proposed Mrs Julie Marziano be co-opted, seconded by Cllr Williamson (unanimous).

Cllr Marziano was invited to join the table and proceeded to read and sign the declaration.

4. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Croucher & Cllr Ruston declared an interest in agenda item 15.

5. Minutes – confirmation of

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held 11/12/2024 were confirmed and signed as a true record (Cllr Smith, seconded Cllr Barber, 11 for, 1 abstention).

6. Police Report

No Police report received.

7. Wash Barrier Proposal

James Sutcliffe gave a presentation and update on the Wash Barrier Proposal.

Cllr Barber asked where the road was coming in on the drawing as it was not clear, Cllr Cribb asked was the project essential, Cllr Corby raised concerns regarding the wildlife.

Members were asked to forward any further questions to the Clerk who would then liaise with James Sutcliffe.

A discussion took place after the presentation, members agreed the project could have a major impact on Hunstanton. HTC to discuss and agree their actions moving forward. The Wash Barrier Proposal to be an agenda item for all future Environment Committee meetings and Full Council meetings.

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

No Borough Councillor present.

9. Norfolk County Council

Norfolk County Councillor Andrew Jamieson gave a detailed report. Link to full report: <https://www.hunstantontowncouncil.gov.uk/documents/1954801>

A discussion took place regarding the Recycling Centre at Heacham. Cllr Jamieson took questions and advised he would report back with answers.

10. Mayors Report

The Mayor reported he had attended the recent West Norfolk Tourism Forum where the focus was working to maintain tourism.

11. Accounts

11.1 Consideration and authorisation was given to payment of Schedules of Accounts for the Town Council No. 25/09 (Cllr Ruston, seconded Cllr Smith, unanimous).

11.2 Cllr Smith gave the following report:

The quarterly audit for the three months ended 31st December 2024 was carried out by Cllrs. Smith & Easeman on the 16th January 2025. Payment and sales invoices were spot checked for that period and entered on the appropriate council document. They were further traced to the bank statements.

It was noted that one invoice from S. & M. Builders for a gross figure of £1,422 (including £237 VAT) was their invoice no. of only 2, however we were assured by the office that this did not prove a problem.

The full council minutes were verified against the checked invoices although December's have yet to be signed.

The VAT receipt for the previous three months amounting to £3,427.36 was traced as banked on 18.10.24.

Debtors and creditors were perused. The only outstanding matter was a debtor from the Martial Arts hirer who has left to live in Spain owing £480. The council however are still attempting to recover this.

The Clerk advised full payment had been received.

12. Committees – Considerations & Recommendations

12.1 Consideration was given to the General Purposes & Community Committee be held monthly (currently held alternate months).

RESOLVED: Cllr Croucher, seconded Cllr Barber, unanimous) the General Purposes & Community Committee be held monthly.

Finance Committee Meeting held 08/01/2025

12.2 Before going to a vote on agenda item 12.2 the Clerk, as RFO, raised concerns: that there had been no detailed paperwork on how future events would be run, no event plan, where the finance was being sourced from or who was overseeing what. Cllr Howard stated the agenda item was to organise a Carnival not a weekend event and that council had not agreed to the Carnival being a 3 day event for 2025.

Cllr Croucher stated it was clear the Clerk did not want these events to continue.

The Clerk rejected the accusation, stating she had worked very hard to promote and run the previous events and her concerns were lack of volunteers, finance of events and workload in office.

RESOLVED: (Cllr Croucher, seconded Cllr Carruthers, 9 for, 2 abstentions) the Carnival & Christmas Festival events to remain under HTC umbrella subject to securing funding and volunteers at least 3 months in advance for each event.

12.3, 12.4 & 12.5 taken together

12.3 RESOLVED: to approve the Community Centre concept design

12.4 RESOLVED: to approve the second Community Centre survey going out.

12.5 RESOLVED: to proceed with submitting a Community Centre pre-planning application (Cllr Ruston, seconded Cllr Cribb, 10 for, 1 abstention)

13. Town Christmas Lights

Consideration was given to £15,000 be ring fenced towards upgrading the town's Christmas Lights for 2025.

RESOLVED: (Cllr Carruthers, seconded Cllr Howard, unanimous) £15,000 be ring fenced towards upgrading the town's Christmas Lights for 2025. Clerk to write to Dave Morton advising HTC's decision.

14. Planning

Cllr Kidd gave an update on planning applications and asked members of E-Planning Committee to respond back to him in support or against on those outstanding.

15. Hunstanton District Festival of Arts

Cllr Croucher gave a report on the situation with HDFA and suggested HTC to consider becoming the legal Trustees of the Charity. Members agreed to consider and revisit at a future meeting.

16. Helping Hands Café

16.1 Consideration was given to continuing with the Helping Hands Café (members agreed at the Sept '24 Full Council meeting to monitor as some felt it had become a 'social group' more than a 'necessity').

RESOLVED: HTC to continue running the Helping Hands Café on a Monday morning (Cllr Croucher, seconded Cllr Carruthers, unanimous). Cllr Croucher & Cllr Howard to oversee. Cllr Croucher suggested those attending may be prepared to volunteer.

16.2 The offer from Gill Tanner to use the café room and kitchen at The Way Christian Centre to host the Helping Hands Café was considered. Members resolved unanimously not to relocate at the present time.

17. Event Updates

17.1 Cllr Howard gave a brief update on the plans for the Floods Memorial Service 31st January 2025.

17.2 Cllr Easeman and Cllr Williamson gave a brief update on the plans for the VE Day celebrations 8th – 11th May 2025.

17.3 Nothing to report, no meeting been held.

18. Friday Friendship Group

Cllr Howard gave a brief report on the Friday Group, further information had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

19. Norfolk Association of Local Council (NALC)

Consideration was given to HTC's vote on NALC's SPECIAL RESOLUTION: *That the Norfolk Association of Local Councils converts from a co-operative society to a company limited by guarantee*. Members agreed to support the change to a limited by guarantee (Cllr Corby, seconded Cllr Smith, 11 for, 1 abstention).

20. Committees & Task & Finish Group Members

Cllr Howard resigned from the VE Day Task & Finish Group as she would be unavailable on that weekend to assist.

21. Public Question Time

A resident updated HTC on the situation with her neighbour and the accumulation of rubbish in the front garden. Cllr Cribb advised her that whilst HTC had sympathy for her situation, HTC had no authority to assist her with these issues.

Meeting closed 8.29pm