

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EASTWOOD TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBER, EASTWOOD NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
ON MONDAY 19 OCTOBER 2009

Present: Cllr D Bagshaw, Cllr Mrs S Bagshaw, Cllr P Butler, Cllr Hazel Charlesworth, Cllr R Charlesworth, Cllr R Dodge, Cllr Tara Fiddymment, Cllr Mrs J Forrest, Cllrs B Griffin, J Kenny, K Longdon, Cllr Ms R Robb, C Robb, Cllr Mrs G Robb and Cllr J Zalewski.

Also present Revd David Stevenson, 20 members of the public.

Cllr Keith Longdon, Town Mayor in the Chair.

Before the commencement of the formal business, opening prayers were led by Revd David Stevenson.

049/10 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J Zalewski for late arrival owing to work commitments.

050/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were made: -

COUNCILLOR	ITEM	PERSONAL/PREDUCIAL
Cllr Hazel Charlesworth	Broxtowe Women's Project	Prejudicial
	Phoenix Musketeers	Personal
Cllr Tara Fiddymment	Eastwood Baptist Church	Personal
Cllr Mrs Josie Forrest	Age Concern Eastwood	Personal
Cllr J Kenny	Eastwood Volunteer Bureau	Personal
	Eastwood District Probus	Personal
Cllr R Dodge	Eastwood Collieries Male VC	Personal
Cllr Ms R Robb	Broxtowe Women's Project	Personal
Cllr Mrs G Robb	Eastwood Volunteer Bureau	Personal
Cllr C Robb	Age Concern	Personal
Cllr Mrs S Bagshaw	Eastwood Volunteer Bureau	Prejudicial
Cllr D Bagshaw	Stepping Stones	Prejudicial
Cllr P Butler	St Mary's Church	Personal
	CAB	Prejudicial
Cllr B Griffin	Eastwood Probus	Personal
	Greasley Miners Welfare FC	Personal
	Eastwood Cricket Club	Personal
	St Mary's Friendship Club	Personal
Cllr K Longdon	Moorgreen Colts FC	Personal
	Stepping Stones	Personal

051/10 NOTIFICATIONS OF LOBBYING

Cllr B Griffin gave notification of lobbying received from Eastwood Town Cricket Club in respect of application for grants.

Cllr J Kenny notified the meeting of lobbying received from Eastwood Racing Club in respect of applications for grants.

052/10 POLITICAL CONSTITUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

The meeting NOTED that Cllrs C Robb and Cllr Mrs G Robb had ceased to be members of the Liberal Democrats Party and had joined the Labour Party. The meeting NOTED that Cllr Ms Rayner Robb had ceased to be a member of the Liberal Democrats Party and was continuing as a politically independent Councillor. As a consequence the Town Council's new political constitution was as follows: -

Labour – 8 members (majority party)

Liberal Democrats – 6 members (minority party)

Independent – 1 member

The meeting then NOTED the following changes in group leadership appointments: -

Majority group leader – Cllr David Bagshaw

Majority group deputy leader – Cllr Peter Butler

Minority group leader – Cllr Richard Dodge

Minority group deputy leader – Cllr R Charlesworth

Cllr David Bagshaw spoke of the need to review all existing policies of the Council taking into account solely the interests of the Eastwood Community. He expressed a hope that political differences within the Council would not prevent all Councillors working together to the mutual benefit of Eastwood Town.

Cllr Richard Dodge endorsed these sentiments and undertook to try to make a real contribution to these objectives.

After a full discussion it was further NOTED that amended appointments to Council committees, representative roles and authorised signatories for cheques and transfers of funds between bank accounts would be determined at the Council meeting to be arranged on a date after 11 November 2009 (in order to comply with standing order number 36).

053/10 CURRENT APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr David Bagshaw mentioned that he proposed a change in the current appointment of Deputy Mayor at the next available Council meeting.

Cllr Richard Dodge referred to standing order number 13 which specified the appointments to be made for the year at the annual Council meeting and to standing order 36a (which defined the rules for rescinding previous decisions (time limits,

special resolutions etc). He also asked for reasons to be given for making any changes during the coming year.

After a full discussion the meeting NOTED the relevant standing orders with particular reference to the need for a written notice of a special resolution to be submitted, signed by a least five Council members .

054/10 MINUTES

a) Town Council meeting 17 August 2009

Cllr Tara Fiddymont referred to minute number 036/10 (notification of lobbying) and asked for a personal interest to be recorded in respect of traffic noise on Brookhill Leys Road. Cllr C Robb referred to minute 038/10 and reported upon action taken concerning a dropped kerb on Dawson Close.

The minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 17 August 2009 were adopted as a true and accurate record and signed by the Town Mayor.

b) Policy and Finance Committee 21 September 2009

It was noted that Cllr P Butler is currently a member of the committee. Cllr J Zalewski recorded his apologies for absence from this meeting. Cllr Mrs Josie Forrest recorded her prejudicial interest in grants (Age Concern). Cllr P Butler recorded his prejudicial interest in grants (CAB). Cllr B Griffin recorded his prejudicial interest in grants (all three specified in the minutes). Cllr Mrs Hazel Charlesworth recorded her personal interest in grants (Phoenix Musketeers).

The minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee held on 21 December 2009 were then adopted as a true and accurate record and signed by the Town Mayor.

c) Leisure and Maintenance Committee 28 September 2009

The Town clerk mentioned that one page of the minutes had been collated incorrectly and an amended set of minutes were circulated to all Councillors before the meeting.

The minutes of the meeting the Leisure and Maintenance Committee held on 28 September 2009 were ADOPTED as a true and accurate record and signed by the Town Mayor.

055/10 QUESTIONS/STATEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The Council agreed to suspend standing orders in order to allow members of the public present to address the meeting (standing order 70 refers).

For the reason of transparency in the Council's business, the matters brought up under this item of business; were as follows: -

NAMEMATTER

Jacqui Downes	Ask the Council to consider ways of involving students and school children in the work of the Town Council.
Colin Walker	Recorded his concern that the hazards to road safety and to traffic congestion caused by parked cars near the Church Street Medical Centre. Complained about the lack of parking for people paying money to the new Broxtowe Borough Council Office.
Bill Gregory	Remarked upon the variations in standards of maintenance of road surfaces between the north and south areas of the Borough.
Keith Brindley	Complained about parking litter and refuse caused by travellers parked on the west side of the Eastwood bye pass.
Neil Griffin	Complained about the state and declining condition of the bowls pavilion on Coronation Park and the urgent need for renovation. (At this stage Cllr B Griffin recorded a prejudicial interest in this item of business).
Maria Kirk	Ask for reasons for the change in political control of the Town Council from that resulting from the 2008 elections which returned a Liberal Democrat Council. Cllrs responded by confirming that the two Town Councillors involved had transferred to the Labour Party for personal reasons.

There being no further matters brought up from the public the Town Mayor thanked the residents for their useful contributions.

Standing orders were then re activated and the formal Council business of the meeting resumed.

056/10 REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr B Griffin gave a report upon the Council's gardening services.

Cllr Mrs Josie Forrest reported upon newsletters being published for the Age Concern and that she would shortly be asking for support from the Council for a Commemorative Plaque for the Colin Dyson Centre on Edward Road.

Both reports were noted by the meeting.

057/10 MATTERS CONCERNING THE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Town Mayor, Cllr Keith Longdon, in his capacity as County Councillor reported upon the following matters: -

- Barrier on Coppice Drive
- Footpath on Common Close

- New interactive road sign – Nottingham Rd East (more signs requested at other locations).
- Petition for a crossing at the Newthorpe Common junction submitted to the County Council.
- County Council grants to community groups being given.
- Resurfacing of Chapel Street under consideration.
- Road surface signs on Kelham Way to be renovated.
- Survey of roads in the Eastwood area being carried out.

The report was NOTED by the meeting.

058/10 MATTERS CONCERNING THE BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Town Clerk provided the meeting with details of a commemoration planting ceremony to be held by the Borough Council on the Mansfield Road Memorial Gardens.

Cllr C Robb reported upon the continuing efforts of the Borough Council to keep open Durban House on Mansfield Road.

Cllr J Kenny reported upon notices being provided on Hall Lane and a new dog litter basket.

The reported were NOTED by the meeting.

059/10 PROPOSED NEW TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES

The Town Clerk reported that the Police Authority application for planning consent for the new Police Station was under consideration by the Borough Council. Once this was given the Police Authority would be able to proceed to contract exchange for the purchase of the Town Council Offices. The Town Clerk further reported that the Town Council's building consultants, TE Cleggs, were now preparing an application for building regulations approval for adaptation works required for the former doctors' surgery premises on Plumptre Way.

The meeting NOTED these reports.

060/10 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS. YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2009.

The Town Clerk reported that the final external audit of accounts had now been completed by Clement Keys, Chartered Accountants of Edgbaston Birmingham. The Auditors have confirmed their opinion that the Council's annual return is fully in accordance with the Audit Commissions requirements and that no matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legalisation and regulatory requirements had not been met. No matters were raised requiring the attention of the Town Council.

The meeting NOTED this report.

061/10 PLANNING SUB COMMITTEE

The meeting received and noted the planning schedules for sub committee meetings on 7 August, 28 August, 18 September, 25 September and 2 October 2009.

062/10 RESIGNATION OF CURRENT TOWN CLERK

The meeting NOTED the resignation of the current Town Clerk Mr Malcolm F Plumb effective from 1 January 2010.

063/10 APPOINTMENT OF NEW CLERK

The meeting NOTED the appointment of Mr Chris Thompson as Town Clerk Designate effective from 1 November 2009.

Following the satisfactory conclusion of a six month probationary service, Mr Thompson to become substantive Town Clerk.

064/10 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted it was advisable in the public interests that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are therefore instructed to withdraw.

065/10 CHANGE OF CLERKSHIP TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

After discussion it was RESOVLED: -

- a) To authorise the payment of a retirement gratuity to the current Town Clerk subject to compliance with government regulations and a capped limit defined by the meeting.
- b) To authorise training costs for the Town Clerk Designate to study for the certificate in Local Council Administration.

066/10 NATIONAL SALARY AWARD 2009/10 FOR LOCAL COUNCIL STAFF

The Town Clerk reported that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services had reached agreement on the National Pay Scales for 2009/10. The new scales represented an increase in the region of 1%, and all councils had been recommended to adopt the new scales.

After discussions it was RESOLVED to adopt the new scales effective from 1 April 2009.

067/10 GRANTS TO COMMUNITY GROUPS

The meeting received and considered detailed applications for grants to be given under the Town Council approved budgets for grants to community groups and youth and sports development.

It was finally resolved to approve the following grants: -

Stepping Stones	£nil
Eastwood and District Probus Club	£100
Eastwood Photographic Society	£50
Eastwood St Mary's Wives Group	£100
Eastwood and Brinsley WI	£100
Greasley Miners' Welfare FC	£500 (YSD)
Broxtowe Women's Project	£200
Eastwood Collieries Male Voice Choir	£150
Eastwood Tennis Club	£500(YSD)
Eastwood Baptist Church	£100
Eastwood Art Club	£100
Eastwood Racing Pigeon Club	£100
The Greasley Singers	£nil
Citizens' Advice Bureau	£400
Eastwood Town Cricket Club	£1,500
St Mary's Friendship Club	£100
Eastwood & District Ladies' Probus Club	£100
Eastwood Historical Society	£100
Arts Group in Eastwood	£100
Cancer Research UK (Eastwood Branch)	£100
Phoenix Musketeers Showband	£nil
1 st Greasley Scouts	£500(YSD)
Moorgreen Colts FC	£500(YSD)
Age Concern	£400
Volunteer Bureau	£400

*YSD = youth sports development budget

There being no further business the Town Mayor Cllr Keith Longdon thanked everybody for their contributions and closed the meeting.