

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EASTWOOD TOWN COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBER, EASTWOOD,**  
**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ON MONDAY, 29 JUNE 2009 at 7.00 pm**

**Present:** Cllr D Bagshaw, Cllr Mrs S Bagshaw, Cllr P Butler, Cllr Hazel Charlesworth, Cllr R Charlesworth, Cllr R Dodge, Cllr Tara Fiddymont, Cllr Mrs J Forrest, Cllr B Griffin, Cllr K Longdon, Cllr C Robb, Cllr Mrs G Robb.

Also present: Mr S Dance (Head of Planning and Building Control, Broxtowe Borough Council), 14 members of the public and the Revd David Stevenson.

**Cllr K Longdon, Town Mayor, in the Chair.**

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

**018/10 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr J Kenny (attending Borough Council meeting), Cllr Ms R Robb (family commitments) and Cllr J Zalewski (work commitments).

**019/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr P Butler and Cllr Tara Fiddymont both declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 as they were nearby residents to areas the subject of the petition to be discussed.

Cllr D Bagshaw declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 15 – provision of photocopiers - due to his knowledge of the IT contractor referred to the report.

**020/10 NOTIFICATIONS OF LOBBYING**

Cllr P Butler reported that he had been lobbied in connection with agenda item number 8 – matters concerning the County Council.

**021/10 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings of the Town Council held on 11 May 2009 and of the Policy and Finance Committee held on 8 June 2009 were **ADOPTED** as a true and accurate record and signed by the Town Mayor, subject in the case of the Town Council minutes to it being noted that Cllr Dodge was not a member of the Leisure and Maintenance Committee.

**022/10 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 no: 70 refers).

The following questions/statements were made: -

- B Fretwell – asked if it was possible for action to be taken to lower the kerb at the junction of Dawson Close and Newthorpe Common to assist people with disabilities using mobility scooters.
- R Phillis – his understanding that Broxtowe Borough Council would not be using the ground floor of the proposed new Council Offices and that instead would be using alternative premises on Nottingham Road was confirmed. He felt that this would inconvenience a great number of older people in the area. Cllr Robb confirmed that the ground floor of the doctors' surgery had been offered to the Borough Council but that this offer had been declined. Mr Phillis also expressed concern that the issue of the consumption of alcohol on Coronation Park was not being tackled.
- I Dexter – asked whether, on road safety grounds, it would be possible for a survey to be undertaken assessing the potential for a crossing to be provided at the junction of Newthorpe Common with Nottingham Road.
- T Housely – drew attention to a road safety issue at the junction of Halls Lane and Newthorpe Common where drivers appeared to be forced to cut the junction and asked if it would be possible to install any safety measures, e.g. raised bollards.
- Jo Ball (Manager of Stepping Stones) – reported on the role of the Stepping Stones organisation in supporting young people and combating anti social behaviour in the area and said that she would like her attendance to mark the beginning of a positive relationship with the Town Council to support vulnerable young people in the area.
- M Harris – drew attention to problems concerning the speed and noise of motorcycles in the area, particularly on Brookhill Leys Road, Church Street and Chewton Street (this matter was dealt with at agenda item number 8).
- M Kirk – enquired why it was necessary to continue to run a bus from Morrison's to IKEA increasing congestion and pollution, when there was a perfectly adequate bus service that already serviced this route.
- Mr Craig – asked for clarification/investigation on whether any complaints had been made by allotment holders on the Derby Road site about rats on the allotments and whether any formal advice had been issued by the Town Council. This matter would be investigated.
- R Kirk – was of the view that the Cadets Cross site was in need of general maintenance and renovation, possibly more appropriately some hard landscaping. It was agreed to refer this matter to the Council's Leisure and Maintenance Committee for consideration.

The provisions of Standing Orders were reinstated for the remainder of the meeting.

## **023/10 PRESENTATION ON GREATER NOTTINGHAM CORE STRATEGY**

Mr Steve Dance was in attendance to advise the Town Council of the consultation exercise currently being undertaken on the issues and options arising from this Strategy. He hoped that the Town Council and members of the public would find the presentation interesting, be engaged with the process and make their views known. This stage of the consultation exercise on the Strategy lasted until the end of July 2009 and he circulated a number of consultation response forms for use.

The Strategy was about planning for growth in Greater Nottingham over the next 20 years and meeting targets for the provision of land for new homes and employment sites. In Broxtowe land for some 6,800 dwellings had to be found within this time of which currently provision had been made for approximately 2,000, which still left significant provision to be met. Of these targets it had been determined that over 50% had to be found in the urban areas of south Broxtowe, with the remaining in the rest of the Borough which included the general Eastwood area. Of the 3 sustainable sites suggested in Broxtowe, these were in the Toton/Chilwell/Stapleford areas.

The consultation specifically sought views about the location and density of housing, the location and type of employment, should the green belt be used and if so how much, the transport infrastructure necessary to support development, how much affordable housing to provide, the role of town centres and the effect of climate change. Mr Dance concluded by saying that when this stage of consultation had drawn to a close and more detailed proposals in the core Strategy agreed, then further consultation on specific sites and proposals would be undertaken. Mr Dance was thanked for his presentation and the meeting adjourned from 8.15 until 8.20 pm.

## **024/10 REPORTS OF TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

Cllr B Griffin reported that he had continued to monitor the Garden Service operated by the Council, which continued to be very well received with the contractor carrying out an excellent job.

Cllr Hazel Charlesworth reported that a local boy had been picked to join a national rugby squad and asked that a letter of congratulations be sent by the Town Council (she would provide details to the Town Clerk).

The Town Mayor reported on recent visits he had made to Stepping Stones and particularly on fund raising events that would shortly be held to assist a young person who had recently been seriously injured in a hit and run accident.

## **025/10 MATTERS CONCERNING THE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Further to the earlier statement from Mr Harris, Cllr Butler reported on petitions that had been drawn up by local residents requesting that action be taken to restrict the speed and noise of motorcycles on the roads referred to earlier in the meeting. He presented the petitions for referral to both the County Council and Broxtowe Borough Council. Following discussion of this matter, it was also **AGREED** to refer the matter

to the next Town Council meeting for consideration of any community action initiatives and also invite the local Police Area Commander to the next meeting.

The Town Mayor reported that he had attended his first meeting of the County Council and that he had taken the initiative to speak on local transport issues.

#### **026/10 MATTERS CONCERNING THE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Cllr R Charlesworth reported that the Borough Council had accepted the recommendations of a scrutiny review on the future funding of Town and Parish Councils that Special Expenses Areas and Parish Grants should be discontinued and that such charges would now be a Borough Charge. This development was welcomed.

Cllr Dodge was pleased to report that following a meeting with Borough Council Officers the Borough Council had apologised for the removal of flowers at the Memorial Gardens on Mansfield Road (as previously reported to the Town Council) and had agreed to take action to upgrade the gardens, including reinstating the Remembrance Rose.

Members asked the Borough Council to undertake some remedial maintenance work to the raised dais outside the Library and also expressed concerns about the quality of maintenance work undertaken in the town.

#### **027/10 TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2008/9**

The statutory annual audit return and Council Accounts for 2008/9 were formally **APPROVED AND SIGNED** by the Town Mayor on behalf of the Town Council.

#### **028/10 NEW COUNCIL OFFICES - UPDATE**

The Town Clerk (Designate) reported on developments since the last meetings. Cleggs, the appointed Building Design Company, had begun work and would be submitting the planning application for change of use very shortly. In this connection, it was understood that the process would take between six-eight weeks. On the issue of retention monies, the company would be using an agreed industry standard procedure which involved staged payments during the contract and the retention of 2.5% of the contract sum at practical completion.

The Solicitors acting for the Town Council had reported that the legal matters had become more complicated as all the contracts involved had now become conditional; in particular the Town Council's sale and purchase contracts were conditional upon the grant of planning permission for the change of use at the former doctors' surgery. The seller's solicitors were considering these conditional contracts. The issue of the restrictive covenant (previously reported) had now been resolved as agreement had been reached with Broxtowe Borough Council that the covenant could be varied to allow use of the premises as offices. As a result of the additional work referred to above the solicitors costs would increase from the original estimate but at this stage no revised figure was available to report.

The current situation, as reported above, was **NOTED**. It was also **AGREED** to explore, at the appropriate time, whether the estate agents would be prepared to contribute to the additional legal costs referred to above as the sale details did not appear to initially refer to the restrictive covenant issue.

#### **029/10 PAYMENTS SCHEDULE 02/10**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve payments totalling £39,843.32 (gross) listed in schedule 02/10 attached to these minutes. It was noted that figures on VAT for Broadband charges would need minor amendment.

#### **030/10 PLANNING SCHEDULES**

The content of the schedules of the Planning Sub Committee meetings held on 24 April, 1, 15 & 29 May 2009 were **NOTED**.

#### **031/10 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 68 of the Town Council's Standing Orders it was **RESOLVED** that, in view of the commercially confidential and conditions of employment nature of the business to be transacted in the remaining items of business, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and that they be instructed to withdraw.

Members of the press and public present left the Chamber.

#### **EXEMPT INFORMATION ITEMS**

#### **032/10 PROVISION OF PHOTOCOPIERS**

In accordance with his earlier declaration of interest Cllr D Bagshaw left the meeting whilst this item of business was conducted.

Following the decision of the last meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee, the Town Clerk (Designate) reported on the details of the third quote obtained for the future provision of photocopiers and also reminded the Council of the costs associated with the first two quotes previously reported.

Following full consideration, it was **RESOLVED** that future photocopying arrangements be based on the outright purchase of equipment and that the Council's IT contractor be engaged to provide this service.

Cllr D Bagshaw returned to the meeting.

#### **033/10 ARRANGMENTS FOR APPOINTMENT OF TOWN CLERK**

It was reported that the Town Clerk (Designate) would be unable to take up the position of Town Clerk and would be leaving the Council on 31 August 2009. In the

circumstances, it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk be authorised to readvertise for the post in appropriate local newspapers.

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The Town Mayor closed the meeting at 9.15 pm and together with Members wished Cllr C Robb a speedy recovery from medical care that he was shortly to undertake.