

DISS TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the **Town Council** held in the Council Chamber at The Corn Hall on **Wednesday 14th August 2019 at 7.40pm.**

Present: Councillors S. Browne (ex-officio)
D. Collins
N. Howard
A. Kitchen
J. Mason
S. Olander (ex-officio)
D. Poulter
J. Robertson
E. Taylor

In attendance: Sonya French, Deputy Town Clerk
County & District Councillor Kiddie
1 Member of the Press

FC0819/01 TO CONSIDER APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Sarah Richards (Clerk).

FC0819/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

FC0819/03 MINUTES

It was

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 17th July 2019 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

FC0819/04 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Councillors considered a resolution under Standing Orders 3d.,e.,f.,g. & h.to suspend the meeting to receive reports from the District and County Councillors, on behalf of the Police and to hear comments from members of the public on items to be discussed on the agenda.

County/District

Councillor Kiddie has been working with the Norfolk County Highways Engineer and Council Maintenance Manager regarding post locations for the new SAM 2 speed sign. Some road signs within the town need to be refurbished and Councillor Kiddie is working towards getting this work completed. Resurfacing works have been undertaken on the A1066 between Roydon and Diss to remove the hump in the road and on Vinces Road.

Councillor Kiddie responded to a question regarding the necessity of the Vinces Road resurfacing works by stating that the screed over the top of the pavement prevents further deterioration at a deeper level, which could cost County considerably more money to complete in future years.

FC0819/05 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

There were none.

FC0819/06 CO-OPTION

Councillors considered two applications for co-option. Mr Gingell talked about his wealth of knowledge from previous roles including being a teacher and volunteer work particularly at the Citizens Advice Centre. He believes that his past roles would stand him in good stead as a councillor.

Mr Gingell commented that Victoria Road was a part of the Town that he would like to try and improve.

Mrs Kiddie has lived and worked within Diss for 26 years, had a market stall and currently runs a business within the town. She believes that she can work constructively within the town and make a big difference.

It was noted that those who work and live in the town are close to the problems at grass root levels and would therefore be able to benefit the town considerably. It was

RESOLVED: To co-opt Mr Gingell and Mrs Kiddie on to Diss Town Council.
(Action: Dep Clerk; immediately)

Councillors Gingell and Kiddie were invited to join councillors at the table & were congratulated on their co-option.

FC0819/07 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

a) Councillors considered reverting back to individual committee meetings.

Councillors considered a new committee meeting structure. There was concern that the current monthly meeting format would not allow sufficient time to discuss all agenda items. Councillors agreed that one committee meeting every three months was not frequent enough.

There was discussion around the requirement for more meetings to consider the budget. It was suggested that the Executive & Infrastructure committee items could be combined in the same bi-monthly agenda with a separate bi-monthly meeting for the Facilities committee.

It was agreed that the format should be further discussed by Chairs of committee and agreed in principle with the current Clerk and Deputy Clerk as they would be clerking future proposed meetings. It was

RESOLVED: that an action group of Chairs of Committee, Council Leader and Town Mayor and Clerks review the meeting schedule for presentation to a future meeting of Council.
(Action: Dep Clerk; immediately)

b) Councillors considered appointing councillors to committees. It was

RESOLVED: To agree to councillors recommendations of appointment and to appoint Councillors Kiddie and Gingell to Executive and Infrastructure subject to change.

(Action: Dep Clerk; Immediately)

c) Councillors considered appointing councillors as Deputy Chair's to committees. It was

RESOLVED: to add the appointment of committee Deputy Chair's to the agendas of the first committee meetings.

(Action: Clerk; Immediately)

d) Councillors considered dates for the first meetings of committees. It was

RESOLVED: to agree dates for the first meetings of committees at the next Full Council meeting once the Action Group had reviewed dates.

(Action: Clerk; by 11.09.19)

e) Councillors considered changes to committee Terms of Reference & Delegations to committee or Officers. It was

RESOLVED: to agree to Committees Terms of Reference & delegations to committee or Officers.

(Action: Clerk, immediately)

FC0819/08 PARK FEES

Councillors considered proposed hire fees for Diss Park. There was discussion around a Park site plan, and it was noted that the proposed fees had been drafted to allow for flexibility of hire. It was noted that non-profit organisations had been considered and would not have to pay for use of the Park if they are running an event for free or where funds generated benefit the community. Councillors decided that the fees would be better to be set in stone. It was

RESOLVED: To approve the proposed hire fees for Diss Park with the inclusion of the car boot sale fee of £50 for Not For Profit organisations.

(Action: Dep Clerk; immediately)

FC0819/09 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Councillors noted that the next meeting of Full Council is scheduled for 18th September.

Post meeting note – the date of the next meeting of Full Council was brought forward from 18th to 11th September.

FC0819/10 **PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS)**

Councillors considered a resolution under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 and Standing Orders 1c to exclude members of the public and press in order to discuss the following item, which is properly considered to be of a confidential nature.

FC0819/11 **COMPLAINT**

Councillors approved the exclusion of the public and press from the meeting of Executive committee members considering the complaint received.

There were discussions between councillors regarding the complaint. Following a recent Executive Committee meeting with the complainant, the Council was asked to produce a Forensic Addendum to the previous Ensors report, which was discussed by Council. This addendum can be summarised as follows:

We have considered the concerns raised by both the complainant and the Diss Corn Hall Trust (DCHT) and we note that an agreement has been reached that the project funds have been properly managed. This addendum has gone into great detail to address this understanding, all the points raised by the complainant and DCHT we believe have been addressed in this document.

As advised by Ensors, Mr Case is no longer a member of the Trust and this addendum is for the sole use of the Council and the DCHT. It is explicit in the fact that this is a Confidential report. DTC and DCHT have previously come to a mutual agreement with regards to the Ensors report and the previous addendum, which DCHT drafted and the Council approved.

The following points are taken from the forensic addendum:

2.3.4 As a result it seems reasonable to conclude that the cost of any further investigation on my part, or revision to the Report, as a result of this Document, would represent an inefficient and unnecessary use of public money.

2.4.2 As the parties to the Project now appear to have settled their dispute, I see no justification for me to review or revise the Report at this time.

Councillors believe that this additional addendum concludes the complaint process. It was

RESOLVED: To send the forensic addendum to the Diss Corn Hall Trust.

(Action: Dep Clerk, Immediately)

Meeting Closed: 21:30.

Councillor Browne
TOWN MAYOR