

PRINCES RISBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON TUESDAY 28th JULY 2009 IN THE CHAPTER HOUSE,
ST MARY'S CHURCH, PRINCES RISBOROUGH AT 7.15PM

PRESENT

Cllr A Turner, Cllrs W Streule, G Hall, Mrs P Summerbell, W Woolf, B Benifer, Mrs E Clifford, Mrs P Williams, R Orsler, B Bendyshe-Brown, LA Benifer, J Coombs and C Etholen.
Mrs S Griffiths (Town Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Town Council, having been circulated and were amended and approved by the Meeting and signed by the Chairman.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any personal interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.

Cllrs B Bendyshe-Brown, A Turner, C Etholen, W Woolf and G Hall declared an interest in agenda item 8.

Cllr G Hall declared an interest in item 12.

4. REPORT FROM THAMES VALLEY POLICE

Apologies were received and accepted from Thames Valley Police.

5. MATTERS ARISING NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA

None

6. COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM THE MEMBERS IN RESPECT OF RECENT MINUTES.

Cllr R Orsler requested confirmation from the Chairman of Town & Lighting that the additional flower beds to be maintained in the town are within the budget set. Cllr G Hall confirmed that the expenditure is within budget.

Cllr L A Benifer informed the members that there was to be an appeal against the decision concerning the proposed development of 26-26 Wycombe Road. **All present agreed** for Cllr Benifer to draft a set of comments confirming the Town Councils recommendation to refuse the application for circulation to the members. **LAB**

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Letter from a former resident requesting permission to copy the video produced to celebrate 100 years of Risborough Parish Council to a DVD

All present agreed that it would be an excellent idea to make a DVD copy from the original Video but that unfortunately the Town Council did not have the authority to give permission as it is not the copyright holder. The Clerk is requested to investigate as to whether Image Productions are still in existence and if so to obtain permission to enable the Town Council to add the video to the website. **SG**

E-mail requesting support for a Risborough's Got Talent show

The Clerk is requested to reply that the allocation of the Grant monies from the Town Council has already been taken up for the current financial year, but that the Town Council will consider the request in November when the grant requests for the financial year 2010/2011 are considered. Cllr J Coombs requested that the request is placed on the agenda for the next Public Relations meeting to discuss the proposal further. **SG**

Email concerning Graffiti/Anti Social Behaviour in the footpath in Clifford Road

The Clerk confirmed that the matter had been passed on to the police and the Anti Social Behaviour

team in WDC. Cllr B Bendyshe-Brown agreed to progress the matter with the team at WDC and Cllr A Turner agreed to raise the matter at the next Neighbourhood Action Group. **SG/ BB/AT**

A Request for the use of the KGV Recreation Ground for a Pleasure Fair

All present agreed to the request to use the recreation ground for a fair consisting of rides for small children at a reduced rate of £1 per ride. The Clerk is requested to prepare the standard licence contract to be signed, invoice for the fee of £250 and hold a refundable bond to cover any damage that may occur to the ground. **SG**

8. A MEETING WITH THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

All present agreed for the Clerk to arrange a meeting with the Royal British Legion Directors of Membership and Commercial who are dealing with the sale of the Royal British Legion Hall in Princes Risborough, to discuss their intentions with respect to the future of the building. Cllr R Orsler **agreed** to draft a letter for circulation to the members.

Cllr Hall proposed that given the strength of feeling in the town, it would be advisable to hold a public meeting during the week following the proposed meeting with the Directors of the Royal British Legion to inform the residents of the outcome of the meeting. **All present agreed** for the meeting to be arranged for Thursday 20th August. Cllr G Hall **agreed** to arrange the venue. **GH/RO/SG**

9. CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING.

All present agreed that in future only items of correspondence requiring a decision or action to be taken should be discussed at the Town Council meeting. It was further **agreed** that all comments from the website are to continue to be circulated to the members but not included in the correspondence section of the Town Council meeting unless specifically requested by a member. **SG**

10. THE TOWN COUNCILS POSITION REGARDING THE TIMELINE, NOTICE BOARDS AND OTHER RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE WHITELEAF CROSS AREA.

Further to the recent comments on the website, Cllr R Orsler suggested that the Town Council restated its position regarding the timeline, notice boards and other recent additions to the Whiteleaf Cross area. **All present agreed** to continue with the Town Councils initial stand in opposing the erection of the timeline. Cllr R Orsler **agreed** to draft a letter to Julia Carey restating the Town Councils position to circulate to the members. It was further **agreed** by all present to place a statement on the website informing the residents of the Town Council's position. The Clerk is requested to ascertain the cost of the work to the Whiteleaf Cross. **RO/SG**

11. THE RELEASE FORM FOR THE SECTION 278 MONIES HELD BY THE BCC.

All present agreed for the Clerk to sign the release form for the section 278 monies held by the B.C.C. and arrange for the credit to the Town Council's account. **SG**

12. THE WDC RESPONSE CONCERNING THE CCTV CAMERAS IN PRINCES RISBOROUGH

Cllr G Hall declared an interest in this item.

Cllr G Hall informed the members that in his capacity as a W.D.C. Cllr, he had asked the following question of the WDC.

“ Can you advise me of the funds, capital and revenue contributed by Hazlemere PC, Marlow TC, Wycombe Town Committee and Princes Risborough TC towards CCTV in the district since its introduction?”

“Can you also advise me of the annual CCTV budget for the district” and a further supplementary question

“We are out on a limb in Princes Risborough. Do you not agree that it is not right or fair that one parished part of the district should pay for a service that other parished and unparished areas do not?”

Cllr G Hall read out the answers to his questions (please see appendix 1 to the minutes) and it was felt that the questions had not been satisfactorily answered. After a long discussion it was **agreed** by a majority of 10 with 2 abstentions to demand a full answer to questions originally asked and Cllr A Turner would table a question at the next available session at WDC.

Cllr A Turner proposed that the Town Council request a retraction of the false statements made in the response provided by Councillor A R Green, Deputy Leader concerning the declaration of W.D.C's offer to pay for 5 cameras. A vote was taken and the motion was passed with a majority of 7 to 5. Cllr A Turner **agreed** to circulate the wording for inspection by the members prior to sending the letter to WDC. **AT**

13. TO DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON SECTION 106 MONIES

All present agreed to defer this item to the next meeting of the Town Council when the information from WDC will be available to enable the members to make an informed decision. **SG**

14. TO FILL THE COUNCILLOR VACANCY BY CO-OPTION.

All present agreed to fill the current councillor vacancy by co-option. The position will be advertised on the website and notice boards with a closing date for applications of the 31st August 2009. Candidates will be requested to provide a general background about themselves before the interviews. **SG**

15. ROAD NAME FOR THE NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN MILL LANE.

All present agreed to recommend to Wycombe District Council the name of “St Dunstan's Close” for the new housing development in Mill Lane. **SG**

16. THE FUTURE OF HOLDING A PIG ROAST EVENT AS PART OF THE TOWN FESTIVAL WEEK

All present agreed to pass this agenda item to the Public Relations Committee to discuss and decide. **JC/SG**

17. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING.

To discuss and decide on section 106 monies

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting of the Town Council will take place on Tuesday 4th August 2009 at 7.00pm at 1 Tower Court, Horns Lane, Princes Risborough.

There being no further business to discuss the Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Chairman.....

Date.....

Response from Councillor A R Green, Deputy Leader, on behalf of the Cabinet Member for Younger & Older People to the questions tabled by Cllr G Hall

"This matter was addressed in negotiations with the Town Council at the time the proposal to introduce CCTV was being discussed. At the time CCTV was introduced into High Wycombe, Marlow and Hazlemere in the 1990s Home Office funds were available and successful bids were submitted for these schemes. In each case a business case was submitted assessing crime levels. At that time and indeed now recorded crime in Princes Risborough has been below the levels in Marlow and High Wycombe.

When the Town Council raised the introduction of CCTV in 2006 the District Council was happy to help even though Home Office funding for new CCTV cameras has long since been withdrawn. Following discussions the Town Council proposed a number of locations for cameras following advice from Siemens and WDC agreed that five of the cameras that covered the core retail area would be useful and the District Council paid the capital costs of these and continues to meet their revenue costs. The Council doubted that the investment required for the other suggested cameras would result in significantly reduced crime or increased feelings of safety and therefore declined to fund these. The Town Council maintained that these cameras were of benefit and decided to fund them itself and continues to meet the revenue costs of operating and monitoring these three.

While the Town Council did encourage the District Council to introduce charges for Marlow Town Council, the District Council decided not to, given that crime levels in Marlow continued to be higher than in Princes Risborough and that decisions taken in the past under a different national funding regime for CCTV could not easily be revisited."

Supplementary Question

"We are out on a limb in Princes Risborough. Do you not agree that it is not right or fair that one parished part of the district should pay for a service that other parished and unparished areas do not?"

Supplementary Response

"I disagree; WDC does fund 5 cameras as originally agreed. The additional cameras that the Town Council wants do not meet the criteria so the agreement was for it to pay. If the Town Council wants to renegotiate and decide it no longer wants the cameras it is free to do so. It is not right to say it is treated unfairly as the 5 cameras deemed to be of use are funded by the Council."