

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 3rd February, 2010 at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers

Present:

Chairman: Cllr. E. Squire

Councillors: Cllrs .D. Smith, P. Johns, R. Brown, B. Harris, R. Latty, D. Jose and M Heslip

Town Clerk and Assistant to the Town Clerk in attendance

County Cllr. B. Parsons

Sgt. P. Channing and PCSO A. Elston

1736

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs. Barfett, Buckingham and Priddy sent apologies. Cllr. Brown sent apologies for lateness. No apologies had been received from Cllr. Kennedy.

1737

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Mayor requested that interests be declared as matters arose.

1738

PUBLIC OPEN QUESTION TIME

No matters arose.

1739

POLICE REPORT

Sgt. Channing reported that the January crime figures were slightly higher in Holsworthy Town and slightly lower in rural areas. The following crimes were reported:

6 Assaults – One person had been charged for one incident and one female had been reported for two assaults.

1 Domestic Violence – no further action

1 Minor Domestic

2 Non Dwelling Burglaries – Pivotelli and the BT Exchange.

1 Theft – petrol

1 Damage – minor arson (going to CID)

1 Possession of Cannabis – warning given

1 Internet Fraud – victim in Poland

1 Theft – heating oil

1 Theft – mobile phone

Sgt. Channing reported that there had been many road accidents, due to the very bad weather. Holsworthy Police are tackling a serious littering problem (25 bags of rubbish had been collected) in the viaduct/Waitrose area. They are putting up notices and extra patrols will take place. There has been a problem with fly tipping near Derriton. Sgt. Channing said that in the Police visits to the College, where they set up a 'mini Police Station', the pupils' overall concern was speeding cars. She went on to say that PC Mokes will be training up the volunteers for the 'speed gun' project – volunteers will not only be effective in their own area, but will also travel to other locations, she went on to say that "sometimes the perception of speed is incorrect".

Sgt. Channing informed the Meeting that PCSO Andy Elston will be leaving the Holsworthy Police and joining the Bideford Police on Friday. PCSO Elston has been with Holsworthy for nearly four years; she said that everyone will be sorry to see him leave. A replacement should be with Holsworthy by the end of March. Cllr. Squire thanked PCSO Elston very much for all his work, particularly with the school pupils.

Sgt. Channing said that the Rural Beat Manager's post will hopefully be filled within the next few weeks. She asked if Cllrs. had any questions. Cllr. Heslip said he was impressed with the service the Police provide.

Cllr. Brown arrived at 7.11 p.m.

Cllr. Jose said that he had an enquiry from a resident of Glebelands, which he thought Sgt. Channing might be able to assist with – "if an emergency service's vehicle was unable to attend an incident due to parked cars, resulting in loss of life, who would be liable (as in who could a civil action be taken out

against)?” Sgt. Channing said that she believed no parked cars would stop an emergency vehicle getting to a serious incident; however the decision, as to anyone/who was responsible for any loss of life, would be the Coroner’s. Cllr. Squire asked if there were any other questions, there were none.

Sgt. Channing and PCSO Elston left the Meeting at 7.14 p.m.

1740

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13th January, 2010 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Squire pointed out that an amendment to the date had already been made. Cllr. Johns said that under Item 1730, last sentence should read ‘.....at Holsworthy Market Hall’ and not Memorial Hall. This was manually amended. Cllr. Latty proposed that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13th January, 2010 be approved with amendments. This was seconded by Cllr. Harris and agreed. (Vote 7 For. 0 Against. 1 Abstentions).

1741

MATTERS ARISING

Cllr. Smith asked if there had been any progress regarding Item 1734. The Town Clerk explained that a letter confirming membership had been received (the F&GP Committee Meeting on 27th January had been informed) and that the Council would be invoiced shortly. There were no other matters arising.

1742

MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported that January had been a very quiet month, due, in the main, to the dreadful weather. She said she would like to give her personal congratulations to the Rotary Club with its success with the Shelterbox Appeal.

Cllr. Brown proposed that Standing Orders be suspended in order for the guests at the meeting to speak. This was seconded by Cllr. Harris and agreed unanimously. (Vote 8 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions).

1743

COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

Cllr. Parsons apologised for his absence over the last few weeks; and reiterated Cllr. Squire’s thanks to PCSO Elston for all the good work he has achieved. He went on to say that he had had time to reflect on what has been happening across the country, not just in Holsworthy, and he has real concerns; areas such as transport decreasing as is support for rural communities. He explained that we have to make sure the sustainability factor is maintained and why getting the Council’s views on the Core Strategy is so vitally important; he is concerned that the Torridge area could become a community of the elderly, with those who do not want change, but who will have to face it, otherwise justice will not be done for the future of the children; he felt that Councils’ jobs, amongst other things, are to provide homes and all aspects of transport. Cllr. Parsons commented that we have to become less dependent on grants – there is a diminishing supply of funding across Devon. He said he would be attending a meeting of Government of the South West, as a private individual.

Cllr. Parsons said that he had come up with a couple of suggestions, which he would like Holsworthy Town Council think about. It is vital that local businesses get the support they need to survive and one way in which the Council could help is by setting up a ‘Pound Scheme’; several Councils are already operating such a scheme i.e. Totnes. The Scheme basically runs by local residents buying a £1 voucher to spend in any shop in the town – encouraging them to stay within the town to spend their money. This idea could also be run in the rural communities. He asked Holsworthy Town Council to take a serious look at the Scheme. Cllr. Heslip asked how much this would cost the Council and Cllr. Parsons said that he couldn’t put a figure on this at the moment.

Cllr. Parsons reported that he had also been looking at School Placement Surveys and felt that surveys in the past had been proved unreliable – “we have to challenge these surveys”. Cllr. Johns agreed citing the statistics given by DCC on school numbers within Holsworthy which were totally erroneous. Cllr. Parsons went on to say that if we are to look after ourselves we would need a great deal of support from DCC, and with the financial problems DCC are experiencing, and going to experience, are unlikely to get it. He went on to say that the Highways’ Department is experiencing real difficulties, and would publicly like to thank Mr. Bruce Pedrick for all the hard work he and his team have achieved over the past months.

The other suggestion Cllr. Parsons made was that Holsworthy Town Council seriously look at a Community Emergency Plan (the recent atrocious weather had brought this to the fore). He cited Halwill

which has the best practice in a rural area for Emergency Planning. He explained that things such as providing signs for residents to put in their window if they need assistance; walkie talkies for residents to use when walking the streets to communicate any problems that may suddenly arise. Such facilities would be extremely useful and would mean that residents did not just have to rely on the goodwill of their neighbours. He urged the Council to seriously look at setting up such a Plan

Cllr. Parsons then gave a brief report on DCC's financial situation. He hoped this was not depressing and said that what he sees in Holsworthy is optimism; Holsworthy receives massive support from TDC and has a great deal to look forward to. Cllr. Heslip said Holsworthy got no help from TDC. Cllr. Parsons explained the efforts TDC have put in to the proposed Agri-business Park; the huge amount of work Officers such as Vanessa Saunders and Maria Bayley put in, above and beyond the call of duty. He stated that all Officers and Members of TDC work really hard for the benefit of Holsworthy.

Cllr. Squire asked for any questions. There were none.

Cllr. Harris proposed that the Meeting return to Standing Orders. This was seconded by Cllr. Jose and agreed unanimously. (Vote 8 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions).

1744

ACCOUNTS DUE FOR PAYMENT AND BUDGET REVIEW

HOLSWORTHY TOWN COUNCIL - JANUARY TO BE PAID IN FEBRUARY 2010

COUNCIL EXPENDITURE						
Date	Pay To	Voucher	Gross	Nett	VAT	Reason
13.01.10	EDF Energy 1 Limited	105302	£42.81	£40.77	£2.04	Electricity unmetered supply Stanhope Park street
13.01.10	BT Payment Services Ltd	105303	£20.90	£18.24	£2.66	Rental charges
13.01.10	C. Baker	105304	£178.22	£178.22		Market Manager's Fee
20.01.10	C. Baker	105305	£70.90	£70.90		Market Manager's Fee
27.01.10	Ultimate Finance Ltd	105306	£6.78	£5.77	£1.01	Call charges
27.01.10	C.L. Dalley & M. Fenner	105207 & 105308	£2,003.91	£2,003.91		Salaries
27.01.10	C. Baker	105309	£82.11	£82.11		Market Manager's Fee
27.01.10	Coodes	105310	£300.00	£300.00		Legal expenses. Strip of land transfer
03.02.10	World's Fair	105311	£82.25	£70.00	£12.25	Ad. Market Trader's year book 2010/2011
03.02.10	Concorde Copiers	105312	£28.05	£23.87	£4.18	Copies taken
03.02.10	Vikings Direct	105313	£151.62	£129.04	£22.58	Stationery
03.02.10	Cash	105314	£36.36	£36.36		Petty Cash
03.02.10	C. Drew	105315	£304.84	£304.84		Maintenance Badock & Stanhope Park
TOTAL			£3,308.75	£3,264.03	£44.72	

PETTY CASH

Date			
07.01.10	Newspapers & Milk	£1.94	£1.94
11.01.10	Key cut	£5.00	£5.00
12.01.10	Milk	£0.91	£0.91
12.01.10	Stamps	£16.56	£16.56
15.01.10	Newspapers	£1.45	£1.45
19.01.10	Stamps - large	£3.76	£3.76
21.01.10	Milk, coffee, bisc. H'way surgery	£5.29	£5.29
22.01.10	Newspapers	£1.45	£1.45
TOTAL		£36.36	£36.36

COUNCIL RECEIPTS

Date	Paid By	Council	Nett	VAT	Reason
11.01.10	Cheques	£80.00	£80.00		Newsletter
21.01.10	Cheque	£415.00	£415.00		Rent Penroses Terrace

21.01.10	Cheques	£120.00	£120.00	Newsletter
21.01.10	Cash	£10.00	£10.00	Newsletter
28.01.10	Cash	£10.00	£10.00	Newsletter
28.01.10	Cheques	£70.00	£70.00	Newsletter
TOTAL		£705.00	£705.00	

As Cllr. Kennedy was not in attendance the Town Clerk went through the accounts to be paid and asked if there were any queries. There being none, Cllr. Brown proposed the payments be approved. This was seconded by Cllr. Harris and the payments were unanimously accepted. (Vote 8 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions). The Town Clerk then went through the Budget Sheet and asked for any questions, there were none.

1745

TO RECEIVE, AND TO RATIFY THE DECISIONS THEREIN, THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE MEETINGS: -

a)	Market's	20 th January, 2010
b)	Parks'	20 th January, 2010
c)	Finance & General Purposes	27 th January, 2010
d)	Planning	2 nd February, 2010

The Minutes had been circulated prior to the Meeting. Cllr. Squire asked if there were any questions. Cllr. Latty proposed that the Minutes of the Committees be approved and ratified. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Harris and unanimously agreed. (Vote 8 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

1746

TO DISCUSS THE DRAFT CORE STRATEGY ISSUED BY TORRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL. TO RECEIVE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE STRATEGY, BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE, AND TO AGREE A COURSE OF ACTION

Cllr. Harris commented on how informative Maria Bailey had been at the Planning Committee Meeting on 2nd February, 2010. Cllr. Johns gave a brief explanation of the Meeting which she and the Town Clerk had attended at Caddesdowne. She had found it extremely positive and helpful. She said that a 'wish list' needed to be drawn up; one idea which came out of the discussions at Caddesdowne was the benefit of a school which took in the age groups of 3 – 18; pupils spending their educational lives at the same school; a possible new road to by-pass the Town. Cllr. Johns said that the MCTi had achieved a lot in the past and needed to be revisited and refreshed. She implored Cllrs., and as many of the general public as possible, to engage in the consultation period – "write to TDC, Cllr. Parsons at DCC – nothing is cast in stone yet". The Town Clerk reiterated Cllr. John's explanation of schooling within Holsworthy, stating also that Mr. Fitzsimmons, who had also attended the meeting at Caddesdowne, fully supported the idea of a 'one school for 3 -18 year olds'. A general discussion took place.

Cllr. Brown proposed that Standing Orders be suspended in order for the guests at the meeting to speak. This was seconded by Cllr. Jose and agreed unanimously. (Vote 8 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions).

Cllr. Parsons said that a complete picture of Holsworthy has to be looked at and that he felt these are very exciting times for the Town.

Cllr. Brown proposed that the Meeting return to Standing Orders. This was seconded by Cllr. Jose and agreed unanimously. (Vote 8 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions).

The Clerk asked Cllrs. if they wished her to formulate a response to the Core Strategy. Cllr. Brown suggested that the Mayor and Cllr. Johns should be involved and the Clerk agreed to draft a response and forward it to the Mayor and Cllr. Johns for discussion.

1747

TO RECEIVE A PROPOSAL FROM THE PARKS' COMMITTEE TO TURN OFF THE UNMETERED ELECTRICITY SUPPLY TO THE STREET LIGHT, OWNED BY HOLSWORTHY TOWN COUNCIL, IN STANHOPE PARK

The Town Clerk explained the Parks' Committee's proposal, and explained the investigations she had made with electricity companies regarding cost. Cllr. Latty proposed that the Parks' Committee's proposal to turn off the unmetered electricity supply to the street light, owned by Holsworthy Town Council, in

Stanhope Park be ratified. Cllr. Harris seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 8 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

1748

TO RECEIVE A PROPOSAL FROM THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE THAT HOLSWORTHY TOWN COUNCIL SUPPORT DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL IN ITS ENDEAVOURS TO REDUCE STREET LIGHTING AND CARBON EMISSIONS, PROVIDING IT DOES NOT ENDANGER PUBLIC SAFETY.

The Town Clerk explained the proposal received from the Finance and General Purposes Committee. She had done research via the internet and read out the information that DCC had placed on its website regarding the subject in question. She explained that DCC are solely in charge of street lighting in Holsworthy. Cllr. Smith proposed that Holsworthy Town Council ratify the Finance and General Purposes Committee's proposal to support Devon County Council in its endeavours to reduce street lighting and carbon emissions, providing it does not endanger public safety. Cllr. Brown seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 8 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

1749

TO RECEIVE A PROPOSAL FROM THE PARKS' COMMITTEE TO APPOINT THE GROUNDS' MAINTENANCE AT STANHOPE PARK FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2010/2011 TO PLANDSCAPE

The Town Clerk explained the proposal received from the Parks' Committee. She said that, at £5,025 plus VAT per annum, the quotation was considerably less than the figure being paid at the moment. The Company, Plandscape, is also used by the Community College and included in the quotation is an annual tree inspection, free of charge. The Parks' Committee had suggested that the contract be given to Plandscape initially on a one year contract. The Clerk explained that there may be an overlap in payments, as Holsworthy Town Council have always paid TDC in arrears. Cllr. Smith said he had not had sight of the quotation and the Clerk said that this had been circulated, with the Agenda, to all Parks' Committee Members. Cllr. Harris proposed that, in accordance with the Parks' Committee's proposal, Holsworthy Town Council appoint the grounds' maintenance contract, at Stanhope Park, for the financial year 2010/2011, to Plandscape. Cllr. Jose seconded the proposal, which was carried unanimously. (Vote 7 For. 0 Against. 1 Abstention). Cllr. Smith said that he abstained as he had not seen the quotation.

1750

TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence Received – January 2010

1. Cllr. Harris – e-mailing Agenda documents
2. Cllr. Heslip – e-mailing Agenda documents
3. Cllr. Latty – e-mailing Agenda documents
4. Cllr. Kennedy – Stanhope Park grounds maintenance mtg.
5. DAPC – Playing Pitch Outdoor Courts Study – questionnaire
6. Midas – Boundary Badock
7. TDC – Plans Committee Mtg re. Land at North Road 14th Jan.
8. TDC – Update of Register of Electors
9. TDC – Council Meeting 11th January 2010 **(landing)**
10. TDC – Agenda Crime and Disorder Committee Meeting 12th January 2010 **(landing)**
11. TDC – Agenda Plans Committee Meeting 14th January 2010 **(landing)**
12. SLCC - The Clerk Magazine **(landing)**
13. Holiday Cottages Ltd – Newsletter Jan 2010
14. B. Banting – DC Highways – cycle track
15. Rural Services – asset transfer unit
16. Cllr. B. Parsons – apologies for 6th Jan
17. DAPC – newsletter Jan/Feb 10 **(copy on landing)**
18. Clerks & Councils Direct – January edition **(landing)**
19. TDC – Council mtg. 18th January **(landing)**
20. TDC – Policy, Performance & Resources Mtg 18th January **(landing)**
21. Gt. Torrington invite to Mayor Charity Event 13th March **(copy to Cllr. Squire)**
22. Gt. Torrington invite to Clerk Charity Event 13th March
23. Senior Council Devon – newsletter Jan 2010
24. EDF – small businesses
25. TDC – Community Development Committee Agenda 26th January **(landing)**
26. TDC – Draft Winkleigh Airfield Site Development – Consultation response form
27. TDC – Core Strategy – exhibition poster
28. TDC – consultation portal guide

29. TDC – Plans Committee Agenda 28th January (**landing**)
30. Ilfracombe Council – invitation to Mayor
31. TDC – Plans Committee – discussion Land at North Rd. 28th Jan
32. Midas – Boundary Badock
33. D. Dawson – Highways copy of e-mail sent to Cllr. Parsons re. Trewyn Rd/Rydon Rd
34. Police – J9 invite to Mayor
35. South West Employers – documentation
36. Junk Mail – issue 3
37. TDC – Standards Committee 29th January (**landing**)
38. DCC – Mobile Library Survey
39. Police Liaison Mtg. 17th Feb – Market Hall
40. P. Harwood – cycle trials – notes
41. Devon Playing Fields Assoc. – Winter newsletter (**landing**)
42. DAPC – Spring Training Programme
43. DAPC – Royal Garden Party
44. P. Beer – TDC market hall
45. G. Cox – meeting with SW Water

The Town Clerk drew Councillors' attention to the highlighted items.

Item 33 – She will obtain a plan of the work to be carried out.

Item 38 – Cllr. Brown declared a prejudicial interest. It was felt that, as the Town had a purpose built library, it was not necessary to complete the survey.

Item 42 – The Clerk will be attending the training on Rising to the Challenge at Tiverton on 8th February.

Item 44 – The Clerk read this item out. After discussion Cllr. Brown proposed that the Clerk be instructed to write to TDC recommending that the Holsworthy Visitors' Centre, in the first instance, hold keys to the Market Hall, on the basis that their opening hours are more flexible than those of the Holsworthy Council office, and that Holsworthy Council Office could be used as back up. Cllr. Heslip seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 8 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

Correspondence Sent – January 2010

1. Plandscape – inviting to Parks' Meeting 20th Jan.
2. K. McCormack, TDC – Prioritisation of Budget Questionnaire
3. B. Banting & B. Pedrick, DCC – Highways issues
4. I. Parkinson, Western Power – rescheduled Council Meeting
5. SW Employers Membership application
6. Memo – all councillors – various
7. Unitary Structures Team – Structural Review response
8. Ms. G. Down – enc. of Western Distribution report
9. Cllr. Carroll Holsworthy Hamlets – Biogas plant
10. Ilfracombe Council – invite declined
11. P. Johns – Sec. of CofT – market traders' comments
12. L. Moon Coodes – signed Transfer Deed re. strip of land

The Town Clerk drew Councillors' attention to the highlighted items.

Correspondence Received – February 2010

1. M. Howrihane – application letter to provide catering in market.
2. Cllr. Parsons – Sanders Lane-Trewyn Rd junction
3. TDC – update to electoral register (**in file**)
4. Police – invite to J9 launch
5. Coodes – purchase of strip of land
6. Planning Inspectorate – appeal re. showground 13th April Riverbank House
7. Social Club – copy of letter sent to TDC re. street lighting
8. Police – neighbourhood policing newsletter
9. Holsworthy Hamlets – Biogas

The Town Clerk drew Councillors' attention to the highlighted items.

Item 4 - The Clerk said that The Mayor and Town Clerk will attend this, and the Clerk asked if any other Cllrs. would also like to attend. Cllr. Heslip said that he possibly might.

Item 6 – Mrs. Maria Bailey, TDC, is trying to get the venue changed from Bideford to Holsworthy.
Item 7 – The Clerk explained that TDC owned two of the street lights and that she had agreed, with Peter Beere, that she would, as a private individual and not as Town Clerk, would check on the lights over the weekend.
Item 9 – The Clerk read this out.

1751

CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported as follows:

- A meeting of the Newsletter Committee will take place at 7.30 p.m. on 9th February. She agreed to e-mail Cllr. Heslip a copy of the Agenda.
- NALC have revised Standing Orders and the Clerk will be reviewing the Council's Standing Orders over the next month to present a draft to the F&GP Committee
- The organisation of the Cycle Time Trials 2011 are progressing well, and a meeting which will include the Highways' Dept. and the Police will take place on 18th February.
- The transfer of the strip of land near Badock Gardens should be completed imminently.
- Core Strategy consultation will take place in the Market Hall on 4th February.
- The Clerk will be attending a Seminar at Tiverton, hosted by the SW Local Councils' Association, on 8th February.
- The Clerk asked if Cllrs. would like a Highways' Meeting convened at the end of February. Cllrs. said they would.
- There will be a further Highways' Surgery in Suite B, on 14th April. This will be advertised in the Spring Edition of the Holsworthy Newsletter, on the website and posters will be put up.
- The Clerk asked if the Council would like her to investigate the Town Pound Scheme (see Minute 1746 of these Minutes). She was instructed to do so.
- The Clerk asked if the Council would like to proceed in looking at an Emergency Planning Scheme (see Minute 1746 of these Minutes). Cllrs. said they would, and the Clerk will investigate this subject and speak to Halwill Parsh Council in the first instance.

1752

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Cllr. Brown explained that, due to personal circumstances, he had been unable to achieve a great deal, and thanked Cllr. Johns for 'covering' for him.

Cllr. Johns reported that Ms. Nicola Bulbeck, acting Chief Executive, of TDC would be joining a national task force to address the delivery of more efficient services by Councils. Cllr. Johns had attended a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at which crime and disorder were discussed. Cllr. Johns is to receive training to enable her to sit on the Licensing Committee, and hopefully her first meeting will be on 4th March. She is to attend a briefing meeting on 9th February, organised by a leisure management company, regarding the assessment of TDC's open space, recreation, etc – to build on what TDC have already done. She reported that an enquiry, held by the Prince's Foundation, had been held at Tetcott Village Hall over a four day period concerning affordable housing, and a report would be prepared for the Tetcott Estate. Cllr. Johns asked for any questions, there were none.

Cllr. Smith proposed that in view of the special or confidential nature of the following business to be transacted it is advisable, in the public interest, that the public and press be temporarily excluded and they be instructed to withdraw. This was seconded by Cllr. Heslip (Vote 8 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

Cllr. Latty left the Meeting at 8.45 p.m.

1753

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

After discussion, Cllr. Squire proposed that an Item is placed on the Agenda for a Parks' Committee Meeting to look at the Lease held by the Bowling Club. This was seconded by Cllr. Smith and agreed unanimously. (Vote 7 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions)

1754

CLOSE

The Mayor formally closed the Meeting at 9.05 p.m.

Signature

Date