

Town Clerk	Mrs J M Markwell
Deputy Clerk	Mrs S D Porter
Borough Councillors	J R Legg
	Mrs K Mellish
County Councillor	Mrs S Hutson
Press Correspondent	Ms S Hewitt
Members of Public	0

794. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs R J R Baker MBE (illness), Mrs P M Dean (family commitment) and C Russell (out of the country).

The apologies were accepted.

795. To receive Members Declarations of Interest

Cllr Fox declared a pecuniary interest in Item 801, To approve payment of bills. Cllr Ford declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 811, To discuss the extension of the lease for the garage premises (confidential item).

Proposed – Mayor Cllr Sampson

‘To invoke Standing Order 17, in order to vary the order of business and allow reports to be received from the County and Borough Councillors.’

All in favour

County Cllr Mrs Hutson advised that, on behalf of local residents, she was investigating the persistent flooding in Trafalgar Road/Churchill Road area. There was nothing further to report.

The Borough Councillors had nothing to report.

The Mayor, Cllr Sampson, resumed the meeting.

Members congratulated Cllr Mrs Mellish for being elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk for 2006/2007.

796. To approve the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 14th March 2006 (pages 1787-1794) were approved and signed as a true and accurate record. It was noted that the following amendments had been made to the original minutes and circulated to all members:

Page 1792, Item 789,

1st paragraph to read as:

Cllrs Bodle, Ford and Mrs Roberts had declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item.

Proposal's vote to read as:

For – 13 Against – 1 Abstain – 1 (Declared Interest)

Page 1793, Item 790,

Proposal's 'Proposer' and 'Seconder' to read as:

Proposed – Cllr Ford Seconded – Cllr Stacey

797. To receive Correspondence

A list of correspondence had been circulated (Appendix 1).

The Mayor, Cllr Sampson, noted that East Cambridgeshire District Council had written a letter of recognition to him regarding the St Winnold's event. They had been very impressed with the event and would be thinking about holding a similar function in their district.

The Salvation Army had written again requesting a finger post sign in Bridge Street. The Clerk would refer this to the Planning and Environmental Committee.

798. Councillor's Questions

Cllr Bond advised that he had received further information on the owner of Old Brewery Lane and would report at the next Car Parks and Highways Committee meeting.

There were no questions.

799. To Adopt the Standing Committee Minutes

Car Parks and Highways Committee

Proposed – Cllr Beck

Seconded – Cllr Bond

‘That the minutes of the Car Parks and Highways Committee meeting of Tuesday 21st March 2006 (pages 1795-1798) be adopted.’

All in favour

Development Committee

Proposed – Cllr Bodle

Seconded – Cllr Mrs Turner

‘That the minutes of the Development Committee meeting of Tuesday 28th March 2006 (pages 1802-1805) be adopted.’

All in favour

Finance and General Purposes Committee

Proposed – Cllr Teverson

Seconded – Cllr Stacey

‘That the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting of Tuesday 28th February 2006 (pages 1779-1783) be adopted.’

All in favour

Planning and Environmental Committee

Proposed – Cllr Doyle

Seconded – Cllr Fox

‘That the minutes of the Planning and Environmental Committee meetings of Tuesday 21st February 2006 (pages 1770-1778), Wednesday 8th March 2006 (pages 1784-1786) and Wednesday 22nd March 2006 (pages 1799-1801) be adopted.’

All in favour

800. To receive the Clerk's Report

The Clerk's Report had been circulated (Appendix 2).

Downham Market New School

Cllrs Beck and Doyle declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item.

Cllr Mrs Nunn reported that she had spoken to Father Mather who confirmed that a site in the North East sector of Downham Market had been identified for a new faith school, although other sites were still under consideration. Whilst final negotiations were taking place, a late protest had been made by the Western Area Heads of schools to the Diocese. The Government had granted £14.5 million for a new school and it was felt that it would be a great shame to lose this money. It was noted that although Downham Market High School is the second largest high school in the County, it is refusing student entry because it is so full.

The Town Council had already sent a letter of support but it was felt a further letter would be necessary to establish its interest for a much-needed school, especially as the existing school was full.

Proposed – Cllr Mrs Nunn Seconded – Cllr Stacey

‘That this Council writes a letter of support this week to the Secretary to the School Organisation Committee.’

For – 15

Against – 0

Abstain – 2 (Declared Interest)

Cllr Mrs Nunn advised members that they could also write letters of support individually.

Cllr Bodle asked that the views of this Council be taken into consideration when the planning implications are considered. The North East sector site could impact heavily on the population of Downham Market, could encourage new developments along the gateway from Wimbotsham to Downham Market, and may impact greatly on the green areas.

801. To approve the Payment of Bills

A list of bills had been circulated (Appendix 3).

Cllr Fox had declared an interest in this item.

Proposed – Cllr Ford

Seconded – Cllr Doyle

‘That the bills be paid as per the attached list.’

For – 16

Against – 0

Abstain – 1 (Declared Interest)

802. To discuss the proposed new Community Interest Company

Cllr Groom reported that at the last meeting, the Partnership had been formally closed. At the Town Meeting on 2nd May 2006, Mr Martin Stewart and Cllr Groom would set up a stall to promote the new Community Interest Company (CIC). A public consultation meeting would then be held on Wednesday, 21st June 2006 at 7.00pm in the Town Hall. A name for the CIC would also be established and an initial suggestion had been, ‘The Clackclose Hundreds’.

It was agreed that the Mayor, Cllr Sampson, and the Clerk would send out information on CICs to all Councillors, and provide an explanation of the Town Council's relationship in this new venture.

803. To discuss the provision of CCTV

The Projects Officer's report had been circulated (Appendix 4). The CCTV information was provided in sections A1 and B1.

804. Update on management of the Howdale Community Centre

Cllr Pyatt advised that a Management Committee (Trustees only) meeting and a General Committee (Trustees, user groups and members) meeting were being held at the Community Centre on Thursday, 19th April 2006 at 7.00pm and 7.45pm respectively.

It was noted that the Town Council is a custodian of the Centre and more Trustees were required to help manage the Centre and further Councillor membership was required. The AGM had been booked for Thursday, 1st June 2006 at the Centre at 7.00pm.

It was agreed that Cllr Pyatt would hold a stall at the Town Meeting in order to promote the Centre and seek possible membership to help run the Centre.

805. Update on purchase of the Fire Station site, Priory Road, Downham Market

The Mayor, Cllr Sampson, advised that Norfolk Property Services (NPS) had now given approval for the Town Council to go on site to investigate the building. NPS had also provided information regarding the considerable amount of asbestos in the building. When the site is investigated, plans could then be drawn up and submitted to the Planning Department for approval, and costs for development could be established.

A Working Party was formed, the members being Cllrs Fox (Chair), Doyle and Sampson.

806. To discuss the Downham Market Charter

Cllr Mrs Nunn circulated two versions of the Downham Market Charter to members. It was agreed that the corporate logo should be used on the final version. Cllr Mrs Nunn advised that adults had originally created the Charter and children's input had been sought after that.

A long discussion took place. It was agreed that the Working Party would design the final version for approval at the next Town Council meeting. The Clerk would add this item to the agenda.

807. NALC Conference

The NALC conference is being held in Liverpool on 22nd to 24th September 2006. The cost per person is £235 with additional costs for dinner, travelling and accommodation. The Council would cover all expenses, and any Councillor wishing to attend the conference with the Clerk should confirm this at the next Town Council meeting.

808. To discuss the Town Meeting on Tuesday, 2nd May 2006

Cllr Ford advised that the format this year would be different from those of previous years. Each Committee Chair, and their members, would oversee a stall and relevant handouts should be made available. Other groups such as the Howdale Community Centre and the Community Interest Company would also have a table display. Tea and biscuits would be served and the meeting should be very informal, yet still very informative. It is anticipated that this format will encourage good relations with the local residents. Due to statutory obligations, a formal session would be held at the end of the evening, allowing residents to raise other issues. This session should also incorporate a brief financial account of the Town Council's budgets. The Mayor, Cllr Sampson, and Cllr Ford would organise a flexible timetable for the Town Meeting.

809. Cllr Ford to report on 'Not Just Another Brick in the Wall'

The Countryside Agency had provided the Amenity Society with funding money in 2005. £2000.00 of this was not used and it was agreed to purchase brochures and leaflets. The Development Committee had also budgeted £2000.00 for the purchase of leaflets, and it was therefore felt £4000.00 could buy more 'Not Another Brick in the Wall' booklets and further Clock brochures. The total invoice for 400 'Not Another Brick in the Wall' booklets was £2150.00, the shortfall of £150.00 coming from the Development Committee. The 6000 Clock brochures cost £1528.00.

It was agreed that copies should be made available at the Town Meeting, and be taken to schools when any Councillors visit them.

Proposed – Mayor Cllr Sampson

'To invoke Standing Order 17, in order to vary the order of business and allow the Mayor's Announcements to be given before the confidential items.'

All in favour

810. Mayor's Announcements

Guided tour of the Denver Sluice and Southery Pumping Station – Interested Councillors should contact the Mayor.

Civic Service, St Edmund's Church – Sunday, 7th May 2006 at 6.00pm.

Mayor and Mayoresses' St George's Day Charity Concert, Sunday, 23rd April 2006 at 7.00pm. Tickets £10.00 each, to include supper. Proceeds will go towards local youth organisations in Town.

Morris Dancers, Town Square – Sunday, 23rd April 2006 from 12.00pm-2.00pm.

Craft Fair, Town Square – Saturday, 29th April 2006 at 10.00am-3.00pm.

Town Council Twinning Club Reception, Town Hall – Friday, 26th May 2006 at approximately 11.30am (to be confirmed). Councillors are expected to attend this event.

Trinning Club Evening Dinner, Town Hall – Friday, 26th May 2006. Individual invitations have been sent.

Town Meeting, Town Hall – Tuesday, 2nd May 2006 at 7.00pm.

The County and Borough Councillors left the meeting at 8.55pm.

811. To discuss the extension of the lease for the garage premises (confidential item)

Cllr Ford had declared an interest in this item.

Proposed – Mayor Cllr Sampson

Seconded – Cllr Stacey

‘To invoke Standing Order 5a, that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.’

‘To invoke Standing Order 6a, that no member of the Council or of any Committee or Sub-Committee shall disclose to any person not a member of the Council any business declared to be confidential by the Council, the Committee or Sub-Committee, as the case may be.’

All in favour

Cllr Ford left the meeting room at 8.56pm.

See Confidential Report (Confidential Appendix 1).

Cllr Ford returned to the meeting room at 9.10pm.

812. Human Resources report (confidential item)

There was nothing to report.

The Mayor, Cllr Sampson, closed confidentiality.

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.11pm.