

SWAFFHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Wednesday 11th April 2007 at 6.45p.m. in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Swaffham.

Present: Mayor Cllr S. Matthews

Councillors: - Mrs C Baker, Mr D. Butters, Mrs P Buxton, Mrs A. Greaves
Mrs T. Jennison, Mrs S. Lister, Mr F. Sharpe, Mr I Sherwood,
Mr L Wise. (Mrs F Mann 6.51pm) (Mr J Stockdale 7.05pm)

Town Clerk: - Mr R Bishop
Assistant Town Clerk: - Mrs R Noble

Police: P.C. A Partridge

Public: - 10

1140. APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE.

1140.1.. There were no apologies for absence.

1141. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – for items included on the Agenda.

1141.1. Cllrs. D Butters, C Baker & S Lister declared a personal interest on item 1148.2.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 6.46p.m.

THE MEETING WAS RECONVENED AT 6.48p.m.

1142. MAYOR'S REPORT.

1142.1. The Mayor reported on the following events she has attended:

23rd March – visited RAF Lakenheath to a Spring Tea

28th March – visited Breckland Christian Fellowship for supper

30th March – attended the Opening of Swaffham Museum

1143. POLICE REPORT

1143.1. P.C. Partridge reported there has been a total of 46 crimes since the last meeting.

1144. MINUTES

1144.1. The minutes of the Full Town Council Meeting of Wednesday 14th March 2007 were agreed and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

1145. TOWN CLERK REPORT:-

1145.1. The power has been restored to the Buttercross at long last. The Assistant Town Clerk (Rosie) has worked extremely hard at co-ordinating the contractors from EDF Energy, Drakes Electrical and Woods Memorials. Everything is now completed, this has taken four and a half months instead of being done in the period leading up to the Christmas Lights switch on. It involved taking away steps of the Buttercross and reinstating them, installing new junction boxes outside and inside the Buttercross, also installing new wiring, plug point and lighting. Consulting with Historic Buildings Officer Andrew Gayton and keeping Icen Partnership informed, as they were paying the bill.

1145.2. The Clerk reported that the land purchase for the Swimming Pool is nearly done and dusted. The legal work is well underway and the aim is to complete matters in the life of this Council. It is hoped that an announcement can be made prior to the Local Council Elections on 3rd May.

1145.3. The new Bus Shelter has arrived and is now installed at the location adjacent to the TIC. This has taken up a great deal of administrative time in dealing with objections of the location, design, installation and land ownership. The Council are now responsible for the maintenance of three bus shelters in the town.

It was reported a letter from MP Christopher Fraser has been received this morning enclosing a letter of complaint from Mrs. Adams a resident from Sporle. This will be circulated to the Council in the May agenda pack with a response from the Town Clerk. It centres on the design being resistant to vandalism rather than having comfortable seats and being wind resistant.

1145.4. The Mayor and Town Clerk met with Ray Johnson and David Green from Breckland Council on 10th April. Updates were given on all outstanding issues. With regards to asbestos removal at the Haspall's Road derelict toilets, it is understood that tenders have been received and an order will be placed shortly. A meeting with Sarah Bruton will be set up to discuss Recycling Credits, as there is a difference of opinion on how these are being dealt with by Breckland and whether areas can be licensed to the Town to allow the credits to be received by the Town. David Green outlined a possible re-alignment and enhancement of the Theatre Street Car Park. This is some way off as there is no money for this in the current year. This is simply to start a discussion with Norfolk County Council in conjunction with the footway improvements to the Town Centre. Public Toilets and Play Areas will go to the Executive when all comments are in from each of the five market towns, four are in, one is awaited. The Shambles conveyance of four small areas to the Town Council is in progress and with solicitors at present. Other issues will come to the fore in future meetings.

1145.5. The Deputy Town Clerk has been working hard at getting the chosen Play Equipment Manufacturers SMP to install £15,000 worth of new equipment at the Recreation Ground. This was paid for by a grant from Icen Partnership. The equipment was in place just in time for Easter and is already being well used. There is a grant application in progress for £50,000 to be lodged with Breckland Council before 1st May. This it is hoped will be part of a Breckland bid to the Big Lottery Fund. Whilst a decision on whether the Recreation Ground is to be included will be made later in June, the final decision on the grant will not come until the latter part of this year. The Deputy Town Clerk met with two manufacturers on site last week, the Town Clerk met with a third manufacturer this week. They have all been set the task of providing good value for money play equipment within the budget of £50,000, to compliment what is already there and provide another piece in the Recreation Ground jigsaw. The deadlines are relentless, as a further bid needs to be in place by 17th May this is in relation to the Sensory Garden. Then the Committee will be able to concentrate on the larger bid with Sport England to move matters further forward. Whilst preparing the application is no guarantee of success it is good that some equipment is now installed, having the project broken down into smaller projects can still deliver a regeneration project for the Recreation Ground of which the town will benefit for many years to come.

The Clerk was instructed to send a letter of thanks to Icen for the £15,000 grant for the new equipment on the recreation Ground.

1145.6. It was reported the Local Council Elections are on Thursday 3rd May 2007

The candidates for the Town Council Election are as follows:-

DAVID BUTTERS (Lab)

PAUL DARBY (Con)

CHARLES GUNNER (Lib)

DAVID HARMAN (Con)

Page 603

SANDRA KERRIDGE (Lab)
SHEILA LISTER (Con)
SHIRLEY MATTHEWS (Con)
FRANK SHARPE (Con)
IAN SHERWOOD (Con)
JILL SKINNER (Ind)
JEROME STOCKDALE (Ind)
PIPPA WADE (Ind)
DAVID WICKERSON (Ind)
THERESA JENNISON (Con)

The District Council candidates are as follows:-

CHARLES GUNNER (Lib)
SANDRA KERRIDGE (Lab)
SHIRLEY MATTHEWS (Con)
FRANK SHARPE (Con)
IAN SHERWOOD (Con)

Cllr. I Sherwood stated he would like to give grateful thanks to all retiring councillors for all they have done during their time as a councillors, also to other councillors who may not be elected to stand again. This was agreed by all.

1145.7. A report was given on a meeting the Town Clerk had with Mr Dunbar relating to the War Memorial. Mr. Dunbar has established that there is a good basis for skilled volunteer labour, local sponsorship and support from the local branch of the RB Legion. All the Council will need to provide are some materials, some basic equipment and insurance for the volunteer labour. It is envisaged that this cost would be negligible compared to the actual cost of employing professional contractors to refurbish the war memorial. This is an excellent community project that will be achieved with minimal support and cost from the Town Council. The actual cost to the Council is estimated at £250 to £300. Cllr. I Sherwood proposed and Cllr. S Lister seconded that £300 maximum could be spent on the refurbishment of the War Memorial.

It was unanimously agreed that £300 maximum could be spent on the refurbishment of the War Memorial.

1145.8. The Clerk stated the Councillor information files are in need of updating, this is now urgent. To date only three files have been returned. It is requested that the remainder of these files are returned to the Town Hall as soon as possible.

1145.9. The Clerk reported that the agenda will change very slightly at the May meeting, as the Jubilee Heritage Plan will be replaced by Committee reports. This will give an opportunity each month for the Council to receive regular (mainly written) reports from their Committees.

1146. PLANNING/DEVELOPMENT CONTROL:

1146.1. Notification of Decisions/Information from Breckland Council:-

3PL/2007/ 0070/D Approval of Reserved Matters for the Erection of 74 Bedroom carehome. Jack Boddy Way, Ecotech Park. Swaffham Partnership.	3PL/2007/ 0020/F Planning permission granted for the erection of 7 no. terraced dwellings following demolition of existing function room. Jetspark Ltd.
3PL/2006/1641/LB Refusal of Listed Building Consent for the erection of satellite dish. 16 Lynn Street. Matthew and Darren Harvey.	3PL/2007/0084/LB Listed building consent for the construction of 8 terraced dwellings following demolition of function room. Land adjacent to Lydney House Hotel, Norwich Road. Jetspark Ltd

1146.2. Consider the following planning applications:-

3PL/20070017/LB Erection of sign (retrospective). Swaffham Assembly Rooms, Market Place. Dennis Tallon, Icen Partnership. NO OBJECTIONS	3PL/2007/0298/F Terrace of six two storey business units, new access, & 2 no. two storey blocks or 3 units to rear of site. Land adjacent Ecotech Centre, Turbine Way. NO OBJECTIONS
3PL/2007/0326/F amendment NO OBJECTIONS	3PL/2007/0529/F Addition of front porch (revision of planning permission 3PL/2006/1328/F) Purbeck House, Whitsands Road. Mr & Mrs. Aynsley. NO OBJECTION
3PL/20070379/F Demolition of conservatory, erection of 2 bungalows with garages and new shared vehicular access. Land adjacent Cubello, Whitsands Road. Highbury Developments Ltd. OBJECTION – ON GROUNDS OF OVERDEVELOPMENT AND ACCESS	3PL/2007/0433/F Construction of two detached houses after demolition of existing bungalow. Walnut Farm Development Ltd. NO OBJECTIONS
3PL/20070450/F Single storey rear extension. 16 Pedlars Grove. Terry Birchall. NO OBJECTIONS	3PL/2007/0486/F Conservatory. Hillside. Mr. Pitt. NO OBJECTIONS

1146.3. Keith Wilkinson reported on Planning Application 3PL/2007/0433/F, Walnut Farms Developments explaining meetings had taken place with NCC and access to this development would not cause any concerns also the footpath being made up would make it safer for pedestrians.

1146.4. Notifications of planning enforcement & TPO's.

There are no notifications received of planning enforcement or TPO's. A copy of a four letters objecting to a previous planning application for 6 wind turbines have been circulated to the Council for information only.

1147. FINANCE:

1147.1. Accounts for Payments for April 2007.

The list of Accounts for payment was circulated to Councillors. See Appendix 2.

It was unanimously agreed to accept the accounts as listed

1147.2. Correspondence was circulated to all Councillors to consider claim for a replacement shed as compensation for moving to Tumbler Hill from Days Field allotments from Dr. Ben Aldiss.

The actual cost of sheds can vary depending on the shape, size and quality. It was suggested that a sum of £150 compensation is offered towards a replacement shed on the condition that the current site is vacated by the required date. The current shed is not in a good condition and would therefore not transport to a new location. The sum offered would be the total compensation for this particular allotment holder.

It was unanimously agreed to offer Dr B Aldiss £150 compensation towards a replacement shed on the condition that the current site is vacated by the required date.

1147.3. Correspondence with SCALGA and issues raised following the meeting on 12th March regarding issues discussed with Open Spaces Committee was circulated to all Councillors to consider.

1) To give consideration to have a SCALGA representation on the Open Spaces Committee. offer membership to one SCALGA representative to join the Open Spaces Committee. It is further recommended to review and extend the membership to include other representatives from appropriate organisations related to issues under consideration. To be consistent with other Committees the number of Councillors should not be exceeded by the number of non-Councillors.

It was agreed to have one representative from SCALGA on the Open Spaces Committee.

2) To give consideration to take up the offer of a SCALGA designated officer to assist potential allotment holders in identifying their plots.

It was agreed not to have a SCALGA designated officer to assist potential allotment holders in identifying their plots.

3) To give consideration to exchanging information with SCALGA regarding allotment sites. Following a discussion it was agreed that every request from SCALGA is put in writing and is placed in the pack for the Town Council meeting for councillors to discuss.

It was unanimously agreed that every request from SCALGA is put in writing and is placed in the pack for the Town Council meeting for councillors to discuss.

4) To give consideration to circulate information to allotment holders from SCALGA providing reasonable notice is given and costs are reimbursed. Following a discussion, Cllr. A Greaves proposed and Cllr. S Lister seconded that information is not to be circulated to allotment holders from SCALGA. It was suggested that SCALGA could have an article printed in the newsletter.

It was unanimously agreed that information is not to be circulated to allotment holders from SCALGA.

5) Further issues with SCALGA were reported. These include the recording of an apology to the Town Clerk, allegations of a communication malfunction and the Council being a beneficiary of doubts.

It was agreed to note the written apology to the Town Clerk. To refute strongly the allegation of a communication malfunction and record the theory put forward by SCALGA that this Council is the beneficiary of doubts caused by previous Council's. To also record a recent verbal apology given to the Deputy Town Clerk following an inappropriate request for information by the SCALGA Secretary. The Mayor and Town Clerk subsequently met on 4th April with the Chairman and Secretary of SCALGA to clear the air. The meeting was amicable and achieved a greater understanding of each others position. A number of questions have also been answered in the latest newsletter 'In Touch with your Town'.

1147.4. Correspondence with SCALGA and further issues raised was circulated to all councillors for discussion.

It was agreed the 4 items below are placed on the July agenda:

- 1) That the full Council reconsider its decision to sell off the two allotment sites of Day's Field and the Shoulder of Mutton.
- 2) To rescind the decision to serve notices to quit to the tenants of these fields.
- 3) The serving of the notices to quit then be served only and if the Council obtains Section 8 consent for the change of use of these statutory allotment sites.
- 4) That the Council considers a period of time, not less than two years, for SCALGA to work with the Council to promote, improve, and maintain the Swaffham sites. By then hopefully there would be an increase in the uptake of allotments which the council would be an increase in the uptake of allotments which the council would take into account before considering any future of allotment land.

It was stated the six month rule applies at the present time unless five Councillors wish to suspend standing orders and deal with these matters at an earlier opportunity.

It was agreed to supply the information where possible listed 1 to 7 in the letter dated 27th March 2007. All information supplied would be at the discretion of the Town Clerk, with the exception of minutes of the meeting on 12th March between the Open Spaces Committee and the SCALGA Committee, as none were taken. Requests for information from SCALGA will be dealt with within a reasonable timescale and will not take priority over any other administrative task undertaken by the Town Council.

1147.5. The Clerk reported there is one estimate to consider for the water supply at Tumbler Hill including excavation, supply of all pipe and taps etc, laying water pipe and leave site in neat and tidy condition. The total cost from County Grounds Maintenance is £1,665.00 The committed costs were discussed recently at the Finance Committee and it does look likely that the total cost of all preparation work will be in the region of £20,000 with some additional on-going costs, such as re-ploughing un-used sites to keep them in good order.

It was agreed to accept the committed costs which were discussed recently at the Finance Committee and the total cost of all preparation work in the region of £20,000 with some additional on-going costs, such as re-ploughing un-used sites to keep them in good order.

1147.6. A copy of an e-petition created by allotment holder Paul Cater was circulated to all councillors.

1147.7. A letter was circulated to all councillors from Government Office East requiring a substantial amount of additional information relating to the disposal of Days Field and Shoulder of Mutton sites. This will be circulated in the meeting pack with the response from the Town Clerk listing all the information supplied.

1147.8. A draft consultation form was circulated to all councillors for discussion this evening following a brief discussion by the Finance and General Purposes Committee at their meeting on 28th March. It is recommended that a survey/questionnaire is circulated with the next edition of the newsletter in July to obtain feedback from the town. It was suggested that an open debate on the possible use of funds raised from the proposed sale of surplus allotment land could act as a guide to the incoming Council. Following a discussion it was suggested to number the questions on the form, for Councillors to feed back any other suggestions for the form and to use it as an ongoing document.

It was agreed to use the draft consultation form as an ongoing document.

Page 607

1147.9. It was reported the annual audit has now been completed for the year ending 31st March 2006. All queries were answered satisfactorily with no matters coming to their attention for concern. There was only one issue raised in the external auditor's report regarding fidelity guarantee insurance cover, currently standing at £150,000. The Audit Commission guideline level is balances plus half the precept i.e. £330,000. It was suggested the Town Clerk obtain estimates for increasing the level of fidelity insurance

cover for consideration at the May full Council meeting. The current policy expires at the end of May.

It was agreed the Town Clerk obtain estimates for increasing the level of fidelity insurance cover for consideration at the May full Council meeting.

1147.10. It was reported Mr Alun Williams has been appointed from the Audit Commission as the External Auditor for 2006/07, he did extensive work with the Town Clerk some five years ago when there was a challenge regarding the Town Council policy on loans and investment. This was related to the decision to press ahead with a Town Hall extension.

1148. JUBILEE HERITAGE PLAN.

1148.1 A report was circulated to all Councillors to conclude the debate regarding access issues following the conciliation meeting, giving consideration to various options to access the Council Chamber.

The outcome agreement from the conciliation meeting was circulated to councillors at a previous meeting. It was agreed to look at three options which were discussed by the Council at their extraordinary meeting on 5th March. It was agreed to look at two further options listed as 4 and 5. It should be noted that options 1 and 2 could be reduced by £5,000 by using the current lift installer Excelsior.

Options to consider:-

1. A stair Riser up the stairwell to the Council Chamber

STAIR RISER cost £15,641

BUILDER cost £24,600

CONTINGENCY cost £6,036

TOTAL COST = £46,277

The Council have been informed that despite signing the agreement this should not be considered as an option. Requests have been made to verify the claims made by Mrs. Dickens. The Council have been refused permission to talk to the GP.

2. A 1100 x 1400 lifting platform in the Breckland Office

MIDI LIFT cost £15,153

BUILDER cost £19,500

CONTINGENCY cost £5,198

TOTAL COST £39,851

This option is the least costly option, but having the greatest impact on loss of office space and loss of space in the Council Chamber.

3. A 1100 X 1400 lifting platform in the area of the existing lift shaft

MIDILIFT cost £15,153

BUILDER cost £32,000

CONTINGENCY cost £7,073

TOTAL COST £54,226

This is the most expensive option but with the least impact on the building

4. A 1100 x 1400 lifting platform with a stand alone shaft built into the courtyard of the Town Hall. This would be with access from the corridor leading to the Museum. There

Page 608

would still be substantial building work over the current ground floor corridor and listed building consent may be a problem. There could also be ground floor access problems to overcome in a tight corridor. There would be loss of light in at least one ground floor office and one window in the Council Chamber.

MIDI-LIFT cost £15,153

BUILDER cost £24,600

CONTINGENCY cost £6,036

TOTAL COST = £46,277

5. To re-locate all Council meetings to another location i.e. the Assembly Rooms. It has been assumed that the room would be available for all committee meetings.

Monthly meeting room hire 42.50 setting up/cleaning/caretaking £45.00 = £87.50 x 11 = £962.50

Committee meeting room hire 25.50 setting up/cleaning/caretaking £45.00 = £70.50 x 25
£1,762.50

TOTAL COST = £2,725 annually

The recommendation of Option 3 was not accepted by the Council at the extraordinary meeting to enable further information contained in Options 4 and 5 to be considered. So in comparing the two new options with the original recommendation it is suggested that Option 3 remains the best option in the longer term. Option 4 is similar in cost to Option 1 and in difficulty or loss of amenity to Option 2. Option 5 is putting things on permanent hold to another day, it also does not take into account the inconvenience to staff, additional time servicing the meetings and loss of an amenity in the Town Hall of the first floor. Over a period of 25 years with 2.5% inflationary increases using other premises would cost **£99,661** against a public works loan total cost in the same period of **£114,750**. It is therefore recommended to again consider Option 3 to give closure to this issue. To take advice from structural engineer, building control officer and architect to guide through this process. To prepare specification and tender documents as appropriate, firm up estimates and program the work at the earliest opportunity. To use budgeted funds of £25,000 and reserves of £30,000 to meet the cost or look to delay £30,000 of budgeted expenditure in financial year 2007/08 to meet the cost. This expenditure could be identified and this could be considered at the same time as the estimates.

It was unanimously agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow Mr T Dickens to speak on behalf of Mrs D Dickens.

Mr Dickens reported his concerns and stated the wrong lift had been installed at the beginning as it does not fulfil DDA requirements. He stated that although Option 2 would be ok, he strongly recommended Option 3. He went on to say that Option 5 does solve the problem but it would not be a wise decision.

Standing Orders were brought back into committee.

Following a lengthy discussion it was stated at the conciliation meeting it was agreed the decision on the lift would be resolved before May. Cllr. I Sherwood proposed and Cllr. F Mann seconded to accept Option 5, to re-locate all Council meetings to the Assembly Rooms.

It was agreed with 4 votes for, 1 against and 6 abstentions to accept Option 5, to re-locate all Council meetings to the Assembly Rooms.

1148.2. It was reported the Museum opened its doors to the public on 31st March, with the official opening and press preview taking place on the 30th March. The official opening was conducted by the Mayor. It has been reported that a steady flow of paying visitors to the Museum have come through the door in the first week. Numbers have not yet been

Page 609

published. Congratulations to all concerned particularly acknowledging the work carried out by the volunteers, the main contractors Evergreen from Necton and those including the Town Council who have invested grant money in the Museum. The Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk have been working with the Company Secretary David Wickerson to

finalise a lease for the Museum. This is for 12 years taking into account the obligations to all the grant funders and the existing 10 year agreement which is now into its sixth year.

1149. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE:

1149.1. A copy of e-mailed letter from Paul Cater addressed to SCALGA and reply regarding deeds was circulated to all Councillors for information only.

1149.2. Copies of recent letters and an article relating to allotments published in the local press. Two published letters from Mrs. M. Cannon and Mrs. E. Heads respectively and an article in the Lynn news regarding an allotment holder who may leave the country. None of the three people concerned have written directly to the Town Council.

1149.3. An acknowledgement letter from Mrs. S. Polaine-Leonard was circulated to all councillors for information only.

1149.4. A copy of the Clerk's reply to Ms Duffill addressing her concerns re-various issues Days Field/Tumbler Hill raised at the March meeting was circulated to all councillors for information only.

1149.5. A circular letter from the Rt Hon Harriet Harman QC MP Minister of State regarding Memorial Safety at the Cemetery and Churchyard was circulated to all Councillors for information only. This circular letter outlines a slightly different response to health and safety issues at Cemeteries and Churchyards. There is a call for a measured approach to risk assessment and have issues new advice on the HSE website.

1149.6. A copy of e-mailed correspondence with Mrs. Kate Gordon and the Town Clerks reply re-CCTV in London Street was circulated to all Councillors for information only.

1149.7. A copy of reported criminal damage to a window in the TIC was circulated to all Councillors for information only.

1149.8. Advance notice of NCAPTC Planning Seminar Thursday 14th June at the Assembly Rooms was circulated to all Councillors for information. This event would be of particular interest to all new Councillors.

1149.9. A circular letter from NCAPTC and Regional Report for Parish and Town Councils Jan 2007 was circulated to all Councillors for information only..

1149.10. A circular letter was circulated to all Councillors to consider, from and executive summary of Norwich City Council's bid for unitary status to Ruth Kelly MP Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

1149.11. A copy of the letter to Norfolk Primary Care Trust (PCT) from the Town Council and from Cllr Ian Sherwood have been circulated to Councillors. To date no response has been received from Sheila Childerhouse the Chairman of the PCT. Following a short discussion it was agreed to send a strongly worded letter requesting Sheila Childerhouse respond to the letter.

<p>The clerk was instructed to send a strongly worded letter requesting Sheila Childerhouse respond to the letter.</p>

1150. REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES OF OUTSIDE BODIES.

1150.1. There were no reports from representatives of outside bodies.

1150. BRECKLAND COUNCIL.

1150.1 Information from the Leader William Nunn as a Guide to your Council Tax Bill was circulated to all councillors for information only. This circular letter and information states that Breckland Council charge the lowest District Council tax in the country. A 'Band D' property costs £1.16 a week, the information outlines what services Breckland deliver throughout the district.

1150.2. The following booklet was discussed to consider Local Development Framework – Development Choices – Consultation. Booklet – deadline for comments is 30th April 2007.

Breckland Council held consultation events throughout the district recently including one at the Assembly Rooms. There are 51 options to consider in this document with a checklist at the back to state whether the Council agrees or disagrees with the option put forward. This is an extremely important document for the Council to consider in such a short period of time at a full Council meeting. A request has been made for additional copies of the booklet to allow all Councillors to receive a copy. It is recommended that the Council should consider whether they should hold an extraordinary meeting to go through this document thoroughly. The Mayor stated she would get all Councillors and new Councillors a booklet for the Town Assembly meeting.

<p>The Mayor stated she would get all Councillors and new Councillors a booklet for the Town Assembly meeting.</p>

1150.3. It was reported the Economic Development Team has reached the finals of this year's Academy for Sustainable Communities "Creating the Future" Award.

This team is the one which managed the CER Package of £!2.8m (Community Economic Regeneration) which trained over 2500 people, supported 65 businesses and realised new community buildings like ours here in Swaffham. Obviously they are delighted to be short-listed for such a prestigious award.

There is a national Best Value survey that asks residents across the country about their local council. I am more than happy to say in spite of a national trend showing satisfaction levels are falling, our Breckland score rose by a huge 12% so our score was 63% against national average of 51% and we are above the predicted rate for a council with our economic profile.

Breckland are certainly topping the table in the Eastern Region. Of course there will always be room for improvement although the key indicators are in the top quartile.

1151. NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL.

1151.1. It was reported there has been one item of late correspondence received relating to re-surfacing in Station Street/Castleacre Road A1065. The scheme is due to be started on 4th June for approximately 8 weeks with a road closure between 18th to 20th June. This will be circulated in the meeting pack next month.

1151.2. It was reported The Children's Rights Director for England has brought out a report setting out more than 100 new policies for children and young people who are in the Social Care Service for children. (We call them Looked after Children) They are based on what children have said is important to them over the last 3 years.

The report is issued at this time as the service is being taken over by the new OFSTED that will not only monitor Standard in Education but will incorporate Children's Services and Skills.

1152. DATES OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

1152.1. 18th April 2007 - Annual Town Assembly at 7.00pm (in the Assembly Rooms).

Page 611

N.B. If any councillors giving reports at the meeting require an appointment with the Town Clerk prior to the meeting to obtain further information, please try to do this as soon as possible just in case information has to be gathered on your behalf.

1152.2. 20th April 2007 – Mayor’s Reception AT THE Assembly Rooms.

This is an annual event by invitation only.

1152.3. 25th April 2007 – Recreation Ground Committee at 7.30pm (in the Assembly Rooms) This meeting follows a Youth Council meeting earlier that evening (in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall).

1152.4. 30th April 2007 – Market Committee at 7.00pm (in the Assembly Rooms)

The very last meeting of this Council is at the beginning of the week when local council elections take place.

1152.5. 3rd May 2007 – LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS – (Polling Station at the Assembly Rooms)

1152.6. 9th May 2007 – Training Evening – New Council 7.00pm – 9pm (in the Council Chamber)

This is particularly important for newly elected Councillors, but all Councillors can contribute to the evening and have a part to play. There is also an informal discussion on the forthcoming appointment of the Deputy Mayor and for this year the Mayor. Any further information please contact the Town Clerk.

1152.7. 16th May 2007 – Annual Meeting Full Council at 6.45pm (in the Assembly Rooms).

This is the very first meeting of the newly elected Council. It is always called the annual meeting of the Council as this is where the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are chosen and Councillors choose which Committees they wish to serve on in the forthcoming year.

1152.8. 23rd May 2007 – Town Group at 7pm (in the Community Centre)

1153. ADMISSION TO MEETINGS ACT (PUBLIC BODIES) 1960 – following the exclusion of the public and press:

1153.1. The Town Clerk reported the receptionist has completed the probationary period and suggested the employee is taken on as a permanent member of staff.

It was agreed to take the receptionist on as a permanent member of staff.
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The meeting closed at 8.35p.m.

Chairman.....

Appendix 1

Mr D Horwell – Did you send a reminder to Peddars Way relating to ‘Monkey business’ still going on in Queens Street?

Cllr S Matthews – Yes, I did.