

At a meeting of the Policy and Establishment Committee held at the Town Hall, Higham Ferrers on Tuesday 01 June 2010.

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Mrs. V M Newbery) (Chairman)
 The Deputy Mayor (Councillor H L Jackson)
 Councillor D E Drage Councillor Mrs. M Knott
 Councillor D C Lawson MBE Councillor G L Moore
 Councillor Mrs. A M Sauntson Councillor Mrs. M E Tuffnail
 Councillor Mrs. P H Whiting

10/186 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

The Mayor (Councillor Mrs. V M Newbery) was elected Chairman until the next Annual Meeting of the Council and took the chair.

10/187 **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

Councillor Mrs. A M Sauntson was elected Vice Chairman until the next Annual Meeting of the Council.

10/188 **APOLOGIES**

The Town Clerk reported that he had received apologies from Councillors Mrs. G M Murdin BEM..

10/189 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Declarations of Interest were made.;

Councillor D C Lawson MBE – Land at Stanwick Road

10/190 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Establishment Committee held on 13 April 2010 (copies of which being Folios 3933 – 3935 had previously been circulated) were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman .

10/191 **CRICKET CLUB**

The Town Clerk apprised the Meeting of a recent Meeting with the Cricket Club to discuss various issues at the Saffron Road Recreation Ground and confirmed that there was no longer a need for the Working Party to meet as per Minute 10/118 as all issues had been discussed.

10/192 **USE OF MARKET SQUARE FOR JAZZ RECITAL**

A Member reported that plans for the Jazz Recital in the Market Square were now well advanced.

10/193 **COUNCIL PROJECTS LIST**

The report of the Town Clerk updating the List of Council Projects (copies of which had been previously circulated) and showing the current position with respect to each project was considered. A discussion took place and the following actions were agreed:

Castle Fields: The Town Clerk advised that a further meeting with English Heritage had taken place and that agreement of the path construction had been agreed together with the outer fence in Castle Fields being replaced by a hawthorn hedge to give a more naturalistic approach. The marked plan from English Heritage was currently awaited so as to facilitate further work.

Fishponds, Vine Hill Drive The Town Clerk advised that following a second site visit by English Heritage it had been agreed that a fence could be erected along the edge of the car park nearest to the Fishponds and that he would be obtaining quotations from suitable contractors.

New Play Equipment: The Town Clerk advised that there had already been some vandalism of the new equipment.

Town Signs and Market Square Improvements: Councillor Mrs. A M Sauntson advised that a further meeting would be arranged in the near future.

Kingsmeadow Lane/Riverside Park Link: The Town Clerk advised that legal negotiations were taking place with the owners of the land for the path access to Kings Meadow Lane Estate.

Stanwick Road Land The Town Clerk advised that contact had been made by a firm of consultants on behalf of the Duchy of Lancaster vis-à-vis the development of the adjoining site, which could in turn lead to developments on the Council's Land.

Windmill Banks A general discussion took place regarding the poor condition of the approach to the Town and the lack of progress to alleviate the situation. It was agreed that a joint meeting should be arranged with representatives of Northamptonshire County Council, East Northamptonshire Council and the Housing Associations with a view to finding a solution to the situation.

10/194 **COMMUNITY FACILITY**

The Town Clerk advised that the Tennis Court Supervisor post had been filled following interviews on Thursday 27 May 2010 and that Mr. S Pell had been appointed on a fixed term contract to 30 September at the rate of £7.00 per hour for 11 hours per weekend, and will commence on 05 June 2010. The Ferrers and Rushden Tennis Club were now using the courts and bookings had been made into August 2010 for matches. Signs had been ordered to advertise both the lettings and the tennis club.

10/195 **APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2009/10 AND THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

The Town Treasurer presented the Accounts for the Financial Year 2009/10 (copies of which had been previously circulated) together with the Additional Financial Statement (copies of which had been previously circulated) and the Accounting Statement and the Annual Governance Statement to the External Auditor (copies of which had been previously circulated). The Town Treasurer explained each document to the Meeting and responded to questions- from Members. Following a short discussion it was

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that the Accounts for the Financial Year 2009/10 (copies of which had been previously circulated) be approved and adopted

And further it was

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that Accounting Statement and the Annual Governance Statement to the External Auditor (copies of which had been previously circulated) be approved and signed on behalf of the Council.

10/196 **PERSONNEL SUB COMMITTEE**

The Chairman (Councillor D C Lawson MBE) moved the receipt of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Personnel Sub-Committee. held on 05 May 2010 (copies of which being Folios 3942-3943 had previously been circulated). An extended discussion took place at the conclusion of which it was

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that the Minutes and Recommendations of the Meeting of the Personnel Sub-Committee. held on 05 May 2010 (copies of which being Folios 3942-3943 had previously been circulated) be adopted subject to Minute 10/151 being amended to read ‘subject to an Appraisal in October and review on 03 November 2010’.

10/197 **APPOINTMENT OF PERSONNEL SUB COMMITTEE**

The following Members were appointed to the Personnel Sub-Committee until the next Annual Meeting of the Council: Councillors D C Lawson MBE, G L Moore, Mrs. A M Sauntson, Mrs. M E Tuffnail and Mrs. P H Whiting.

10/198 **LITTER BINS IN SAFFRON ROAD RECREATION GROUND**

The Town Clerk advised that two litter bins were on order to be placed in Saffron Road Recreation Ground adjacent to the Sports Pavilion and near the seat adjacent to the Fishponds. A short discussion ensued and it was

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that a further Litter Bin be ordered to be placed near the seat adjacent to the Saffron Road at an approximate cost of £350.

10/199 **COUNCIL POLICIES**

A Member queried whether a review of Council Policies could be undertaken. The Town Clerk advised that numerous model policy documents were available from

NALC/SLCC which were tailored to the needs of Local Councils. Following a short discussion it was agreed that the Town Clerk obtain the requisite documents for further discussion by the Personnel Sub-Committee.

10/200 **DRAFT COUNCIL PROCEDURE FOR AWARD OF HONORARY FREEDOM STATUS**

The Town Clerk advised that it was necessary to set down a procedure for the granting of Honorary Freedom Status. The Draft Procedure prepared by Councillor AMT Reading was discussed and suitable amendments made to the draft text. The Town Clerk agreed to circulate the amended document in the first instance to Members of the Committee.

10/201 **PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTIONS**

The Town Clerk advised that a notification of extra parking restrictions had been received from Northamptonshire County Council (copies of which were circulated at the Meeting) upon which the consultation ended in the middle of June 2010 which was prior to the next Meeting of the Council. A discussion took place at the conclusion of which it was agreed that the Council approve of the proposed restrictions in School Lane and oppose the proposals for Linnetts Lane which it felt were totally unnecessary.

10/202 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

03 August 2010 at 7.30 p.m.

Mayor
29 June 2010

Chairman
03 August 2010