

HORLEY TOWN COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Council held at the Albert Rooms, Albert Road, Horley on Tuesday 14 December 2010 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillor S Marshall, Town Mayor & Chairman of the Council
Councillors P Avis, R Bethell, D Brooke-Harte, J Chapman,
M George, M Goldsmith, G Knight, V Marshall, R Olliver,
D Powell, M Robinson, V Snowball and F Stimpson.

Also present: A Jones Town Clerk
C Fenton Deputy Town Clerk

C 2744 Apologies and Reasons for Absence

RESOLVED: that the apologies of Cllrs P Chapman, M Miller, S Rogers, and S Thomas be accepted. (For reasons as specified in the attendance register.)

C 2745 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Bethell declared an interest in the Church Road Allotments item.

RESOLVED: noted.

C 2746 Public Forum

No members of the public were present.

RESOLVED: noted.

C 2747 Ordinary Meeting of the Council, 26 October 2010

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council were presented for confirmation by members and signature by the Chairman of the Council.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 26 October 2010, including all confidential items, be approved.

C 2748 Leisure & Amenities Committee, 21 September 2010

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Leisure & Amenities Committee held on 21 September 2010, including all confidential items, be received.

C 2749 Finance & General Purposes Committee, 12 October 2010

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 12 October 2010, including all confidential items, be received.

C 2750 Planning & Development Committee, 28 September 2010

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning & Development Committee held on 28 September 2010 be received.

C 2751 Planning & Development Committee, 2 November 2010

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning & Development Committee held on 2 November 2010 be received.

C 2752 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that he had attended the following:

Surrey Poppy Launch at Wotton House, Dorking
Opening of new Mellissa Restaurant (formerly Acorn Lodge)
Lighting of Bonfire at Round Table Annual Bonfire & Firework Display
Thank you evening at Crawley Irish Club
Opening of Garden of Remembrance
Two Minutes Silence in Horley Town Centre
Awards Evening at Oakwood School
Remembrance Day Parade and Service
Chamber of Commerce Bulb planting on "Roundabout of Memory"
County Service at Guildford Cathedral
Brambles Christmas Fayre
Crawley Civic Carol Service

RESOLVED: noted.

C 2753 Horley Market

The Clerk told members that, at the request of the traders, there was to be a mid week market with live music on Wednesday 22 December. He added that there would be no charge levied on regular traders. It was agreed that fliers be produced, advertising the event, for members to hand out in on days preceding the market.

RESOLVED: noted.

Devolved Powers

C 2754 The Clerk told members that, in view of the delay regarding the Legal Agreement with the Borough Council, it had been agreed to proceed with an exchange of Letters of Intent. There would be a phased handover of the grounds maintenance of the sites with Yattendon Road Recreation Ground and Bay Close Open Space designated for handover on 4 January 2011 and Riverside Garden Park, Riverside Garden Walk and Church Meadows designated for handover on 1 April 2011. The Clerk added that the handover would exclude any tree and boundary fencing works and explained that the Borough Council would also bear the cost of any signage. It had also been agreed that the Borough Council would indemnify the Town Council in respect of the works against any public liability claims.

RESOLVED: noted.

C 2755 The Clerk confirmed that, following the approval of County Cllr Dorothy Ross-Tomlin's application to use part of her members' allowance for the supply and installation of marker posts in Balcombe Gardens, the Town Council had arranged for the works to be carried out on her behalf, at a significantly reduced cost.

RESOLVED: noted.

C 2756 The Clerk reported receipt of an email from the Leader of Surrey County Council, explaining the need to devolve service delivery, with Town and Parish Councils playing a central role in this.

RESOLVED: noted.

C 2757 Members were updated on the recent Horley Town Council and Reigate & Banstead Borough Council Liaison Meeting. The Chairman explained that it had been a very positive meeting with much praise from the Leader of the Borough Council for the Town Council. Cllr Olliver added that it was acknowledged that, when works were devolved, the Town Council would give an enhanced service at no extra cost. The Clerk added that the Borough Council had reiterated its support for the Town Council to manage the new Langshott Community Hall.

RESOLVED: noted.

Liaison Meetings with Surrey Police

C 2758 The Clerk reported that the last meeting had been in October and added that the next meeting was due to take place later this week. He added that CCTV footage had identified the culprits who had been responsible for the recent offensive graffiti at the skate park and said that a compensation order was awaited.

RESOLVED: noted.

C 2759 It was noted that PCSO Angie Walker was leaving at the end of year and that the Chairman had made a presentation to her at a recent Neighbourhood Panel Meeting.

RESOLVED: noted.

C 2760 The Clerk told members that, throughout 2011, the Horley East Neighbourhood Panel Meetings were to be held here at the Albert Rooms, free of charge.

RESOLVED: noted.

Horley Environment Week

C 2761 Cllr Powell explained that the events from last year were almost completed. Only the judging of the Inter Schools competition remained, for which Mad Ideas was creating a collage of all the winning entries as a prize.

RESOLVED: noted.

C 2762 Cllr Powell went on to explain that the Friends of Horley group was expanding, with the involvement of employees from Scotia Gas Networks. He added that Mad Ideas was also keen to become involved. Cllr Powell added that the Friends Group had already completed two bulb planting projects and explained that, due to inclement weather, it had been agreed that Countrywide Grounds Maintenance would carry out the remainder of the planting at a reduced rate. Cllr Powell told members that the Friends Group also planned to cook a meal at a centre for the homeless. He concluded that he would be delighted to see other members supporting future initiatives and the Chairman of the Council confirmed his support. It was noted that the Environmental Sub-Committee was due to meet on 7 January 2011.

RESOLVED: noted.

C 2763 Cllr Bethell told members that the Friends Group was keen to see the Horley Carnival, or a similar event revived, to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. It was pointed out that such events took up to a year to organise and Cllr George reminded members that the Borough Council had provided funding for the previous Golden Jubilee celebrations. It was agreed that the matter be discussed at a future meeting.

RESOLVED: that the matter be discussed at the next meeting of the Leisure & Amenities Committee.

C 2764 Cllr Powell explained that he had recently attended a meeting with Borough officers at Reigate Town Hall to discuss proposals for a Borough wide initiative in 2011. He added that Borough officers did not seem keen to hold a specific Environment Week and were instead looking to promote recycling initiatives at other events. Cllr Powell said that the project seemed very much to be officer led at present. Cllr Knight added that he had been in contact with Cllr Julian Ellacott, Executive Member for the Environment, and was hopeful that this might change.

RESOLVED: noted.

C 2765 **Surrey County Association of Parish & Town Councils (SCAPTC) & National Association of Local Councils (NALC) - Membership 2011 / 2012**

Members considered the recommendation of the Finance & General Purposes Committee that this Council renew its membership of SCAPTC and NALC for 2011 –2012. They reviewed the Strengths and Weaknesses (SWOT) Analysis prepared by the Finance Committee Chairman, Cllr Olliver, a copy of which is appended to these minutes.

Cllr Powell stressed that new Government legislation was likely to devolve more service provision to Town and Parish Councils, making it important to stay as a member of SCAPTC. Cllr George stated that as much use as possible should be made of SCAPTC and added that SCAPTC should be encouraged to put pressure on NALC to improve its service.

The Clerk told members that he used SCAPTC to define legal questions and had also sought advice on possible VAT implications, when the Albert Rooms extension was being built. He added that a new Management Training Programme was currently being developed for larger Councils.

- C 2765)** After further discussion the recommendation of the Finance & General Purposes Committee was approved.

RESOLVED: that the Town Council renew its membership of SCAPTC and NALC for 2011 –2012.

Christmas 2010

- C 2766** Members considered a Surrey Mirror article, in which misleading and incorrect comments about the Town Council's arrangements for the installation of this year's Christmas lights had been made. The Clerk explained that, prior to the Town Council taking any further action, the newspaper should be given the opportunity to print a full response from the Town Council. He added that he had already sent a reply to the Surrey Mirror, requesting that it be published in full.

RESOLVED: that the response by the Clerk, as appended to these minutes, be noted.

(Afternote: the response was subsequently published in full.)

- C 2767** Charges for Church Road Allotments for Year Ending 31 January 2012

RESOLVED: that the charges be agreed as follows:

Full Plot: £20 per annum

Half Plot: £12 per annum

- C 2768** Reigate & Banstead Partnership

Cllr Bethell reported on the recent meeting, where the main discussion had been about the need for the Borough Council to cut costs.

RESOLVED: noted.

- C 2769** Reigate & Banstead Borough Council Consultation Draft – Corporate Plan 2011 – 2015

- C 2770** It was noted that, significant changes identified by the Coalition Government, as well as the impact of recession and deficit reduction requirements, had led the Borough's Executive to prepare a new Corporate Plan to 2015. Views on the main priorities were required by 14 January 2011.

Cllr Olliver explained that the Borough Council needed to save money, particularly following significant financial losses. Consequently, there would be no new swimming pool in the north of the Borough, only a new dry facility instead. He confirmed that the existing projects in Horley and at Donyngs Leisure Centre in Redhill would still go ahead. He added that Councillors in the North of the Borough were very unhappy with the decision and explained that the curtailment of the wet facility should enable the new recycling scheme to be put into operation across the whole Borough.

RESOLVED: noted.

- C 2771** **RESOLVED: that the Corporate Plan Sub-Committee prepare a response to the Consultation, for circulation to members and ratification at the next meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee in January 2011.**

C 2772 Innes Pavilion and Horley Anderson Centre

The Clerk reported receipt of a draft Legal Agreement, outlining proposals for the demolition of the Horley Anderson Centre and the provision of a separate heating source for the Innes Pavilion. He added that the Borough Council would meet all legal expenses and that the agreement was currently under review by the Town Council's Solicitors. The Clerk confirmed that members of the Horley Sports Social Club (the tenant of the Innes Pavilion) had been updated at a recent meeting.

Town Council Estimates and Precept – Financial Year 2011 / 2012

C 2773 Members considered the recommendations of the Finance & General Purposes Committee that a Precept of £32.80 per Band D Household, representing a zero increase compared with 2010-2011, be set for the Financial Year 2011/2012.

Cllr Olliver, Chairman of the Finance Committee, suggested a few amendments, which would not affect the overall totals. These were:

Income from Innes Pavilion:	£3,000 reduction
Earmarked fund for election contingency:	£3,000 increase
Earmarked fund for football projects:	£6,000 reduction

Cllr Olliver reiterated that he did not think it prudent to reduce the overall level of precept.

After further discussion, the following was approved:

RESOLVED:

- i) that the amendments proposed by Cllr Olliver be approved.***
- ii) that the recommendations of the Finance & General Purposes Committee be approved and a Precept of £32.80 per Band D Household, representing a zero increase compared with 2010-2011, be set for the Financial Year 2011/2012. (Unanimous vote.)***

C 2774 ***RESOLVED: that a Precept of £287,361 be set for the Financial Year 2011/2012, representing £32.80 per Band D Household (an increase of 0%) and the Borough Council be informed accordingly. (Full details are appended to these minutes.)***

C 2775 Diary Dates

Members noted forthcoming events, including the Councillor's Hospitality after the Carol Service on 18 December and mid week market on 22 December.

RESOLVED: noted.

C 2776 Urgent Business for Inclusion on Future Agenda

Priorities for Horley – Possible Public Consultation

RESOLVED: that the above item be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the Leisure & Amenities Committee.

Meeting closed at 9.05 pm. Date of Next Meeting: 15 February 2011