

SWAFFHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Wednesday 22nd June 2005 at 7.00p.m. in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Swaffham.

Present: Mayor Cllr J Stockdale (in the chair)

Councillors: Cllr B Emmerson, Cllr. P Darby, Cllr, D Cannon,
Cllr. A Greaves, Cllr S Matthews
Cllr. C Baker (7.04pm) Cllr. S Lister (7.04pm)

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

Public: None

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1. Cllr. P Buxton, Cllr. L Wise, Cllr I Sherwood, Cllr. F Mann.

2. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

2.1. *Andrea Bolton from the Planning Policy Team at Breckland Council gave a presentation on the Local Development Framework (LDF) (see appendix 1). She explained that the LDF came into force in September 2004. Although Breckland Council are the Planning Authority, Swaffham Town Council would now have a bigger influence on applications, not just the land use but also the economic, social and community issues.*

She went on to explain that under the new framework if Breckland Council do not do what they say, then they can be taken to task.

2.2. *A short discussion took place relating to a North/South bypass which is beneficial for Swaffham, this had been dropped from the plan. This needs to be re-instated, areas have been looked at for the central point in the town to be maintained, and businesses are suffering with no North/South bypass.*

It was suggested that everyone get together to look at the map.

2.3. *A discussion took place relating to the EcoTech industrial site where a planning application has now been given permission for a school on the site. Opposition to this application has resulted in it being referred to the Secretary of State due to the terms/feelings of the local community and concerns that land is being lost from employment. It is expected that a reply from the Secretary of State will take about 2 to 3 months.*

Councillor D Cannon reported that he has already invested £1,000,000 on units for industry on the site but now feels loathed to move if the school gets the go ahead.

3. INTRODUCING SERCO

3.1. *Sarah Cram the Street Scene Manager from Breckland Council briefed the Council and introduced Mr Ernie Buckley from Serco who are the new contractors responsible for the street cleansing. She explained the contract is different now, resources would be used differently, minor works/issues raised would be prioritised and dealt with by smaller teams as there is a supervisor for each area. A customer survey will be carried out each quarter to see how satisfied customers are with the new set up. Measures of Tidiness (MOTs) would also take place and weekly briefing sessions with Town Councils and Highways. Newsletters will also be produced for Councils.*

3.2. *The Grot Spot clean up launch started Friday 17th June from the pictures taken by Breckland Councillors. An area in Westacre Road was the first to be tackled.*

3.3. A question was asked if the Refuse Vehicle could change the time of its collection round from Market Place to Watton Road including Watton Road, as this coincides with the busiest time of day for commuters using that road. With the road being very narrow, cars queue up. Mr Buckley stated he would shift the round if he could to ease the problem.

3.4. The question was asked about a private contractor who used to follow the refuse collector and clean the bins. Mark Stokes from Breckland said he would write to 'VIP Bin Clean' to see if they would operate in this area.

3.5. A short discussion took place on various areas within the town which do not get cleaned on a regular basis, the Orford Road Play area and along the paths by Fourbouys.

3.6. It was asked if further information could be supplied to householders as to what can go into the recycling bins as the criteria has changed and a lot of people are very confused.

3.7. A discussion took place relating to the CCTV coverage in Swaffham. Mr Ernie Buckley stated the monitor is in the control room, although there are 4 people in total there is always one in the control room with 2 on a Friday night. He went on to say the camera still works well within the town, with police officers always going in to check to see various issues which have been caught on camera. He said the camera does not always capture everything as it roams which is a programming issue. (Mark Stokes thanked everyone for their time and the Mayor thanked the team from Breckland for coming.)

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

4.1 The following applications were considered:

3PL/2005/0903/F Erection of Edwardian Style Timber Conservatory, Mr & Mrs Darkins NO OBJECTION	3PL/2005/0942/CU Change of Use from vacant medical centre (class D1) to offices (class B1) Norcliffe Ltd, former Plowright Surgery, 9-10 Plowright Place. COMMENT - Conflict between plan and application, subject to clarification no objection in principle
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5. TOWN CRIER

5.1. The Town Clerk reported he had spoken with Mr Eddie Godden reference the Town Crier vacancy, a letter has now been received from Mr Eddie Godden applying for the position of Town Crier. He has requested travel expenses from his home to each event. A short discussion took place regarding costs etc. and what was in the budget for a Town Crier. The Town Clerk was instructed to gather more information relating to costs, including suits etc. before the next meeting. Also to write to Mr Godden saying we would be pleased to consider him and make an appointment to discuss position.

The Town Clerk was instructed to check the Budget Figure, Honorarium, Suit and other costs for Town Crier for the Next Town Council Meeting.

6. WORK EXPERIENCE

6.1. The Town Clerk informed the Council 2 Work Experience pupils would be joining on 4th July until 15th July 2005, one in the office and the other at the Cemetery.

6.2. The Town Clerk reported a request has been made to consider a Diploma Student from the College of West Anglia for the next two years on a work placement on Fridays. It was unanimously agreed to offer a Student from the College of West Anglia a work placement on Fridays for two years.

The Town Clerk was instructed to contact the College of West Anglia to accept the work placement on Fridays for two years.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

Chairman_____