

**Page 578**

**SWAFFHAMTOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of an Extraordinary meeting held on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2007 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Swaffham

Present: Mayor: Cllr. S Matthews (7.05p.m.)

Councillors: Mrs C Baker, Mr D Butters, Mrs P Buxton, Mr D Cannon,

Mrs A Greaves, Mrs T Jennison, Mrs S Lister, Mr F Sharpe,  
Mr I Sherwood (7.40p.m.), Mr J Stockdale.

Town Clerk: Mr. R. Bishop

Assistant Town Clerk: Mrs. R. Noble

Public: 1

**1101. APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE.**

1101.1. Cllr. L Wise, Hospital.

**1102. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – for items included on the Agenda.**

1102.1. There were no declarations of interest.

**1103. PLAY AREAS**

1103.1. Documentation of an offer from Breckland Council relating to the transfer of Play Areas at New Sporle Road and the Oaklands was circulated to Councillors for consideration. The offer comes with a proposed annual contribution towards the cost of maintaining the play areas of £2,463.00 per annum for a period of thirty years. The area of open space surrounding the play areas would be transferred to the Town Council without a commuted sum, but Breckland council would continue to undertake grounds maintenance, to the current specification, through the Serco contract until April 2015.

Following a discussion there were concerns relating to repair or replacement of play equipment and clarification is required on the tree maintenance position. It was suggested that grant funding could be applied for relating to the replacement or new equipment on the play area.

Councillor P Buxton proposed and Councillor S Lister seconded that Swaffham Town Council should take on the Play Areas from Breckland Council.

**It was unanimously agreed that Swaffham Town Council should take on the Play Areas from Breckland Council.**

1103.2. It was stated that on the Orford Road Playing Field the trees along the railway line are overgrown, it was suggested that this area is cleared prior to the council taking it over. The Clerk stated he would look at the Serco contract to see if the trees along the railway line are part of the maintenance programme.

**The Clerk was instructed to look at the Serco contract to see if the trees along the railway line are part of the maintenance programme.**

#### **1104. PUBLIC TOILETS/TIC.**

1104.1. Documentation of an offer from Breckland Council relating to the transfer of the Public Toilets/TIC was circulated to the Council for consideration. The offer comes with freehold ownership of the public toilets, together with £215,000.00 to Swaffham Town Council to manage the public toilets which ever way they feel best. If Breckland refurbish the public toilets first then the commuted sum from Breckland would be £115,000.00

The Clerk reported the figure has been adjusted to let the TIC out as commercial space, he also reported that Mr Joe Liggett would be sending maps of the local area in time for the full Town Council meeting in February.

There were lengthy discussions on whether the TIC remains in the building, moves to the Museum or to a **Page 579** different location.

It was suggested that the Town council should explore the cost of refurbishing the toilets themselves, as this could cut the cost considerably. The Clerk stated that the council could have the plans which have already been drawn up by Breckland.

Councillor Ian Sherwood arrived at 7.40p.m.

Further discussions took place relating to the transfer of the Public Toilets/TIC, mainly to discuss possible options for where best to place the Toilets/TIC. Councillor S Lister proposed and Councillor P Buxton seconded that Swaffham Town Council take over the Public Toilets/TIC in Swaffham from Breckland Council for a minimum of £215,000.00

**It was agreed with 9 votes for and 1 against for Swaffham Town Council take over the Public Toilets/TIC in Swaffham from Breckland Council for a minimum of £215,000.00**

1104.2. It was suggested that the Town Council will decide if the refurbishment is carried out by the Town Council or Breckland when Breckland Council forward the specification. It was also suggested that the Clerk explore the costs on the following options for either the February or March meeting:

- 1) Get the specifications from Breckland Council
- 2) Access for the toilets through the TIC
- 3) Relocation of the Toilets
- 4) Extension on either side of the TIC for entrance to toilets.

**The Clerk was instructed to explore the costs on the following options for either the February or the March meeting:**

- 1) Get the specifications from Breckland Council**
- 2) Access for the toilets through the TIC**
- 3) Relocation of the Toilets**
- 4) Extension on either side of the TIC for entrance to toilets.**

1104.3. It was suggested the Clerk speak to a local taxi company who have shown an interest in the TIC building with regards to a possible entrance being through the commercial property.

Councillor J Stockdale left the meeting at 8.25p.m.

1104.4. Following a short discussion it was stated that a commuted sum would come to the Town Council relating to any future developments in Swaffham.

The meeting closed at 8.28p.m.  
Chairman.....