

SWAFFHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Wednesday 8th November 2006 at 6.45p.m. in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Swaffham.

Present: Mayor Cllr S Matthews

Councillors: - Mrs C Baker, Mrs P. Buxton, Mr D Butters, Mr D Cannon,
Mrs A Greaves, Mrs T Jennison, Mrs S Lister, Mr F Sharpe,
Mr I Sherwood, Mr J Stockdale, Mr L Wise.

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

Public: - 35

1055. APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE.

1055.1. Cllr. F Mann – Work Commitments.

1055.2. The Mayor welcomed members of the Youth Council to the Town council meeting.

1055.3. The Mayor congratulated the Deputy Town Clerk on receiving her Diploma.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 6.48p.m.

THE MEETING WAS RECONVENED AT 7.05p.m.

1056. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – for items included on the Agenda.

1056.1. Cllr I Sherwood declared a personal interest on behalf of himself and all Conservative Councillors on item 1064.10

Cllr. F Sharpe declared a personal interest on item 1061.2

Cllr C Baker and Cllr. D Butters declared a personal interest on item 1063.4

1057. MAYOR'S REPORT.

1057.1. The Mayor reported on events attended:

Breckland District Council Chairman's Reception in the Queens Hall, Watton.

Welcomed French Market stall holders.

Cheese and Wine evening, Lydney House Hotel, S.P.A.

Planted atree in memory of Robert Rippengal on the Eco Tech site, Aged 39.

37th Charter Night Anniversary of Swaffham Rotary Club.

The following events were attended by the Deputy Mayor on behalf of the Mayor:

Open night of Swaffham Players play in the 6th Form Centre.

Opened the Art Exhibition organised by Swaffham Rotary Club.

1057.2. The Mayor informed the Council they have before them a Council Motion regarding the Swaffham Community Hospital - Cllr Ian Sherwood requested the Council adopt the following motion:

This Council:

- Notes the excellent service provided by Swaffham Community Hospital in providing locally accessible healthcare.
- Deplores the current programme of closures across the country that conflicts with the Government's own commitment to Community Hospitals given in its 2005 election manifesto;
- Notes the strength of public opinion in favour of Swaffham Community Hospital.
- Recognises the importance of Swaffham Community Hospital in presenting an alternative to admission to acute hospitals, in providing opportunities for early discharge from acute hospitals, and for periods of in-patient palliative care;

- Notes the potential loss to the NHS of dedicated staff if Swaffham Community Hospital closes.

This Council resolves:

- To call upon the Government to step in to save Community Hospital services.
- To call upon Norfolk Primary Care Trust to consider fully the results of its review of the proposed bed cuts or possible closure of Swaffham Community Hospital.
- To Submit to the Primary Care Trust written evidence of the importance of the Community Hospital to this town.

Cllr. A Greaves seconded the motion.

It was unanimously agreed to accept the motion as read.

Cllr. I Sherwood informed the meeting there is a 'Have Your Say' meeting relating to the closure of community hospitals at Matishall on Wednesday 15th November, he stated if anyone required transport to let him know.

1058. POLICE REPORT – P.C. Partridge in attendance.

1058.1. P.C. Partridge reported there had been a total of 71 crimes in the past month including burglary, assault, arson, criminal damage, damage to vehicle, theft, shop lifting, drugs and sexual assaults. A discussion took place relating to various crimes, PC Partridge stated the reporting of crimes has become easier with text messaging.

1058.2. P.C. Partridge reported there is going to be a new policing style, The Safer Neighbourhoods initiative which is Government led will be dynamic and difficult, it will involve councils. It was stated that he would be happy to attend the January meeting for slightly longer than normal to discuss this with Councillors.

1059. MINUTES

1059.1. The Full Town Council Minutes of Wednesday 8th October were agreed and signed as a true record by the Mayor.

1060. TOWN CLERK REPORT:-

1060.1. The Clerk reported the consultation day for the Shambles was held at the Assembly Rooms on Thursday 2nd November. It was disappointing that neither the Breckland Council enforcement officer, nor street scene officer were present on the day. There was a reasonable response from businesses in the area and the general public, but it would have been nice to get more views. A further week or so will be allowed for any more forms to be handed in. An issues report will then be produced and discussed by the Open Spaces Committee on 22nd November. It was reported that approximately 20 people attended and all completed questionnaires.

1060.2. The Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk have attended two school council meetings at Hamond's in the past month. They mounted a static display during their Local Democracy Week trying to get the interest of young people in serving on a Youth Town Council. The Deputy Clerk has also attended an executive meeting of the school council. There have been three meetings including one this evening and some Young People were present this evening observing the way that the Town Council work - the first meeting was attended by the Mayor, the second meeting was attended by PC Andy Partridge and Police Community Support Officer Sarah. Youth worker Sally Palmer has been central to the setting up of the Youth Council and will be working closely with the Deputy Clerk who is the lead officer from the Town Council. It is at a very early stage, where a small group are working towards raising awareness amongst their peers by holding an event and writing an article for the town newsletter. They are starting to think about how a Youth Council can make a

difference, when and how they should be elected, what they should be doing, looking at holding an event for young people and thinking about projects that could give them a long term goal. A Youth Café in the town centre could be the ultimate aim.

1060.3. The Clerk reported he is pleased there is progress at last relating to the Swimming Pool, he stated he is now in a position to move things forward with the Town Council's solicitor towards the land purchase for the site identified for the Swimming Pool. The solicitor can then work towards a three way agreement between Swaffham Town Council, Breckland Council and the land owners Landmatch. Breckland Property Manager Ray Johnson and the Clerk have exchanged e-mails and spoken on the telephone this week. The Clerk reported he is happy to divulge details of the negotiations to Councillors below the line, but members of the public should be assured that the Town Council policy with regard to this land purchase remains the same.

1060.4. The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Deputy Clerk and Clerk attended a five towns meeting on Tuesday 31st October. There will be some details disclosed to Council below the line. The five towns meetings are arranged between the Town Clerks and Mayor's of each of the five Town Council's, in the Breckland District. The five towns have all been discussing the possibility of taking on the public toilets in our respective towns and these discussions involve negotiating the right kind of funding to come with the toilets. Swaffham's public toilet building also has the Tourist Information Centre attached, so our discussions have also been about the TIC. In recent months a new officer has been appointed at Breckland to look at play areas in each town Mr. Joe Liggett. These again are an amenity that could be looked after by the Town Council. So similar discussions have been taking place in order to establish where the play areas are, in Swaffham there are three other play areas other than the Haspalls Road Recreation Ground which we already look after. There were other issues discussed such as Local Area Partnerships and the launch of the recent White Paper on Local Government. The next meeting is on 30th November when we hope to move things forward to a joint agreement with Breckland Council.

1060.5. It was reported the seat donated by the WI has been delivered to the Town Hall and will be installed close to the War Memorial next week. The other three seats that back on to the war memorial are part of the winter programme of redecoration by outside staff.

1060.6. The Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk attended the annual national conference of the Society of Local Council Clerks at Plymouth from 20th to 22nd October. As always they found the conference extremely useful in bringing them up to date. The Clerk reported much of this information will filter out to the Council in the coming months and the Clerk will put together a brief report on the main issues. It was unfortunate that the White Paper on Local Government was published four days after the conference. With both the Local Government Association and National Association of Local Council conferences also having to put up with speculative debates, rather than debating the issues in the White Paper. The summary report of 8 pages has been circulated, if anyone wishes to have a copy of the full document in two parts with 168 and 64 pages respectively, please let the Clerk know. He stated he was sure that when both NALC and SLCC get to grips with the finer detail there will be a number of training events for staff and councillors to attend. It was reported most of the White Paper recognises what Councils do, it is very constructive.

1060.7. The Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk have been interviewing for the post of Receptionist/Clerical Assistant. The Clerk reported there were 47 applicants in all, 8 were short-listed, and three were invited back for 2nd interview earlier today and there is a recommendation to consider the appointment below the line. All office staff have been working additional hours trying to get everything done on time.

1060.8. It was stated the seat at Northwell Pool has not been replaced, the Clerk reported there is a spare seat in storage and arrange to have one taken to the Northwell Pool area. But the Council have to apply for a licence prior to installation.

The Clerk was instructed to have a seat taken to the Northwell Pool area.

1061. PLANNING/DEVELOPMENT CONTROL:

1061.1. To receive notification of Decisions/Information from Breckland Council:-

3AG/2006/1131/F Planning permission granted for new above ground diesel fuel storage tank. Swaffham Grange Service Station A147 Bypass.	3PL/2006/1328/F Planning permission granted for the erection of front porch and garage. New vehicular access. Purbeck House. Mr. & Mrs. Aynsley.
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1061.2. To receive and consider the following planning applications:-

3PL/2006/1560/F Two storey side extension, porch and conservatory, detached games room and garage. 40 King Street. Mr. W. Forlan and Ms L. Dahl. No Objection	3PL/2006/1549/F Erection of six houses with associated garaging and access road. Land South of Norwich Road. Walnut Farm Developments Ltd. Objection – 6 Houses would be overdevelopment.
3PL/2006/1428/A Internally illuminated shop and projecting sign. Boots, Market Place. The Boots Co, Ltd. No Objection	3PL/2006/1620/F Rear and front extensions. Tumble Toft, Tumbler Hill. Mr. & Mrs. Mills. No Objection
3PL/2006/1548/F Removal of existing conifer boundary and replace with 1.8m high fence with a further 0.6m of trellis. 14 Coronation Grove. Mr. J. Boddy. No Objection	3PL/2006/1622/F Conversion of existing coach house to dwelling. Coach House, Glaisdale House, 23 Station Street. Mr. & Mrs. R. Chapman Objection – Potential highway danger
3PL/2006/1648/F Proposed rear dormer to serve bedroom loft conversion and new entrance porch. 26 The Southlands. Mr. C. Smith. No Objection	

1061.3. Notifications of planning enforcement & TPO's

45 Cley Road: The Paddocks Residential Home: 3PL/2005/1738/F Extension Phase 3	113 London Street: Enforcement notice
6 Lynn Street – Satellite Dish	Tree Preservation Order No. 39 Oaks Drive

1061.4. The Clerk reported he had received a copy of Sporle with Palgrave Parish Council's response regarding the scoping opinion. If Councillors would like a copy, to let the Clerk know – there is 11 pages to consider. But this may not be relevant at present until a firm planning application is made.

1061.5. Notification has been received of a Committee meeting on 6th November re-3PL/2006/1493/0

1061.6. A request was made to discuss the issue of retrospective planning applications. Retrospective applications do cause councillors concern, as we have had previous debates on this subject. Whilst there are some people who flout the system by applying repeatedly for planning consent after the alteration or development is built. This is when the developer cannot wait for the planning process to take its course. But Breckland Council have a very effective enforcement team led by Debbie Wragg, and if they find that permission has not been sought for whatever reason, then the first part of this process is

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to request that retrospective planning consent is applied for. The whole process can take 12 months or more.

1062. FINANCE:

1062.1. Accounts for Payments for November 2006.

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

It was unanimously agreed to accept the accounts as listed.

1062.2. It was agreed to pass the cost of the waste collection for the French Market on to them to pay.

The Clerk was instructed to invoice the French Market for the Waste Collection.

1062.3. A letter to consider a request for financial support to Garden/Allotment Competition in 2007 was circulated to all Councillors. It was agreed to put it into the budget and then decide.

The Clerk was instructed to put the request into the budget for the Garden/Allotment competition and then decide.

1062.4. Correspondence relating to the Cemetery Chapel Roof with H. Smith & Sons (Honingham) Ltd. was circulated to all Councillors. The Clerk reported further correspondence is expected other than the exchange which is in the pack. The Clerk stated he has have also spoken with Mr. Smith on the telephone to reiterate the Council's position in respect of this particular job.

1062.5. Notification that 2007/08 Precept needs to be set by 15th December 2006 was circulated to all Councillors for information only.

1062.6. The Clerk reported on the progress on the Church Clock. He stated a great deal of the work has been completed now in respect of the mullions, new clock fixings and dial restoration. The final date for putting the clock back in position is now available. It will be raised into position by Wallwalkers on Thursday next week 16th November. There is still some work to be carried out by the Ian Haward of Haward Horillogical. This has to be done in situ. Mr. Haward is confident of getting everything in good working order before Christmas. The clock may be working well before this, but most of the repairs are to get the chiming of the clock at the right time. In addition to Ian Haward, we are in constant touch with Colin Staff the architect, Greg Scott the structural engineer and Norman Stanier from Wallwalkers the abseiling stone masons. As work has progressed, the Clerk reported he has been made aware of a Town Estate meeting set for a week on Friday, the Council should then find out the level of financial assistance available to the Town Council. This obviously affects the 2007/08 budget, the Clerk reported he will therefore hold all draft papers until this figure is known.

A question was asked if the council had approached the Church for a contribution, the Clerk stated he is going to arrange a meeting with the Rev. John Smith to discuss this.

1062.7. The Clerk informed councillors if they have got any burning issue they wish to discuss with regard to the forthcoming budget, Councillors were given until Friday lunchtime to get this information to the Town Hall. The Clerk will be discussing the first draft of the budget and budget notes with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and the members of the Finance Committee starting next week. The second draft will go to all Councillors on Wednesday 22nd November. As in previous years, the Clerk recommended that all Councillors read through the report, study the figures, list their issues of concern then make an appointment to come and see him at the Town Hall.

1063. JUBILEE HERITAGE PLAN.

1063.1. The Clerk stated he has circulated a draft terms of reference to councillors as an addition to their Standing Orders under Section 80 Delegated Authority. He stated he has had further discussions recently with Denis Tallon and Tony Dickens from Icen Partnership regarding the legality of having the Town Group as a Town Council Committee within the structure of a Local Area Partnership. If necessary, legal advice may be taken from our National Association to clear up any concern. The issue centres on who the 'Town Group' is accountable to and as you can see in the terms of reference the Town Council has the final say on the acceptance or support of each proposal. However, the Town Group would have a great deal of autonomy to carry out the work they need to do, working within the partnership structure and within Council policy. The Clerk informed Council they can amend the detail of the terms of reference if they wish; this model is based on the Recreation Ground Committee with the exception of the three Councillors who become Directors of Icen. Whilst they are appointed by the Council they cease to act as councillors at Directors meetings, they are duty bound to act within the objects of the charity.

It was unanimously agreed to adopt the draft terms of reference giving delegated authority to the Town Group under the Council's Standing Orders.

1063.2. It was reported the Town Council have been asked to re-convene the group looking at Town Centre street furniture. This involved both Ben Emmerson and Paul Darby when they were Councillors, would Councillors indicate who would be prepared to attend a meeting to consider other areas where street furniture would be appropriate, as this is now under consideration by Icen. Cllr. P Buxton, Cllr. S Lister and Cllr. T Jennison stated they would be interested with being involved in the Street Furniture Group.

It was agreed for Cllr. P Buxton, Cllr. S Lister and Cllr. T Jennison to serve on the Street Furniture Group.

1063.3. The Clerk reported Veltshaws will be carrying out the snagging of the Town Hall extension in the first week of December, they met with the architect last week to agree what work needed to be completed. The automatic door will be replaced, as will the mechanism. We are currently in dispute with the door manufacturers Record who have charged for a number of visits to the Town Hall and still the door is not working properly.

1063.4. It was reported the Museum project is beginning to come together, as the main contractor has finished work on site. The volunteers are happily working away on decorating the building. Notice has been served to quit the unit at Ecotech by 30th November and plans are being finalised to move artefacts and displays back to the Town Hall. A further £7,500 was secured from the package last week as this was surplus monies not used on other projects. This is to be used on floor coverings and removal costs. The option of re-laying the old Community Centre floor in the foyer and display rooms of the Town Hall was explored, but this was not possible because of the excessive cost. The additional funding has given the Museum sufficient money to complete the flooring to a higher standard than was first envisaged. The CCTV, alarm and telephone systems are now in place. The Museum staff are now back in their old office, the electrical work on the Sampson Room has been carried out today. The work continues off site with regard to the Howard Carter display. New display cases are being delivered in early December. The Stannah Stair lift will also be in place by then. The Friends of the Museum have funded a number of extras and will be kitting out the shop. At the December meeting it may be possible to announce a firm opening date for the Museum, this is yet to be confirmed by the Directors. The whole building is starting to come alive again, at some point prior to Christmas a viewing for Councillors may be arranged. There is still too much going on at present and half finished areas in need of attention. There is still an issue to resolve with continuation funding or lack of it for the two members of staff. In general the outlook is

very good for the Museum and most of the outputs for the project as a whole have already been reached, it is just a case now of getting it ready to open to the public.

It was reported the Hamonds Education Charity gave £1,000 to the education side of the Museum.

1064. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE:

1064.1. Correspondence relating to allotments with Sue Polaine-Leonard was circulated to all Councillors for information only.

1064.2. Correspondence with Mr. W.M.G. Bompas relating to wind turbines was circulated to all Councillors for information only.

1064.3. E-mailed correspondence with Monika Rieger-Ridd re- French Market was circulated to all Councillors for information only..

1064.4. E-mailed correspondence from Chris Bone re- French Market was circulated to all Councillors for information only.

1064.5. A copy of letter re- Wind Turbines near Swaffham – Mrs. R.A. O'Connor was circulated to all Councillors for information only.

1064.6. Notification of Norfolk Rural Community Council's Review of Rural Regeneration was circulated to all Councillors. – closing date is 10th November – questionnaire on <http://www.surveymonkey.com/sasp?u=27342764655>

1064.7. A letter regarding leasing land for a Scout & Guide Hut from Howard Marshall was circulated to all Councillors with an acknowledgement. This will be on next months agenda.

1064.8. A request from Local Works re-Sustainable Communities Bill was circulated to all Councillors. It was unanimously agreed for the Clerk to write to the MP to support the Bill and for councillors to complete and return the questionnaire.

The Clerk was instructed to write to the MP to support the Sustainable Communities Bill. All Councillors were asked to complete and return the questionnaire.

1064.9. An invitation was circulated to all councillors to consider attendance at a Communities & Farming event 15th November 2006. Any councillors wishing to attend to let the Clerk know as soon as possible.

1064.10 A request from Swaffham Conservative Councillors Group to place a table in the doorway of Town Hall in support of Swaffham Community Hospital from 11.30am – 1.30pm on Saturday 11th November 2006 was circulated to all Councillors. It was unanimously agreed for Swaffham Conservative Councillors Group to place a table in the doorway of the Town Hall 11.30am – 1.30pm on Saturday 11th November 2006.

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1065. REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES OF OUTSIDE BODIES.

1065.1. A report was given relating to the Health Forum – The main speaker was Bob Turner, Project Coordinator, Connecting Communities. He takes a camper van on a regular four week rotation around eight West Norfolk villages following the route of the mobile Police Station. He commented on the main issues people had: health, council matters, the environment, fear of crime, activities for young people and outlined the information he was able to offer directing them to the appropriate authorities. Future expansion is dependant on further funding being secured.

Anna Sylvester and Kate Plews of MIND reported on the Furniture Makeover based at Swaffham Community Centre and the café being run by volunteers on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Representatives from Forward & Futures advised of the Drop-in based in Austin Fields in Kings Lynn open to anyone who has a learning difficulty. They have been able to support clients in starting up small businesses. One included a market stall selling Gothic jewellery.

The Basic Food Hygeine Course for Tuesday November 21st is full but a second is being planned. To book a place contact alan@westnorfolkvca.org

Following the recent PCT changes Mental Health Services in this area are being taken over by the Norfolk & Waveney Mental Health Partnership Trust.

Karen Brewster, Traveller Education Service, reported on a “living display” at Gressenhall Museum demonstrating what traveller life was like in the past. She had visited five local schools who were taking part to talk about life for modern day travellers.

1066. BRECKLAND COUNCIL.

1066.1. Street naming and numbering re-Eversley House Station Street etc was circulated to all Councillors for information only.

1066.2. Street naming and numbering re-The Bungalow, Silver Drift Poultry Site was circulated to all Councillors for information only.

1066.3. Breckland Community News – Autumn issue 2006 was circulated to all Councillors for information only.

1066.4. Breckland Cabinet papers relating to funding Community Partnerships were circulated to all Councillors for information only.

1066.5. A request from Clean Neighbourhood Officer Keith Fuller to attend a future Council meeting to update the Council on the Clean Neighbourhood Act 2005 was circulated to all Councillors. It was agreed to invite Keith Fuller to the February meeting.

<p>The Clerk was instructed to invite the Clean Neighbourhood Officer Keith Fuller to the February meeting.</p>
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1066.6. Dates for Breckland CCTV Review 7th, 8th & 9th November were circulated to all Councillors to consider. The Review on the 9th is at Wayland House in Watton at 6.30pm.

1066.7. It was reported there is a forum at Breckland Council for Town and Parish Councillors on 12th December, officers from all departments will be there.

1067. NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL.

1067.1. Correspondence relating to signage in Cley Road was circulated to all Councillors for information only.

1067.2. A circular letter notifying temporary closure of Swaffham Library from 18th November to 5th December for improvement work to be carried out was circulated to all Councillors for information only.

1067.3. A circular regarding questionnaires sent re- Sporle Road footway was circulated to all Councillors for information only.

1067.4. A circular regarding questionnaires sent re- Northfields Road drainage was circulated to all Councillors for information only.

1067.5. Details of MMP1795 Swaffham, A1065 London Street – Mini Roundabout and Zebra Crossing programmed for 22nd January 2007 was circulated to all Councillors for information only.

1067.6. Correspondence with Mr. A.F. Peggs regarding increase in HGV's using Watton Road and other traffic related issues was circulated to all Councillors for information only.

1067.7. A letter from Mott MacDonald Re- Theatre Street proposed footway- Cley Road to Car Park entrance with 2 options was circulated to all Councillors. Cllr. I Sherwood proposed and Cllr. D Cannon seconded to favour option 2.

It was unanimously agreed to favour option 2.

1068 To notify of the DATES and changes of forthcoming meetings & receive any items to include on the AGENDAS OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:-

1068.1. Wednesday 15th November 2006 1st Town Council Roadshow "Do you want to become a Councillor?" 4pm – 8pm.

1068.2. Wednesday 22nd November 2006 at 7.00pm Open Spaces & Amenities Committee < Recreation Ground Committee (postponed) >

1068.3. Wednesday 6th December 2006 at 7.00pm Finance Committee (Budget) full council (*in the Council Chamber*)

1068.4. Wednesday 13th December 2006 at 6.45pm Full Council (*in the Council Chamber*).

1069. ADMISSION TO MEETINGS ACT (PUBLIC BODIES) 1960 – following the exclusion of the public and press:

1069.1. The Clerk recommended Tracey Martin to be appointed as Reception/Clerical Assistant. She is a local person, former pupil of Hamonds School, living at Sporle. Amongst other things she has 8 years experience working for North Yorkshire County Council in an administrative capacity. She therefore has the relevant experience to go with her qualifications. Tracey is able to start work on Monday 13th November, she has been working as a Museum volunteer for the past year, so we are familiar with her capabilities.

It was unanimously agreed to accept the Clerks recommendation to appoint Tracey Martin as the Reception/Clerical Assistant with a review in April 2007.

1069.2. The Clerk reported that correspondence from Market traders speaks for itself and the aim on behalf of the Council is to draw the issues to a close, but allowing the traders and the Market Superintendent to continue working with each other.

1069.3. A further letter from Mrs Dickens and the Clerks acknowledgement to the Disability Rights Commission was circulated to all Councillors. This advises that Mediation UK who deliver the Conciliation Service have gone into receivership. The Clerk reported there is little point in sending a full response at the present time, so there is no draft letter to consider this evening.

1069.4. The commuted sum proposals for public toilets agreed with the Town Clerks and Mayor's of our respective towns in Breckland were discussed with the Council. There were also discussions that centred around holding all five commuted sums in one bank account jointly and employing a cleaning contractor jointly between the five towns.

It was decided not to hold a joint bank account and not to employ the services of a cleaning contractor between the five towns. The Clerk was instructed to proceed with jointly negotiating a higher Commuted Sum with Breckland Council.

1069.5. The Buttercross lighting was considered by the Council at the last meeting and rejected. It is now under consideration to be funded by Icen Partnership, but the Town Council would have the on-going electricity supply to pay for. The Clerk asked whether the Town Council are against Icen Partnership funding the Buttercross lighting in principle and similarly whether you would agree to take on the on-going electricity costs. The Clerk advised that any decision would have to be ratified at the next Council meeting

It was decided to proceed with reinstating the electricity supply to the Buttercross to be funded by Icen Partnership, with the on-going electricity supply paid by the Town Council.

1069.6. It was reported a complaint was recently raised from a member of the public relating to the issue of gutters in and around the town centre. In many which have been pointed out grass is growing out of them. We have carried out some research with both Breckland Council and Norfolk County Council, and this looks like it is up to us as a Town Council to contact individual property owners. The Clerk stated he has raised this because if the Council set a council policy the office staff can act without raising the matter at a Council meeting again.

It was unanimously agreed to write to the complainant informing them that they would need to contact the private owner as this is not a matter for the Council.

1069.7. To ratify decision from 11th October meeting re: 106 agreement. The decision you took at the last meeting below the line in respect of a Section 106 agreement relating to a minimum of £22,000 or £1,000 per unit whichever is the greater sum.

It was agreed to ratify the decision taken at the previous meeting in respect of a Section 106 agreement to a minimum of £22,000 or £1,000 per unit whichever is the greater sum

1069.8. A request has been received from a member of staff to purchase the old equipment from the Cemetery, he has offered £20 for the Honda Mower, the Ride-on Mower and the Condor Mower. It was agreed that the member of staff could purchase the Honda Mower, the Ride-on Mower and the Condor Mower for £20.

It was agreed that the member of staff could purchase the Honda Mower, the Ride-on Mower and the Condor Mower for £20.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

Chairman.....

Appendix 1

Mr Horwood – There are Irish people in Norfolk, are they here to discuss peace movements, have the IRA come|?

Cllr. Matthews – They are entitled.

Mr Horwood – There is a Tavern under no 30 Queen Street, someone is there.

Cllr Matthews – Peddars Way are aware.

Mr Lynch – Concerns about the development off Norwich Road, the amenities will be lost. The lane is too narrow for access for 6 houses, it is not wide enough for two way traffic although developers say it is adequate. Large vehicles would have to reverse onto Norwich Road.

Cllr. Matthews – We are not the planning authority, we put our views to them. I recommend you all write individual letters to Breckland, you do have the right to go to the planning meeting.

Cllr. Sherwood – You can ask your Breckland Councillor to speak on your behalf.

Mr McGuinness – Has attended many road accidents in the past and reversing from the narrow lane is another accident waiting to happen.

Keith – I am conscious of the application, the building area has been increased and there are now 6 houses instead of 5. We have liaised with highways and specifications are acceptable.

Mr Davies – The property is close to my house.

Keith – There is an access statement with the application, 100' from window to window is acceptable.

Cllr. Matthews – Residents to take their concerns to Breckland.

Mr Davies – There are no pavements on the lane.

Cllr. Matthews – Talk to Breckland Officers.

Mr Creed – There are environmental issues, drains etc.

Keith – Looking at ways of putting drains in, no issues, have written to residents relating to drainage.

Cllr. Matthews – Make an appointment at Breckland to see officers.

Mrs Miles – Why is the flag not up for Remembrance Day?

Cllr. Matthews – We will put it up.

Mr Doran – Swaffham Town Council should be interested in lighting and pavement in North Pickenham Road. Lorries take all the road.

Cllr Matthews – We are always asking NCC to cut back the hedges. Because of houses cannot widen the road.