

UTTOXETER TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
UTTOXETER TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY, 13 MARCH 2012 AT 7.00 PM**

Councillor A M Chapman – Chairman and Town Mayor

Councillors M Blencowe, C Graham, R Grieve, H E Montgomery, H Montgomery, A Noyes, K Penlington, A Riley, J Russell, K Stubbs, L Webb, N J Wood.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors P Collins and J Mortimer.

2. **MINUTES**

(a) The minutes of the Meeting held on 14 February 2012 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

(b) The minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 28 February 2012 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

(c) The minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 9 March 2012 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. **ACCOUNTS**

(a) Consideration was given to the list of accounts for payment in the sum of £31,741.44 for payment.

RESOLVED that the list of accounts be approved and the Mayor and Deputy Mayor be authorised to sign it.

(b) Consideration was given to the monthly summary of the Council's income.

RESOLVED that the same be noted.

4. **BANK BALANCES**

At 8 March 2012 the bank balances stood at:

Current Account	£9,665.00
Special Interest Account	£148,289.17
Town Hall Project Account	£59,270.97
Town Mayors' Account	£2,072.71

At 13 March 2012 the bank balances stood at:

Current Account	£5,638.06
Special Interest Account	£148,555.75
Town Hall Project Account	£59,270.97
Town Mayors' Account	£2,285.21

5. **TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT**

- (a) The Mayor's Report.

The Mayor had circulated a written report regarding functions he had attended since the date of the last meeting.

3 February Old Time Variety Show at Ashbourne.
13 February Visit to JCB Headquarters.
24 February Lent Lunch provided by Churches Together.

- (b) The Deputy Mayor's Report.

The Deputy Mayor reported that he had attended Uttoxeter Lions Club Charter Night.

6. **QUESTIONS**

- (a) From members of Uttoxeter Town Council.

None received.

- (b) From members of the electorate.

The following written questions were submitted by Mr Lionel Thacker.

"In the Uttoxeter Advertiser ex-Mayor, David Brookes, stated that six council employees are getting £104,000 salaries."

1. *Is this true?*

Mayor's response: No, this is incorrect.

2. *What are these employees getting?*

Mayor's response: Individual salaries cannot be disclosed but Mr Thacker has had a copy of the Town Council's estimates for 2012/13, which give total salary figures.

3. *Who is speaking the truth?*

Mayor's response: Uttoxeter Town Council.

7. **REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS**

- (a) Borough Councillor M Blencowe submitted a written report regarding:

- Staffordshire County Council's OFSTED reports.
- ESBC Pest Control.
- Plant Fairs at Bramshall Road Park.

- (b) Borough Councillor A Riley reported verbally upon the proposed changes to car parking charges.

RESOLVED that the subject of East Staffordshire Borough Council's proposed changes to car parking charges be included on the next agenda.

8. **REPORTS FROM MEMBERS WHO HAD ATTENDED MEETINGS ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**

Councillor H Montgomery reported notification that he had been elected to the Executive Committee of SPCA.

RESOLVED that the same be noted.

9. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were requested to declare any interest they may have in connection with any item on this agenda.

Councillors M Blencowe and A Riley declared an interest in agenda item No. 17, Uttoxeter Leisure Centre.

10. **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING COMMITTEE ARISING FROM ITS MEETING HELD ON 28 FEBRUARY 2012**

RESOLVED that the Recommendations of the Working Committee, arising from its meeting held on Tuesday, 28 February 2012, be approved and ordered to form part of the minutes attached hereto as Appendix A.

11. **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE ARISING FROM ITS MEETING HELD ON 28 FEBRUARY 2012**

RESOLVED that the Recommendations of the Policy and Planning Committee, arising from its meeting held on Tuesday, 28 February 2012, be approved and ordered to form part of the minutes attached hereto as Appendix B.

12. **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE ARISING FROM ITS MEETING HELD ON 28 FEBRUARY 2012**

RESOLVED that the Recommendations of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, arising from its meeting held on Tuesday, 28 February 2012, be approved and ordered to form part of the minutes attached hereto as Appendix C.

13. **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TOWN HALL ENTERTAINMENTS COMMITTEE ARISING FROM ITS MEETINGS HELD ON:**

(a) 28 February 2012.

RESOLVED that the Recommendations of the Town Hall Entertainments Committee arising from its meeting held on 28 February 2012 be approved and ordered to form part of the minutes attached hereto as Appendix D.

(b) 9 March 2012.

As these Recommendations were circulated at the meeting, it was proposed, seconded and carried that Council should consider them.

In considering item No. 3(b) Donation, it was noted that this should read “the retiring Mayor’s Charities” not “the retiring Mayor”.

RESOLVED that the Recommendations of the Town Hall Entertainments Committee arising from its meeting held on 9 March 2012, as amended above, be approved and ordered to form part of the minutes attached hereto as Appendix E.

14. **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY PROJECTS COMMITTEE ARISING FROM ITS MEETINGS HELD ON:**

(a) Tuesday, 21 February 2012.

RESOLVED that the Recommendations of the Community Projects Committee, arising from its meeting held on 21 February 2012 be approved and ordered to form part of the minutes attached hereto as Appendix F.

(b) Wednesday, 7 March 2012.

RESOLVED that the Recommendations of the Community Projects Committee, arising from its meeting held on 7 March 2012 be approved and ordered to form part of the minutes attached hereto as Appendix G.

(c) Monday, 12 March 2012.

As these Recommendations were circulated at the meeting, it was proposed, seconded and carried that Council should consider them.

RESOLVED that the Recommendations of the Community Projects Committee, arising from its meeting held on 12 March 2012 be approved and ordered to form part of the minutes attached hereto as Appendix H.

15. **NOTES ARISING FROM THE MEETING OF THE TOWN TEAM REGARDING THE PORTAS PILOT APPLICATION, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 7 MARCH 2012**

These notes were circulated at the meeting. It was proposed, seconded and carried that these be considered.

RESOLVED that the same be noted and these be ordered to form part of the minutes attached hereto as Appendix I.

16. **POLICE STATION**

Councillor M Blencowe reported that according to a local press statement, Staffordshire Police had exhausted its search for suitable alternative premises in Uttoxeter. Plans of Uttoxeter Town Hall, prepared by East Staffordshire Borough Council had indicated a "Police Desk" in the foyer. It was not known, however, whether the police had been formally approached in this respect.

RESOLVED that this matter be placed on the next agenda of the Community Projects Committee for further consideration.

17. **UTTOXETER LEISURE CENTRE**

Borough Councillors M Blencowe and A Riley declared an interest in this matter and left the Council Chamber during the debate.

- (a) Arising from the meeting of the Policy and Planning Committee held on 28 February 2012, East Staffordshire Borough Council had been offered the free use of the Town Hall for a public meeting to discuss the future of the Leisure Centre.

The Clerk reported receipt of a response from the Chief Executive, ESBC, dated 5 March 2012, declining the offer. It was noted that a public meeting would be held at Uttoxeter Leisure Centre on Tuesday, 20 March 2012, at 6.00 pm and representatives of the Borough Council would have a stall on the market on Friday, 16 March 2012.

- (b) A copy of the consultation documents were circulated to Members.

Members pointed out that the online questionnaire appeared to be focused on individuals rather than groups. It was also noted that several people had encountered problems when trying to complete the form online.

A lengthy debate ensued. The general consensus of opinion being that:

- i) The current site was the best location for the Leisure Centre.
- ii) The Council did not wish to disenfranchise people who used the facility but were unable to drive to a new location.

- iii) If the Centre was moved to the edge of the town, this would result in schools having to bus children to the facility, rather than being able to walk to the current site.
- iv) If the Centre was moved from its current location, it appeared inconceivable that the current car parking would remain. This car park being also available for users of the adjoining Park.
- v) It appeared inconceivable that the redevelopment of the site would stop at the curtilage of the Leisure Centre grounds.
- vi) Oldfields Sports and Social Club had huge reservations about the future of the adjoining rugby pitch.

The Leader of East Staffordshire Borough Council was present in the public gallery and he was invited by Councillor H Montgomery to comment on this matter but he declined.

RESOLVED that East Staffordshire Borough Council be informed that Uttoxeter Town Council would welcome a new Leisure Centre and this should be built next to the existing one, for reasons given above.

18. **BUSINESS RATES**

The Clerk reported receipt of an email from the Chief Executive, East Staffordshire Borough Council, regarding Business Rate Relief.

RESOLVED that the Borough Council be asked to clarify what proportion of rate relief was being applied to small business in Uttoxeter and what entitlements were available.

19. **UTTOXETER WALKS LEAFLET**

The Clerk reported receipt of the new Uttoxeter Walks leaflet, published by the Footpaths Committee in conjunction with Uttoxeter Walking Club, and 50% funded by a grant from Staffordshire County Council.

RESOLVED that the same be noted with thanks.

20. **VICTORIAN MARKET – CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON**

Council was asked to give consideration to assisting the Uttoxeter Trade Forum with the provision of a “Victorian Market” on the same evening as Uttoxeter’s Christmas Light Switch On 2012.

RESOLVED that this matter be considered by the Markets Committee.

21. **ESBC – TACKLE THE TIPPERS FLY-TIPPING CAMPAIGN**

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter dated 22 February 2012 from the Enforcement Officer, East Staffordshire Borough Council, regarding the above.

RESOLVED that the same be noted.

22. **REDFERN'S COTTAGE**

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter dated 23 February 2012 from the Uttoxeter Heritage Trust, regarding a meeting which had been arranged to explain its proposals to make an application for Heritage Lottery funding to re-develop the site.

It was noted that Councillors A Chapman and A Riley would be attending.

RESOLVED that the same be noted.

23. **NALC – BUSINESS RATES**

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter dated 7 March 2012 from SPCA asking the questions:

1. Why would it be useful for local parish and town councils to receive a fair share of Business (National-Non-Domestic) Rates, locally?
2. What would your local council do with either a share of locally raised business rates, or of discretionary rate relief on local council owned buildings?

RESOLVED that Councillor H Montgomery report back to Council, following the next meeting of SPCA Executive Committee.

24. **NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

- (a) The Clerk reported that, according to the website, Uttoxeter Town Council had been successful in its bid for a grant of £20,000 to assist with the production of a Neighbourhood Development Plan. Official notification had not as yet been received from the Borough Council.
- (b) The Clerk reported receipt of an email dated 6 March 2012 from Wirksworth Town Planning Team, regarding this matter. It was noted that Wirksworth had also been successful in its own application.
- (c) The Clerk reported receipt of a letter dated 6 March 2012 from the Community Council of Staffordshire regarding this matter.

RESOLVED that the same be noted.

25. **UTTOXETER QUARRY WIND TURBINE, UTTOXETER**

Borough Councillor M Blencowe declared an interest in this matter and took no part in the debate.

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter dated 28 February 2012 from the Senior Estates Surveyor, Aggregate Industries UK Ltd.

A debate ensued. It was noted that the long-term plan for this site was for leisure use and Members considered that a 100-ft mast would overwhelm the site and detract from any leisure facilities provided.

RESOLVED that the Town Council opposes this application.

26. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Consideration was given to the undermentioned planning applications.

- (a) P/2012/00209/EW – internal alterations to include removal of internal partition walls, re-opening and blocking up of doors, creation of bathrooms, at The Old Vicarage, 26 Church Street, for Dr Graeme Jones.
- (b) P/2012/00248/EW – siting of two storage containers to the front of the print works, Units 2 and 3 Sladeside Depot, Pennycroft Lane, for Mr Alfred Hawksworth.

RESOLVED that in respect of the applications above, after due consideration, the Council had no comment to make at this stage.

27. **COUNCIL IN PRIVATE**

Council was asked to consider that, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable, in the public interest, that the public be temporarily excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.

28. **THE CEMETERY BOUNDARY**

Councillors M Blencowe and J Russell reported upon the meeting they had attended with the Cemetery Manager regarding issues raised by the neighbouring landowner with respect to the ditch and boundary.

RESOLVED that:

- (a) Confirmation of land ownership at the Cemetery and the ownership of the adjoining land be requested from the Land Registry.
- (b) Councillor A Noyes be requested to write a brief specification to use when tendering for work on the ditch/embankment.