

ELSTREE AND BOREHAMWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting held in the Civic Offices, Elstree Way, Borehamwood on Wednesday 8th May 2013 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr C Kelly (Outgoing Mayor)
Cllr C Butchins (Incoming Mayor)
Cllr S Rubner (Deputy Mayor), Cllr E Butler,
Cllr R Butler, Cllr S Dobin, Cllr G Franklin, Cllr
Mrs S Maughan, Cllr Mrs A Mitchell, Cllr Mrs
S Parnell and Cllr Mrs F Turner

In Attendance: H Jones – Town Clerk
D Feehily – Events Coordinator
Mrs J Simon – Senior Administrative Assistant
Mrs T Malton – Finance Assistant

Also Present: 32 Members of the Public and Representatives
from Interested Organisations/Groups and Local
Press

Cllr C Kelly in the Chair (Mayor)

1. ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR

(i) Election of Mayor for 2013/14

Cllr C Kelly was in the Chair in his capacity as outgoing Mayor until the Town Mayor was elected.

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs S Parnell, and seconded by Cllr Mrs F Turner, that Cllr C Butchins be elected Mayor for the ensuing Municipal Year.

It was RESOLVED that:

Cllr C Butchins be elected Town Mayor for the ensuing Municipal Year 2013/14.

(ii) Outgoing Mayor's Verbal Report

In his outgoing announcement, Cllr C Kelly thanked all Members and Council Staff for their help and hard work over the past twelve months. He noted that he was both sad to be leaving the post and happy for the incoming Mayor, saying that he looked forward to a successful and productive year, noting that there was much to be achieved. It was not often in one's lifetime that one was able to serve as a Town Mayor for a year and he, in particular, enjoyed the civic events throughout the course of the year and visiting local clubs and community groups.

(iii) Incoming Mayor's Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Announcements

The Town Mayor read out and signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

In his incoming announcement, the Town Mayor, Cllr C Butchins thanked Cllr C Kelly very warmly for all his hard work over the past year and the support and guidance he had provided to him as Deputy Mayor. He stated that it was a genuine privilege to be elected to serve the residents of Elstree and Borehamwood and that it was a task he set out to do to the very best of his abilities. He noted that the Council had already set itself the mission of working towards stabilising its financial situation, recognising the difficult economic times in the Country and the Council's desire not to compromise on its high quality services and events. That would, therefore, be a focus for the Authority over the year ahead. He also indicated that he looked forward to working with Community Groups and, in particular, to help with the successes of the Youth Council and other services the Council was involved with (such as the School Swimming Programme) to recognise and promote activities and support for young people in the area.

Cllr C Butchins in the Chair (Mayor)

2. ELECTION OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR

(i) Election of Deputy Mayor for 2013/14

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs S Parnell, and seconded by Cllr Mrs A Mitchell, that Cllr S Rubner be elected Deputy Mayor for the ensuing Municipal Year.

It was proposed by Cllr G Franklin, and seconded by Cllr E Butler, that Cllr R Butler be elected Deputy Mayor for the ensuing Municipal Year.

On being put to the vote it was RESOLVED that:

Cllr S Rubner be elected Deputy Town Mayor for the ensuing Municipal Year 2013/14.

(ii) Incoming Deputy Mayor's Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Announcements

The Deputy Town Mayor read out and signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

In his incoming announcement, the Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr S Rubner thanked the Council for electing him to the position of office and echoed the Mayor's words that he too would seek to perform his duties for the benefit of all residents to the very best of his abilities. He wished the Council a productive year ahead.

3. APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs P Strack (Other Business), Cllr Ms K Prince (Sick).

4. DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS

There were none.

5. MINUTES OF COUNCIL

It was **RESOLVED** that:

the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21 March 2013 be signed by the Mayor as a true record and adopted by the Council.

6. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

It was noted that Standing Order No. 41 stated that the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor:

“...shall be ex-officio members of the Entertainments Committee but may be elected to any other committee in the same way as any Councillor may be.”

It was **RESOLVED** that membership of Committees, Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen be as follows for the ensuing Municipal Year 2013/14: -

- **ENTERTAINMENTS COMMITTEE** (7 Members)

Chairman	Cllr Mrs S Parnell
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Mrs F Turner
Mayor (ex officio)	Cllr C Butchins
Deputy Mayor (ex officio)	Cllr S Rubner
Councillor (1)	Cllr Mrs A Mitchell
Councillor (2)	Cllr R Butler
Councillor (3)	Cllr Mrs S Maughan

- **ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE** (5 Members)

Chairman	Cllr Mrs F Turner
Vice-Chairman	Cllr G Franklin
Councillor (1)	Cllr C Kelly
Councillor (2)	Cllr Mrs P Strack
Councillor (3)	Cllr Ms K Prince

- **GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** (5 Members)

Chairman	Cllr Mrs S Parnell
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Mrs A Mitchell
Councillor (1)	Cllr C Butchins
Councillor (2)	Cllr E Butler
Councillor (3)	Cllr G Franklin

- **TRANSPORT & ROAD SAFETY FORUM** (5 Members)

Chairman	Cllr C Butchins
Vice-Chairman	Cllr E Butler
Councillor (1)	Cllr S Dobin
Councillor (2)	Cllr S Rubner
Councillor (3)	Cllr G Franklin

- **YOUTH COUNCIL** (2 Members and 1 Standing Deputy to represent the Town Council)

Councillor (1) (Secretary) Cllr S Dobin

Councillor (2) Cllr S Rubner

Councillor (Standing Deputy) Cllr Ms K Prince

7. **OUTSIDE BODIES**

It was **RESOLVED** that representatives be appointed as follows for the ensuing Municipal Year 2013/14:-

- Borehamwood Community History Project (1 Member)

Councillor (1) Cllr C Butchins

- Borehamwood & Elstree Twin Town Association (1 Member)

Councillor (1) Cllr C Kelly

- China Twin Town Working Group

[This Group was appointed at the Full Council meeting on 23 January 2013 as follows: Cllr C Kelly, Cllr Mrs S Parnell, Cllr Mrs P Strack, Cllr C Butchins and Cllr R Butler. Members are asked to consider the Working Group item at Agenda item 8 on this agenda.]

- Brookside Boys Club Management Committee (1 Member)

Councillor (1) Cllr E Butler

- Elstree, Borehamwood and District Community Association (2 Members)

Councillor (1) Cllr Mrs S Parnell

Councillor (2) Cllr C Butchins

- Elstree, Borehamwood, and Radlett Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults (The name of this organisation is scheduled to change to “Hertsmere MENCAP”) (1 Member)

Councillor (1) Cllr Mrs S Maughan

- Community Safety Partnership (1 Member)

Councillor (1) Cllr S Rubner

- Community Action Hertsmere (CAH) (1 Member and 1 Standing Deputy)

Councillor (1) Cllr Mrs P Strack

Councillor (Standing Deputy) Cllr E Butler

- Leeming/Aycliffe Big Local Advisory Panel

[These representatives were appointed at the Council Meeting on 23 January 2013 to represent the Cowley Hill and Brook Meadow Wards respectively as Cllr E Butler and Cllr C Butchins.]

- Aldenham Country Park (1 Member)

Councillor (1) Cllr Mrs P Strack

8. CHINA TWIN TOWN WORKING GROUP

Members received a report from the Town Clerk indicating that at the last meeting of Council on 21 March 2013 it was agreed that a meeting of the China Town Twinning Working Group would take place to consider further the initial proposal to investigate the possibility of Elstree and Borehamwood spearheading such an initiative. On 16 April 2013 such a meeting took place with Councillors Charles Kelly, Sandra Parnell, Pat Strack; Richard Butler and Clive Butchins being present.

It is understood and advice has been obtained to confirm that the Town Council has the legal authority, acting alone or with another body, to realise this objective.

Representatives from each of the political parties took back feedback from this meeting to their respective groups who have stated that, in principle, they are happy

for the Council to continue to explore the options and to agree the parameters of the project. These included:

1. It being an initiative that the residents of Borehamwood and Elstree supported. As such, a consultation exercise was initiated in the Town Crier magazine to be distributed to all residents from 11 May 2013.
2. It being a project carried out on a cost neutral basis to the Council, i.e. the Council would not seek to increase its existing budget for Town Twinning, nor would residents be asked to fund the scheme through increases in the Precept, the Authority's share of the Council Tax.
3. It being a process with clear goals and in the spirit of obtaining achievable benefits to the Community whether in strengthening business links or in forging new cultural relationships.
4. With the agreement of BETTA, the Twin Town Association, it was proposed that a letter be sent to Zhuhai as an expression of interest to investigate the possibility further.

In addition, on 30 April 2013 several representatives of the Town Council and BETTA also attended a Chinese Business Event at Imperial China near Watford. Hosted by Peter Wong Morrow the Chairman and Chief Executive of IPH Insurance Services the event looked to forge greater links between the Chinese Business Community and local authorities.

It was stated as the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Charles Kelly had said earlier in the meeting, "This is an exciting opportunity for the Town".

It was **RESOLVED** that:

the next steps for the China Twin Town Working Group be:

- (i) to consult further with BETTA and other interested parties to work out what practical steps are needed to push forwards, including the wording of a draft letter to Zhuhai;**
- (ii) to listen carefully to all of the feedback received from residents from the Town Crier consultation; and**
- (iii) to compile its findings in a report to Full Council for further consideration and ratification.**

9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTION TIME

Representation of political parties in positions of office

Responding to a several queries and comments raised concerning the representation of political parties in positions of office at the Town Council, it was noted that at the last Annual Meeting of Council it was agreed that Members from both groups would consider the options available to it and aim to work towards a process that took into account the proposals from all nominations in a considered fashion. Some Members expressed disappointment that the Deputy Mayor position had not been shared with the Minority Group (nor had this been the case for a number of years). It was understood by some Members that the sharing of positions had been an historic practice of the Council and whilst it was neither a requirement nor a provision of Standing Orders, it had been the custom and practice to do so in previous years. In addition, seniority of Members or allowing new Members to gain experience of meeting Community groups had also been a past consideration in the decision making for the Deputy Mayor role. The range of views and opinions expressed by both Public and Members concerning the decision making arrangements were duly noted by the Council. The Council recognised that whilst not all Members were satisfied with the rationale for making its appointments at the meeting, due process had been followed insofar as the appointments were made lawfully in accordance with the rules of the Council.

10. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Meeting closed at 8.13 pm.

It was noted that the next Council meeting was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 12 June 2013.

The Mayor thanked all for attending and invited guests to light refreshments in the Members' Room to celebrate the Mayor and Deputy Mayor Making and to wish the Council well for the 2013/14 Year.

Date:..... MAYOR.....