



Newmarket

TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Newmarket Town Council
held on Saturday, 5th April 2008 at 10.00 am
at the Memorial Hall, High Street, Newmarket, Suffolk, CB8 8JP

Attendance :

Councillor W Burch, Town Mayor
Councillor C Turner, Deputy Town Mayor
Councillor Mrs J Bailey
Councillor K Bovill
Councillor Mrs C Brighty
Councillor G Cole
Councillor D Cross

Councillor A Drummond
Councillor P Hulbert
Councillor D Hudson
Councillor W Hirst
Councillor R Fletcher
Councillor G Jaggard
Councillor R Millar

Also Present: Isabelle Barrett – Town Clerk, Rosemary Foreman – Minute Assistant

	Minute	Action by
08/04/1	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Apologies were received from Councillors M Jefferys and Mrs J Uney.	
08/04/2	<u>ABSENT</u> Councillors Richer and Sadler were absent.	
08/04/3	<u>DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS & CONSIDER UPDATE OF REGISTER OF INTEREST</u> None noted.	
08/04/4	<u>TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 25th MARCH 08</u> Councillor Fletcher asked that his name be added to the list of attendees and Councillor Hulbert advised that a new Panel would be set up to represent bus passengers. With these amendments, the Town Mayor signed the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday, 25 th March 08, as a correct record.	
08/04/5	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF 25th MARCH 08</u> 08/03/15 - O ₂ mast on Exning Road. Town Clerk advised that she had written to all District Councillors and had received six replies expressing their support. As this item was on the Agenda for the FHDC meeting to be held on 24 th April, she had written again to all District Councillors asking for their support at that meeting.	

08/03/20.02 – Exit from Waitrose car park. Town Clerk reported that she had contacted Waitrose regarding the possible purchase of land from the Catholic Church to create an exit on to the Exeter Road and had been advised that as the land had planning permission it would be too expensive to purchase.

08/04/6 **AN INVITATION TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO PUT QUESTIONS/STATEMENTS OF NOT MORE THAN 3 MINUTES DURATION RELATING TO ITEMS LISTED IN THE PUBLIC PART OF THE AGENDA ONLY**

There were no members of the public present.

08/04/7 **TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED RE-ORGANISATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND TO RESOLVE THE COUNCIL'S PREFERRED OPTION**

Town Clerk submitted a report of the SALC Forest Heath Area Meeting she attended on 4th March 08 regarding the local government re-organisation.

Councillors noted that the Boundary Committee was conducting a combined review of local government structure in Suffolk and Norfolk and had requested advice on the following Unitary proposals for Suffolk:

- 1 One Unitary Council for all Suffolk
- 2 Two Unitary Councils – Greater Ipswich and the rest of Suffolk
- 3 Two Unitary Councils – East and West Suffolk
- 4 Three Unitary Councils – Greater Ipswich and East and West Suffolk

Councillor Millar advised that although five new whole county Unitary Local Structures had been formed across the country, five other whole county Unitary authorities had been rejected and some Borough Unitaries approved.

In reply to questions from Councillor Drummond, Town Clerk reported that she had been advised that keeping the current status quo would not be an option. Councillor Jaggard advised however that, if no proposals were acceptable to the Boundary Committee or the Minister, the status quo could remain. It was impossible to say what affect the loss of FHDC would have on NTC.

Councillor Millar pointed out that one single Unitary structure for Suffolk could be run more efficiently but could lead to difficulties with local services – a balance needed to be found between cheaper and more effective services.

Councillor Turner suggested that the new authority could be aligned to Health and Education Services, with an East and West Suffolk split.

After further discussion, the following resolution was agreed:

08/04/7.01 Resolved

That NTC recommend that there be two Unitary Councils – East and West Suffolk.

Councillor Hudson abstained from the vote.

08/04/8

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday, 28th April 2008 at 7.00pm

The business of the meeting concluded at 10.30 am.

Signed : _____

Date : _____