Minutes of the Meeting of the COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cornhill on Wednesday 30th October 2013 at 6.00 pm.

Present: - Councillors

A Cann
J Cannall
N Cenci
G Chisholm
H Clarke
S Connelly
M Cook
H Crane
D Ellesmere
R Fern
P Gardiner
J Gibbs
D Goldsmith
M Goonan
T Grant
E Harsant
C Jones
R Kirby
B Knowles
J Le Grys
A Leeder
I Lockington
J Macartney
N Macdonald
A Martin
S Meudec
J Mowles
J Powell
W Quinton
A Ross
B Rudkin
C Stewart
P Stewart
J Stimson
B Studd
J Terry
R Vickery
M Young
J Cook
C Wright

27. **Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Blake, G Debman, D Goldsmith, C French, A Grant, K Stroet, K Rawlingson and P Smart.

28. **To Confirm the Minutes from the Previous Council Meeting.**

It was RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the meeting held on 18\textsuperscript{th} September 2013 be confirmed as a true record.

29. **To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business on the Agenda.**

It was RESOLVED:-

that the Order of Business be confirmed as printed on the agenda.
30. **Mayor's Communications.**

**Military Matters**

On Sunday 10th November the Mayor hopes to see many of you at the Remembrance Sunday Service at the Cenotaph in Christchurch Park. Again, the service gets under way at 10.30am.

On Monday, 11th November, local schoolchildren will place poppy crosses on graves in the Fields of Honour at the Old Cemetery. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be present for this service which starts at 10.50am.

**Visitors to Ipswich**

The Salvation Army Lindis Farm College Brass Band visited Ipswich at the beginning of October. The Mayor and Mayoress were delighted to welcome these talented young musicians from New Zealand to the Town Hall, Ipswich to hear them play and then to attend their special concert at the Salvation Army Ipswich Citadel later that day.

21 Teachers from all over Europe came to the UCS in Ipswich this October, and the Mayor was very pleased to meet them at the Mayor’s Parlour, Town Hall. They teach English as a foreign language in their home countries.

The Mayor and Mayoress were also pleased to renew our acquaintance with Mrs Contart from the Mayor’s Office in Arras, France when she visited Ipswich last week with 3 young people from Arras. These students had won the annual Concours des Anglilistes (English competition) and this visit to Ipswich was part of their prize!

**Reducing the Strength**

The Mayoress and I welcomed some of our local businesses to the Town Hall recently to thank them for their support in making a real difference to communities in Ipswich. The Reducing the Strength campaign aimed to stop the sale of super strength alcohol from off-licensed premises in Ipswich and to-date over two thirds of all premises in the town are signed up and there have been some fantastic results in relation to issues surrounding street drinking in the area. The success of the Reducing the Strength campaign in Ipswich has resulted in significant interest from police forces and councils across the UK who are looking to emulate our campaign.

Many of our buildings were bathed in purple during National Purple Flag Week. Purple Flag is an accreditation scheme administered by the Association of Town and City Centre Management. The accreditation recognises excellence in town and city centre management and has a focus on the night-time economy but also includes the day-time economy too. Purple Flag encompasses everything that goes into making a town centre thrive, from transport, shopping, safety, to public spaces and events. Ipswich has once again been awarded Purple Flag status – Well done Ipswich!
Farewell

A service was held at Bury Cathedral to wish farewell to Bishop Nigel Stock and his wife Carolyn, as they leave the Ipswich diocesan. Our thanks and best wishes go with them for the future.

Panto!

This year’s Pantomime at the Regent Theatre in Ipswich is “Peter Pan”. The Mayor had the opportunity to meet some of the cast at this year’s Ipswich Maritime, and although Christmas is some time away, he can’t wait to see the show!

Charity events:
Curry Quiz Night – Sunday, 17th November at the Dhaka Tandoori Restaurant
Cheese & Wine – Friday, 6th December in the Town Hall
Charity Christmas Concert organised by the Ipswich Choral Society – Sunday, 14th December
Tour of Christchurch Mansion, mulled wine and mince pies – Tuesday, 17th December

31. **To receive any Declarations of Interest by Councillors.**

Item 10 – Motion Move of Valuation Office

Councillor Crane, being the Branch Secretary of the PCS Union and an employee of the HMRC, declared a Pecuniary Interest and left the meeting during consideration of that item.

32. **Councillors to answer questions asked in accordance with Rules of Procedure 9.**

32.1 Before the commencement of Council questions the Mayor granted Councillor Jones permission to deliver a short statement to Council.

1. Councillor Cenci Councillor Smart Spitting
2. Councillor Cenci Councillor Ellesmere Resignation
3. Councillor Vickery Councillor Rudkin Maidenhall Sports Centre
4. Councillor C Stewart Councillor Smart Traffic Light Management System
5. Councillor C Stewart Councillor M Cook Business Rate Income
6. Councillor Lockington Councillor Smart Street Trees
7. Councillor Lockington Councillor Leeder Boundary Fences Crematorium
33. **C/13/07 To Consider a Report from Councillor A Cann on the Annual Report of the Strategic Overview & Scrutiny Committee 2012/2013.**

It was RESOLVED:-

(i) That the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2012-2013 be noted

(ii) That the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme for 2013/14 be noted.

34. **C/13/08 To Consider a report from Councillor D Ellesmere on the Schedule of Meetings for 2014/2015.**

It was RESOLVED:-

(i) That the Programme of Meetings for 2014/15, as set out in Appendix 1 to this report, be approved;

(ii) That the Revised Programme of Meetings for 2013/14, as set out in Appendix 2 to this report, be approved.

35. **To consider the Following Motion Moved by Councillor D Ellesmere**

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Ellesmere and Seconded by Councillor Stewart:-

*This Council notes:*
  - the Government’s recent announcement of its proposals for the upgrade of the A14 Trunk Road between Cambridge and Huntingdon.

*This Council believes:*
  - that there is a need to upgrade this important transport route, this Council is extremely concerned about the economic impact the proposed toll charge would have on Ipswich, Suffolk and especially at the Port of Felixstowe, given the lack of a viable alternative route for road users who do not want to use the toll road.

*This Council resolves:*
  - to oppose the proposed tolling of the A14 and to support Suffolk Chamber of Commerce’s “No Toll Tax on Suffolk” campaign.

This was **PUT** to the meeting and **CARRIED** unanimously.
It was RESOLVED:-

This Council notes:
  • the Government’s recent announcement of its proposals for the upgrade of the A14 Trunk Road between Cambridge and Huntingdon.

This Council believes:
  • that there is a need to upgrade this important transport route, this Council is extremely concerned about the economic impact the proposed toll charge would have on Ipswich, Suffolk and especially at the Port of Felixstowe, given the lack of a viable alternative route for road users who do not want to use the toll road.

This Council resolves:
  • to oppose the proposed tolling of the A14 and to support Suffolk Chamber of Commerce’s “No Toll Tax on Suffolk” campaign.

36. To Consider the Following Motion Moved by Councillor J Cook

It was MOVED by Councillor J Cook and Seconded by Councillor T Grant

  This Council notes:
    • With concern the plans to move the Valuation Office from St Clare House in Ipswich to Colchester and the planned closure of the HMRC public office in St Clare House Ipswich.

  This Council believe:
    • These changes will mean a much worse service to Ipswich residents as they will force people and businesses either to use telephone or online methods of contact or face the inconvenience and expense of travel to Colchester.

  This Council resolves:
    • To contribute to the review process for these decisions and to work with HMRC and Valuation Management, their staff and relevant unions to maintain a face-to-face service in Ipswich for tax, benefits and council tax valuations.

This was to PUT to the meeting and CARRIED.

It was RESOLVED:-

That this Council notes:
  • With concern the plans to move the Valuation Office from St Clare House in Ipswich to Colchester and the planned closure of the HMRC public office in St Clare House Ipswich.
This Council believe:
- These changes will mean a much worse service to Ipswich residents as they will force people and businesses either to use telephone or online methods of contact or face the inconvenience and expense of travel to Colchester.

This Council resolves:
- To contribute to the review process for these decisions and to work with HMRC and Valuation Management, their staff and relevant unions to maintain a face-to-face service in Ipswich for tax, benefits and council tax valuations.

37. **To consider nominations/changes of councillors to serve on Committees, Panels, Working Groups and Outside Bodies.**

There were no changes to placings.

The meeting closed at 7.06 pm

Chair