

HORLEY TOWN COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Council held at the Albert Rooms, Albert Road, Horley on Tuesday 8 December 2009 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillor S Marshall, Town Mayor & Chairman of the Council
Councillors P Avis, R Bethell, J Chapman, M George,
G Knight, V Marshall, M Miller, R Olliver, M Robinson,
F Stimpson and S Thomas

Also present: A Jones Town Clerk
Mrs C Fenton Deputy Town Clerk

C 2534 Apologies and Reasons for Absence

RESOLVED: that the apologies of Cllrs D Brooke-Harte, P Chapman, M Goldsmith, D Powell, S Rogers and V Snowball be accepted. (For reasons as specified in the attendance register.)

C 2535 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest, specific to the meeting.

RESOLVED: noted.

C 2536 Public Forum

No members of the public were present.

RESOLVED: noted.

C 2537 Ordinary Meeting of the Council, 27 October 2009

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council were presented for confirmation by members and signature by the Chairman of the Council.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 27 October 2009, including all confidential items, be approved.

C 2538 Extraordinary Meeting of the Council, 10 November 2009

The minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council were presented for confirmation by members and signature by the Chairman of the Council.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 10 November 2009, including all confidential items, be approved.

C 2539 Leisure & Amenities Committee, 22 September 2009

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Leisure & Amenities Committee held on 22 September 2009, including all confidential items, be received.

C 2540 Finance & General Purposes Committee, 13 October 2009

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 13 October 2009, including all confidential items, be received.

C 2541 Planning & Development Committee, 29 September 2009

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning & Development Committee held on 29 September 2009 be received.

C 2542 Planning & Development Committee, 3 November 2009

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning & Development Committee held on 3 November 2009 be received.

C 2543 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that he had attended the following:

Lighting of Bonfire at Bonfire & Fireworks Display
Opening of Memorial Gardens for Remembrance Services
Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service
Two Minutes Silence in Town Centre
Oakwood School Awards Evening
Table Top Sale in aid of Brambles
"Stop the Traffik" Service at Horley Baptist Church
Guiding Centenary Celebration at Guildford Cathedral
Mayor of Reigate & Banstead's Quiz Night in aid of Brambles

RESOLVED: noted.

C 2544 Partnership Agreement between Reigate & Banstead Borough Council & Horley Town Council

The Clerk told members that he was continuing to meet regularly with the Borough Council's Head of Neighbourhood Services regarding the proposed delegation of service provision from Reigate & Banstead Borough Council to the Town Council. He reminded members that it had been agreed, mainly for cost reasons, to defer the transfer of the town centre cleaning for the time being, but added that talks were continuing regarding the transfer of Yattendon Park, Bay Close Open Space, Church Meadows, Riverside Walk, Riverside Garden Park and the Town Centre planters and baskets.

RESOLVED: noted.

Corporate Plan 2010 – 2014

C 2545 The Clerk told members that comments and suggestions made by members had been incorporated into the Plan. Members agreed that the Corporate Plan be put out for consultation (via the web site and the availability of paper copies) with the consultation period running until mid February.

C 2545) RESOLVED: that the draft Corporate Plan, subject to any comments made during the Consultation Period, be approved and be launched at the Town Meeting on 30 April 2010.

C 2546 RESOLVED: that publishing company MAD Ideas produce the artwork for the Corporate Plan, for a sum not exceeding £100.

C 2547 Environmental Sub-Committee

RESOLVED; that, following the suggestion put forward by Cllr Powell, an Environmental Sub-Committee be formed, its membership to be agreed at the next meeting of the Leisure & Amenities Committee.

Emergency Plan

C 2548 The Clerk told members that a draft Town Council Emergency Plan was currently being prepared and would be sent to the Surrey County Council Emergency Planning Officer, prior to calling a meeting of the Town Council's Sub Committee early next year.

RESOLVED: noted.

C 2549 Membership of the Emergency Plan Sub-Committee was confirmed as Council Chairman and Committee Chairmen plus Cllrs Goldsmith, Powell, Robinson and Stimpson.

RESOLVED: noted.

C 2550 Audit Fees 2009

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter from the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission, written in response to his recent letter of complaint about the high level of external audit fee charges, in which the Chief Executive had explained that he believed the charges represented good value for money and had added that the Audit Commission was satisfied with the performance of BDO Stoy Hayward, the Town Council's external auditors. The Clerk added that Peter Ainsworth MP had received a copy of the response and had also raised the matter as a Parliamentary Question, the response to which had been that it was for the Audit Commission alone to set the fees and not for the Secretary of State to assess their value for money.

Members expressed their disappointment at these responses and requested that the Clerk contact Peter Ainsworth MP and suggest that he pursue the matter further.

RESOLVED: that the matter be re-considered at a future meeting.

C 2551 Liaison Meetings with Surrey Police

The Clerk reported that local crime "hot spots" had been discussed at the recent Liaison Meeting. It was noted that the next meeting was planned for January.

RESOLVED: noted.

C 2552 News Release from Surrey Police

RESOLVED: *that receipt be noted of a news release from the Chief Constable of Surrey Police, outlining plans to increase the number of visible police constables on the street, reduce the number of senior officers, simplify the structure and cut bureaucracy.*

C 2553 Royal British Legion (Horley Branch)

RESOLVED: *that receipt be noted of letters of thanks from the Royal British Legion for the Town Council's recent assistance with the Remembrance Services.*

C 2554 Charges for Church Road Allotments

RESOLVED: *that charges for the year ending 31 January 2011 be agreed as follows:*

*Full Plot (125 sq m): £19 per year
Half Plot: £11 per year*

C 2555 St George's Day Event, 24 April 2010

Members considered information received about the above event, organised by the Horley & District Chamber of Commerce and due to take place in the High Street and Precinct on 24 April. After discussion, the following was agreed:

RESOLVED:

- i) that the Town Council pay a hire fee for a prominent stall where the Town Council can be promoted in a professional manner.*
- ii) that the Horley Market Sub-Committee consider the matter in more detail.*

C 2556 Smiths Charity Trustees

RESOLVED: *that the re-appointments of Mrs Muriel Knight and Dr Jim Williamson for a further four-year term as trustees of Smiths Charity - Horley be confirmed*

C 2557 Textile Banks

RESOLVED: *that the requests from two charities to install textile banks be declined.*

C 2558 Diary Dates

Members noted forthcoming events.

C 2559 Town Council Estimates and Precept – 2010/2011

Members considered the recommendations of the Finance & General Purposes Committee. A motion to create a zero increase on the Precept failed. After further discussion the recommendations of the Finance & General Purposes Committee were approved and the following was resolved:

C 2559) RESOLVED: that a Precept of £282,769 be set for the Financial Year 2010/2011, representing £32.80 per Band D Household (an increase of 0.34%) and the Borough Council be informed accordingly. (Full details are appended to these minutes.)

C 2560 Confidential Business

RESOLVED: that, "in view of the special or confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded and that they be instructed to withdraw."

C 2561 Gardens Contract 2010 – 2012

CONFIDENTIAL

Members approved the recommendations of the Grounds Maintenance Sub-Committee that the contact for the maintenance of the Memorial Gardens, Ornamental Gardens, Albert Rooms Garden (to include grass cutting and all seasonal planting/ re-stocking) and the town centre flower beds be awarded to Countrywide Grounds Maintenance for the total sum of £12,800 plus VAT.

The meeting closed at 8.48 pm

Date of Next Meeting: 16 February 2010