



LETCWORTH GARDEN CITY COUNCIL

## **FULL COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES**

Of the meeting, which took place at Mrs Howard Memorial Hall, on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2010 at 20:00

#### **Those Present:**

Cllr V Mantle- Chair	
Cllr F Lovett – Vice Chair	Cllr M Heaton
Cllr B Carr	Cllr J Lawrence
Cllr R Carr	Cllr I Mantle (Clerk)
Cllr D Garvie	Cllr M Penny
Cllr A Gower	Cllr G Ritchie
Cllr B Greener	Cllr D Switzer
Cllr P Groves (Responsible Finance Officer)	Cllr K Thompson
Cllr D Guess	
Cllr L Hayton	3 Members of the public

<b>10/28</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr J Angell, Cllr E Cooper, Cllr P Ross, Cllr N Smith
<b>10/29</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ANY MATTERS</b> There were no declarations of interest
<b>10/30</b>	<b>CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</b> The Chairman advised the Council that a certificate had been received in respect of the Bronze Award for Anglia in Bloom 2009. A request had been received from Mr D Hodgson to have this certificate for a presentation, and this request had been agreed.
<b>10/31</b>	<b>PUBLIC QUESTIONS</b> One question had been received from a Member of the Public.  The Question was provided to all Members, and in the absence of the questioner, was taken as read.  <b>Question:</b> from Mr A Lupton During the past 17 months, in accordance with its mandate, this Council has made no new grants to any organisation or person and has done nothing apart from what has been necessary to reduce the Council's activity to the legal minimum. That there was no need to raise a precept for this year has been an obvious financial benefit for all Council Tax payers, which is particularly welcome in these difficult times.  Please can we be told how many independent Letchworth organisations have complained to the Town Council about this policy and also whether any individual Letchworth citizens (apart from the ex-Councillors) have made their opposition known?

	<p><b>Answer</b> from Cllr Lovett: Thank you for your question.</p> <p>You may recall that it was the council's stated policy to implement the elimination of funding in a caring and considerate manner.</p> <p>I can give two examples of where our 'caring approach' was more than just words:</p> <p>The first is that I became aware of a member of the public in my ward who suffers from Multiple Sclerosis She was experiencing transport difficulties. We were able to put her in touch with the appropriate people in the Heritage Foundation to whom she could apply for a grant to pay for taxis to supplement her existing transport arrangements.</p> <p>The second is that we gave notice to the Norton Archeological Society that we would cease funding them after the current year. I contacted the treasurer of the society and, to quote him: "Because of the considerate way you gave us time to find alternative funding, we were not left high and dry. We have been able to secure additional funding from The Heritage Foundation and have not suffered any detrimental effects because of the action the council has taken."</p> <p>We created an information leaflet that pointed the public at alternative sources of funding that were available to them. And there are a considerable number of alternatives.</p> <p>We also asked council staff to set up a handling procedure that would record all complaints received by the council as a result of our ceasing funding for events and organisations.</p> <p>To answer your question I can reveal that, to date, we have received ... ZERO ... complaints.</p>
10/32	<p><b>MINUTES</b> <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Council approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting of the Council, which was held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010 <i>Proposed by Cllr B Carr and Seconded by Cllr Heaton</i></p>
10/33	<p><b>GENERAL PURPOSES FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE</b> The minutes of the meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010 were received.</p>
10/34	<p><b>BUDGET FOR 2011/2012</b> <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Council adopt the Budget recommended by the Finance Sub-Committee <i>Proposed by Cllr Switzer and Seconded by Cllr B Carr</i></p>
10/35	<p><b>PRECEPT FOR 2011/2012</b> <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Council's precept for 2011/2012 be zero. <i>Proposed by Cllr Switzer and Seconded by Cllr Greener</i></p>

10/36	<p><b>HERTS ASSOCIATION OF PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS</b></p> <p>The Clerk reported that this year, the Chairman had received the annual letter from HAPTC, and under the rules of the Association, if the Council wished to cease membership, notice had to be given by 31<sup>st</sup> December in the previous year. This had not been brought to the Council's attention in 2009, and the letter had not been received by the Chairman.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that the Council give notice to cease membership from the end of the current period covered by the last subscription paid.</p> <p><i>Proposed by Cllr B Carr and Seconded by Cllr Penny</i></p>
10/37	<p><b>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS</b></p> <p>No questions had been received from Members</p>

**The Meeting closed at 20:23**

*Signed* .....

*Date*.....