

BRIDLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Established: May 2000

Mayor – Councillor Leslie Taylor

Minutes (subject to confirmation) of the SEVENTH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on 30th May 2006 in the Council Chamber Bridlington Town Hall

Present: Councillors R Adamson, R Allerston, Mrs M Chadwick, M Charlesworth, D Grange, R Harrap, C Marsburg, L Taylor (presided) and Mrs W Taylor
Ten local electors were in attendance and C Smith, Clerk to the Council, recorded the minutes.

1. Welcome by the Mayor:

Councillor Taylor welcomed the elected members and members of the electorate to the Seventh Annual Parish Meeting which commenced at 7 p.m..

2. Apologies for absence:

RESOLVED: Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors Mrs C Allerston and Mrs D Clark.

3. Minutes of the Sixth Annual Parish Meeting held on 25th May 2005:

Copies of the minutes were circulated to those in attendance and had been available on the Council's website prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Sixth Annual Parish Meeting held on 25th May 2005 are approved as a true record.

4. Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

5. Annual Report 2005-2006:

Elected members complimented the staff on the standard of presentation but raised a number of anomalies in the attendance record section of the Report. The Clerk agreed to make the corrections prior to distributing the Annual Report to the media.

RESOLVED: The Annual Report 2005-2006 is received.

6. Questions in writing:

Mr F T Felton tabled the following questions in writing:-

1. The appearance each month of an item of expenditure termed "committee refreshments"
 - A. The Council does not possess a facility for the provision of tea or coffee for members attending committee meetings and has relied upon the Community Resource Centre's café to provide the refreshments. Refreshments are available to members attending daytime meetings only.
2. The cost to the Council of the Old Town public toilets, particularly an item of expenditure termed "sink" at a cost of nearly £600.
 - A. Following the contracting out of the maintenance of the St John's Street public conveniences the East Riding of Yorkshire Council requested the installation of additional equipment to comply with health and safety legislation. Three additional facilities were installed by the Bridlington Town Council:-
 - i) Disabled Toilet Alarm;
 - ii) Storage Shelving in the Service Room;

iii) Sink in the Service Room.

3. Each month all expenditure by the Council is published in the minutes. Nowhere is there a list of monies paid to the Parish. Could such a list be produced each month to compliment expenditure?

A. The Council's main income is the Precept, which is received, via two equal payments in April and September. Other income is derived from the quarterly Valued Added Tax refunds, advertising revenue generated by the quarterly newsletter and bank interest.

There is no reason why a statement of income cannot also be included within the monthly financial report to Council.

4. £240 was paid to the East Riding of Yorkshire Council for a "car park permit." What is this for and when, and by whom, was this payment authorised?

A. The car park permit for the Clerk was authorised two years ago subject to the implementation of the Controlled Parking Zone and charging on the Moorfield Road car park.

The Council did request parking permits from the principal authority to be able to park on the Victoria Road for longer than one hour but this request was declined.

5. A rough check reveals that over £1,000 was paid out as "travel expenses" during the year. This cannot be right for a council that has no duties or responsibilities. I suspect the payment of £757 to the Mayor in the October 2005 expenditure was a misprint and should have been £75.70. This therefore needs to be corrected.

A. Travel and subsistence expenses are payable to officers under the Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963 section 5 and to members for approved duties outside of the parish boundary under the LGA 1972 sections 174 and 194.

The recommended rate for casual users in vehicles exceeding 1450cc is 54.4 pence per mile. Bridlington Town Council pays 40 pence per mile, which is exempt for income tax purposes.

Officers are required to travel to meetings, seminars, conferences and training events.

The figure of £757.20 approved by Council in October 2005 was for 1,893 miles incurred by Councillor Mrs Christine Allerston in the course of her civic duties carried out between May and October 2005.

Mr Felton responded by stating that Councillor Wilkinson had not claimed a penny during his mayoral year.

Councillor Mrs Chadwick added that the mayoralty had increased in popularity year on year since the Council's inception in 2000 and that the number of invitations, particularly out of town, had increased significantly since Councillor Wilkinson was the Mayor.

Councillor Grange added that the Mayor, in carrying out the many duties, was representing Bridlington and it was right to reimburse the Mayor's travelling and out of pocket expenses so that the position was open to all members to aspire to rather than the privileged few who could afford to meet the costs.

7. Questions from the floor:

Mr Felton asked what the monthly payment to the Phone Co-op was for?

A. The Phone Co-op is a co-operative company operating within the deregulated telecommunications market. Switching the telephone call charges to this company has dramatically cut the Council's telephone bills.

Mr Fisher of ERICA was disappointed that only one elected member attended an inaugural meeting of a new Mental Health NHS Trust.

- A. Councillor Mrs Chadwick explained that members had many commitments and that she had not been able to make the meeting due to her attendance at a Critical Friends meeting in Beverley. The Mayor added that both he and the Mayoress have an interest in mental health.

Mr Oliver requested that future Annual Parish Meetings should be held in a smaller venue or that a sound system should be installed within the council chamber.

- A. The Clerk advised that he had tabled quotations for the installation of amplification equipment but that the Council had resolved to refer the matter to the principal authority, which is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the room complies with the Disability Discrimination Act. The Clerk agreed to raise Mr Oliver's comments with the responsible officer at County Hall.

Mr Fisher stated that a number of businesses in Bridlington do not pay Non Domestic Rates.

- A. The Clerk agreed to raise the matter with the East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

The Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.30 p.m.

Signed:

Date:

Mayor of Bridlington