

**Minutes of a meeting of Beccles Town Council held on Tuesday 6 December 2011  
in the Council Chamber of Beccles Town Hall at 7.00 pm**

**PRESENT:**                    **B Woodruff, Mayor, in the Chair**  
                                     **G Catchpole, Deputy Mayor**

<b>B Bee</b>	<b>C J Scott</b>
<b>Mrs S Bergin</b>	<b>J Sigsworth</b>
<b>Mrs S A Bubb</b>	<b>B G Taylor</b>
<b>S F Foulger</b>	<b>Mrs C A Topping</b>
<b>J D Harris</b>	<b>J B Walmsley</b>
<b>Mrs M D Haynes</b>	<b>E K Wareham</b>
<b>D W Peck</b>	

**IN ATTENDANCE:**    **PC Skuse, Bungay Police**  
                                     **Mrs C Boyne, Town Clerk**

**MEMBERS OF PUBLIC:**                    **0**

Councillor Sigsworth opened the meeting with prayer.

**456. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Thwaites due to illness.

**457. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

**458. TO ACCEPT FOR ACCURACY AND ADOPTION THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2011**

The draft minutes had been amended at the request of Councillor Foulger as his name had been omitted from the list of attendees.

RESOLVED to accept for accuracy and adoption the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 15 November 2011

**459. TO RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION AND ADOPTION THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2011**

RESOLVED to receive for information and adoption the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 15 November 2011

**460. IN THE EVENT OF ANY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC BEING PRESENT AND WISHING TO SPEAK, COUNCIL WILL ADJOURN THE MEETING AND ALSO**

**REPRESENTATIVES AND, IF APPROPRIATE, TO RAISE QUESTIONS RELATING TO THESE REPORTS:-**

Copies of reports are appended.

Following the reports the Mayor re-convened the meeting.

**461. TO RECEIVE GUIDANCE FROM COUNCIL'S SOLICITORS REGARDING THE ATLAS UK CONTRACT FOR THE PRODUCTION OF THE BECCLES MAP LEAFLETS AND SIGN BOARDS**

The Deputy Mayor explained that he happened to be in the office last week when the representative from Atlas was visiting. He had been informed that businesses had been offered a reduced rate to advertise on both the maps and the sign boards. The Atlas representative also said that he was more than happy for the maps to be printed by a Beccles company, provided the price was competitive. Councillor Catchpole did not like the idea of cancelling contracts because a complaint had been received from the Beccles Business Association (BBA). The advertising rates that Codair were charging were extortionate, and so he felt that there was nothing stopping the BBA producing their own maps, and charging less for the advertising. He therefore proposed that the contracts should be honoured.

Councillor Bergin felt that the Town Council should be working closely with the BBA and was unhappy that this work had been given to a company based in Essex. She said that if the map is produced locally then the money will go back into the town. She felt that there was a major lesson to be learned here, and it was generally agreed that neither the Clerk or the Deputy Clerk should be signing contracts such as these without the matter first being considered by the Town Council.

Councillor Topping explained that the Town Council had representatives on the BBA who were the liaison point between the two organisations. She felt that producing these maps was a very time consuming exercise and wondered if the BBA had the resources to be able to produce them.

The Mayor did not see the point of cancelling the sign board maps as the sign boards were already there, and it would be unfair on the traders who had paid to advertise on these boards if the Council cancelled the contract. He felt that the contract should be allowed to run and the BBA could then produce their own version.

The Deputy Mayor clarified that the Deputy Clerk had approached him regarding the possibility of producing the maps locally a couple of years ago, but he had informed her that at that time he was unaware of any local print companies who would have the capabilities. It would appear that since that time, there are now local companies who are able to produce this type of map.

The Deputy Mayor withdrew his counter proposal, and the original proposal, which was to give twelve months notice to cancel the contract with Atlas UK for the production of the Beccles sign board maps and agree to produce these locally, was

voted on, but the vote was lost.

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**462. TO RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION A VERBAL REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR WALMSLEY REGARDING THE BECCLES ALLOTMENTS**

Councillor Walmsley explained that the Beccles Allotment Association had endorsed the rise in the allotment charge.

RESOLVED to receive for information the verbal report from Councillor Walmsley and to increase the annual allotment charge from £2.00 per rod to £2.20 per rod from 1 January 2013

**463. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATION**

The Mayor had attended the following events:-

25/11 Turned on the Christmas Lights in Beccles  
26/11 Attended the TS Brave Annual Ball

The Mayor informed Council that himself and the Clerk had visited Bradman Lake regarding the use of the Common Lane North car park whilst they are having building works carried out. They will write to the Council if they intend to use the car park, but it now seems unlikely that they will need to use it.

The Mayor and the Clerk had also had a meeting with the Broads Authority regarding the 40 year lease for the 24 hour moorings, as he wanted to ensure that the moorings would remain free for the 40 year period.

Councillor Taylor then presented the Council with a picture from the Scouts and Guides in thanks for the Mayors Appeal donations.

**464. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Mayor confirmed that the next meeting of the Town Council is Tuesday 20 December 2011.

**465. Admission to meetings - pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960 it is proposed that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press leave the meeting during consideration of the remaining matters.**

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