

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF WELLINGBOROUGH  
HELD AT SWANSPOOL HOUSE, WELLINGBOROUGH  
ON TUESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2014**

**Present:** The Mayor (Councillor G Lawman) and Councillors Ainge, Allebone, Bailey, Bass, Beirne, Bell, Blackwell, Carr, Dholakia, Emerson, Gough, Graves, Griffiths, Harrington, Hawkes, Henley, Higgins, Hollyman, L Lawman, Morrall, Partridge-Underwood, B Patel, Raymond, Scarborough, Simmons, Timms, Ward, Warwick, M Waters and V Waters.

**Officers present:** Mr J T Campbell, Chief Executive, Mrs L Elliott, Head of Finance, Mrs B Lawrence, Head of Resources, Miss S Lyons, Monitoring Officer and Solicitor, District Law and Mrs C A Mundy, Democratic Services Officer.

The Mayor welcomed his fellow councillors to the meeting along with his guests for the evening, heads and principal teachers from schools within the borough. He also extended congratulations to Councillor and Mrs Bass on the birth of their first grandchild.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**RESOLVED** to note that apologies for absence were received from Councillors Elliott, Maguire, M Patel, Pursglove and Watts.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations made.

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING – 14 JANUARY 2014**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 14 January 2014 be confirmed and signed.

**4. QUESTIONS, PETITIONS AND REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE MEETING**

**RESOLVED** to note that no questions, petitions or requests to address the meeting had been received from the public.

**5. PLANNING COMMITTEE – 22 JANUARY 2014**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning Committee of 22 January 2014 be noted.

**6. LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE – 24 JANUARY 2014**

Councillor Dholakia made reference to the brevity of the minutes. He appreciated that the meeting had been held in private but asked if a members briefing note could be issued giving more detail of the sub-committee meeting.

Councillor Hawkes, as chairman of the sub-committee, responded to the request for a briefing note to be issued. He agreed that the minutes were concise and had been produced in this way on the advice of the legal officer. He explained that this had been a

very long sub-committee meeting, held over two days, and assured members that the evidence presented had been thoroughly discussed and debated by the members of the sub-committee, concluding with the decision to refuse the application. The applicant had a right of appeal so he considered that it would be unwise to issue a briefing note and hoped that the information he had given relating to the meeting reassured members.

The Chief Executive noted the comments made. He said if there was a need to look at the process he would do so, and asked that any issues like this in relation to the minutes of any committee be raised with him prior to the meeting to enable a full response to be provided.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committee of 24 January 2014 be noted.

**7. PLANNING COMMITTEE – 29 JANUARY 2014**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning Committee of 29 January 2014 be noted.

**8. COMMUNITY COMMITTEE – 3 FEBRUARY 2014**

The minutes of the Community Committee of 3 February 2014 were received.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Community Committee of 3 February 2014 be adopted.

**9. DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 4 FEBRUARY 2014**

The minutes of the Development Committee of 4 February 2014 were received.

Members made reference to minute 6 – North Northamptonshire Interim Housing Statement. They referred to the good debate that had taken place at committee and congratulated officers on the report and work that had been undertaken towards achieving the five year supply. There was growing concern around the length of time, and the cost, of producing a neighbourhood plan, with only six having been adopted throughout the country. Members asked if the government was planning any changes to the process. Concern was also expressed about how much weight village design statements had with the planning inspectorate.

The chairman responded, saying that he did not know of any planned changes to the neighbourhood plan process but was aware that across the country concern was being expressed about the length of time and cost of producing a plan.

With regard to housing targets, he had been speaking with Bovis Homes who had informed him that the first house should be ready in April 2015 with there being an expectation of 150 more in the first year followed by an average of 200 each following year.

Reference was also made to minute 9 – Proposed Main Modifications to the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy. Members were pleased with the proposed objections that the council intended to make. The proposed modifications to the strategy were of great concern in respect of coalescence and infrastructure provision. Concern was also expressed that if priority was given to the dualling of the A43 there may be a

delay with the Isham bypass and Isham-Wellingborough Improvements (IWIMP) with the people of the borough and Isham in particular, being disadvantaged. With the development of the Prologis site at Appleby Lodge issues regarding heavy goods vehicles travelling through neighbouring villages could also be of concern.

The leader noted the concerns and said that any encroachment on the borough would be strongly resisted. He was meeting with the North Northamptonshire councils to ensure that the case for funding of the Isham bypass remained high on the list of priorities. The Mayor also mentioned that the Isham bypass had been listed in the county council budget report.

The chairman responded and confirmed that the modification to the strategy was of concern and whilst there was a duty to co-operate the council had rightly made its objections. Work would continue to pursue the Isham bypass and IWIMP for the borough as soon as possible.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (i) the Interim Housing Statement be adopted as a material planning consideration to be taken into account in the calculation of housing land requirements pending the submission of the revised North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy;
- (ii) the minutes of the Development Committee of 4 February 2014 be adopted.

#### **10. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 10 FEBRUARY 2014**

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 10 February 2014 were received.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 10 February 2014 be adopted.

#### **11. THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (STANDING ORDERS) (ENGLAND) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2014**

The annexed circulated report of the Chief Executive was received on the regulations that came into force on 25 February 2014 requiring local authorities to amend their standing orders to ensure that any key budget decisions were subject to a recorded vote.

Councillor Bell proposed the following, which was seconded by Councillor Scarborough:

“that immediately after any vote is taken at a budget decision meeting of an authority there must be recorded in the minutes of the proceedings of that meeting the names of the persons who cast a vote for or against the decision or who abstained from voting”.

Councillor Hawkes proposed that an amendment be made to the proposed action contained within the report at 3(ii) to read as follows:

“to authorise the Chief Executive to make the necessary amendments to standing orders and constitution to take place in the usual manner”.

This amendment was seconded by Councillor Bailey.

Members asked for legal advice for the purpose of clarity from the Monitoring Officer before the vote was taken.

The amendment was put to the vote and declared lost.

Councillor L Lawman proposed a further amendment as follows:

“to authorise the Chief Executive in consultation with the leader and deputy leader to make the necessary amendments to standing orders and the constitution”.

This was seconded by Councillor Hawkes.

The Monitoring Officer and Chief Executive addressed the meeting and explained there were no other constitutional implications and the proposal before Council was only to deal with the changes as detailed in the Statutory Instrument. The leader also clarified that this was the case.

This amendment was put to the vote and declared lost.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and declared carried with one vote against.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (i) the introduction of the regulations with effect from 25 February 2014 be noted;
- (ii) the Chief Executive be authorised, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, to make the necessary amendments to standing orders and the constitution;
- (iii) the regulations to the budget recommendation contained elsewhere on the agenda for the council meeting on 25 February 2014 be applied.

## **12. RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 5 FEBRUARY 2014**

The minutes of the Resources Committee of 5 February 2014 were received.

Reference was made to minute 4 – installation of photovoltaic panels. Members raised concern over the use of agricultural land and countryside for solar energy.

The chairman responded to these concerns by informing Council that the proposed sites were scrubland and not suitable for agricultural use apart from, potentially grazing land.

The leader of the council and chairman of committee made reference to minute 5 – Revenue Budget 2014-15 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy Projections, and presented the budget to Council.

He explained that this was the third occasion he had presented a budget to Council and there were considerable financial pressures on local government with even more challenging times ahead. He confirmed that the recommendation was for council tax to be increased by 1.99% for 2014-15 which would equate to an increase of 5p per week for the borough council's share of the council tax. Most people in the borough were currently paying £128.66 per year and this would increase to £131.22 making a difference of £2.56, which would mean that the borough's council tax would remain the lowest in the county. The council still maintained free services to the public such as car parking and green waste collections.

In the future, consideration would need to be given to increasing council charges and reducing expenses to balance the books. The coming year would be very difficult with a number of key projects such as the crematorium, contract negotiations, and property decisions needing to be progressed to increase income. For this year a decision had been made to use £1.6m of reserves, but reserves would not last forever and the government grant could no longer be relied upon. The key aim would be to provide council services as effectively and efficiently as possible in the future.

The leader of the opposition, Councillor Scarborough, responded to the leader's speech and firstly congratulated the head of finance, her team and budget holders for putting together a sensible and realistic budget. He complimented her on the excellent briefing sessions which had clearly explained the current financial situation and what needed to be done in the future. He also noted the progress the council had made in the last few years in making changes to reduce outgoings. He considered that it was the right decision to use reserves this year and supported, with regret, the increase in council tax and the inflation increase to the fees and charges. He considered that for future years there was a need to grow revenue for the council, through commercial development, service delivery and the creation of new or improved partnerships. He also considered that changes were needed to councillor costs and particularly the committee structure of the council which needed to be urgently reviewed for the forthcoming municipal year. He highlighted the effects that cut backs were having on the voluntary sector who had already been hit hard with resources from other sources such as the county council diminishing. He gave the unequivocal support of his group to the budget as presented.

Other members also expressed their support for the budget and for the cross-party work that had been undertaken. Some concern was expressed about the future ways that local government would be financed with the issue being raised over the receipt of business rates going to the government instead of the borough.

The leader thanked everyone for their support. He responded to the comments made by the leader of the opposition and confirmed that a report would be going before committee on the committee structure. With regard to the voluntary sector there was a three year service delivery agreement currently in place which would be reviewed in the coming year.

The leader proposed the budget and this was seconded by Councillor Hollyman.

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 the following votes were cast:

For: Councillors Ainge, Allebone, Bailey, Bass, Beirne, Bell, Blackwell, Carr, Dholakia, Emerson, Gough, Graves, Harrington, Hawkes, Henley, Higgins, Hollyman, G Lawman, L Lawman, Morrall, Partridge-Underwood, B Patel, Raymond, Scarborough, Simmons, Timms, Ward, Warwick, M Waters and V Waters (no. 30);

Against: None (no. 0);

Abstension: Councillor Griffiths (no.1);

Absent: Councillors Elliott, Maguire, M Patel, Pursglove and Watts (no. 5)

The motion was declared carried.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (i) approval be given to an increase in the council's average band D council tax in 2014-15 for Wellingborough town and the borough by 1.99%, a level marginally below the referendum level of 2%;
- (ii) approval be given to the revenue budget for 2014-15 and financial plans as appended to the committee report;
- (iii) approval be given to the fees and charges schedule appended to the committee report;
- (iv) the minutes of the Resources Committee of 5 February 2014 be adopted.

### 13. COUNCIL TAX 2014-15

The annexed circulated report of the head of finance was received on the setting of the council tax for 2014-15.

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 the following votes were cast:

For: Councillors Ainge, Allebone, Bailey, Bass, Beirne, Bell, Blackwell, Carr, Dholakia, Emerson, Gough, Graves, Harrington, Hawkes, Henley, Higgins, Hollyman, G Lawman, L Lawman, Morrall, Partridge-Underwood, B Patel, Raymond, Scarborough, Simmons, Timms, Ward, Warwick, M Waters and V Waters (no. 30);

Against: None (no. 0);

Abstension: Councillor Griffiths (no.1);

Absent: Councillors Elliott, Maguire, M Patel, Pursglove and Watts (no. 5)

The motion was declared carried.

**RESOLVED** that:

1. the recommendations of the Resources Committee relating to the revenue estimates 2014/15 be approved.
2. (a) it be noted that at its meeting on the 11 December 2013, the council calculated the amount of 21,834 as its council tax base for the year 2014-15, in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.  
  
(b) the following amounts are calculated by the council, in accordance with regulation 6 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as the amounts of council tax base for the year 2014-15 for dwellings in

those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate (*Tax base for parishes and Wellingborough special expenses*).

<b>Parish of</b>	<b>Tax Base</b>
Bozeat	719
Great Doddington	465
Earls Barton	1,734
Easton Maudit	37
Ecton	206
Finedon	1,307
Grendon	235
Hardwick	43
Great Harrowden	41
Little Harrowden	303
Irchester	1,447
Isham	305
Mears Ashby	213
Orlingbury	226
Strixton	15
Sywell	345
Wilby	214
Wollaston	1,148
Wellingborough	12,830
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,834</b>

3. the following amounts be now calculated by the council for the year 2014-15 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-
- (a) £44,834,824 being the aggregate of the amounts which the council estimates for the items set out in section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by parish councils.
  - (b) £41,528,928 being the aggregate of the amounts which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
  - (c) £3,305,895 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its council tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in section 31B of the Act).
  - (d) £151.41 being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year (including parish precepts).

(e) £1,216,126 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached appendix B).

(f) £95.71 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no parish precept relates.

(g) **Part of the council's area**

<b>Parish of</b>	<b>£</b>
Bozeat	40.49
Great Doddington	47.31
Earls Barton	52.38
Easton Maudit	26.35
Ecton	53.40
Finedon	36.13
Grendon	59.57
Hardwick	34.88
Great Harrowden	28.78
Little Harrowden	67.31
Irchester	52.17
Isham	62.86
Mears Ashby	35.21
Orlingbury	32.30
Strixton	60.00
Sywell	50.72
Wilby	53.74
Wollaston	55.04
Wellingborough	60.43



The amounts stated in column 5 of the Schedule 1 (attached) given by adding to the amount at 3(f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the council's area specified in column 1 of Schedule 1 divided in each case by the amount at 1(a) above, calculated by the council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area set out in column 1 of Schedule 1 (attached) to which one or more special items relate. (*Council tax at band D for those parishes that have issued a precept and Wellingborough special expenses added to this council's council tax.*)

(h) Valuation bands

being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at 3(f) and 3(g) above by the number, which in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands. (*This council and each parish council's combined council tax for each council tax band and which will appear on the council tax bill.*)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bozeat	90.80	105.93	121.07	136.20	166.47	196.74	227.00	272.40
Gt Doddington	95.35	111.24	127.13	143.02	174.80	206.59	238.37	286.04
Earls Barton	98.73	115.18	131.64	148.09	181.00	213.91	246.82	296.18
Easton Maudit	81.38	94.93	108.50	122.06	149.19	176.31	203.44	244.12
Ecton	99.41	115.97	132.55	149.11	182.25	215.38	248.52	298.22
Finedon	87.90	102.54	117.20	131.84	161.14	190.44	219.74	263.68
Grendon	103.52	120.77	138.03	155.28	189.79	224.30	258.80	310.56
Hardwick	87.06	101.57	116.08	130.59	159.61	188.63	217.65	261.18
Gt Harrowden	83.00	96.82	110.66	124.49	152.16	179.82	207.49	248.98
Lt Harrowden	108.68	126.79	144.91	163.02	199.25	235.48	271.70	326.04
Irchester	98.59	115.02	131.45	147.88	180.74	213.61	246.47	295.76
Isham	105.72	123.33	140.96	158.57	193.81	229.05	264.29	317.14
Mears Ashby	87.28	101.83	116.38	130.92	160.01	189.11	218.20	261.84
Orlingbury	85.34	99.56	113.79	128.01	156.46	184.91	213.35	256.02
Strixton	103.81	121.11	138.41	155.71	190.31	224.92	259.52	311.42
Sywell	97.62	113.89	130.16	146.43	178.97	211.51	244.05	292.86
Wilby	99.64	116.24	132.85	149.45	182.66	215.87	249.09	298.90
Wollaston	100.50	117.25	134.00	150.75	184.25	217.75	251.25	301.50
Wellingborough	104.10	121.44	138.80	156.14	190.84	225.54	260.24	312.28

4. it be noted that for the year 2014-15 the major precepting authorities had stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of the dwellings shown below:

Valuation bands

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Northants CC	699.05	815.55	932.06	1,048.57	1,281.59	1,514.60	1,747.62	2,097.14
Northants PCC	131.36	153.25	175.15	197.04	240.83	284.61	328.40	394.08

5. having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3(h) and 4 above, the council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of council tax for the year 2014/15 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:- *Total council tax in each band for each parish.*)

Valuation bands

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bozeat	921.21	1,074.73	1,228.28	1,381.81	1,688.89	1,995.95	2,303.02	2,763.62
Gt Doddington	925.76	1,080.04	1,234.34	1,388.63	1,697.22	2,005.80	2,314.39	2,777.26
Earls Barton	929.14	1,083.98	1,238.85	1,393.70	1,703.42	2,013.12	2,322.84	2,787.40
Easton Maudit	911.79	1,063.73	1,215.71	1,367.67	1,671.61	1,975.52	2,279.46	2,735.34
Ecton	929.82	1,084.77	1,239.76	1,394.72	1,704.67	2,014.59	2,324.54	2,789.44
Finedon	918.31	1,071.34	1,224.41	1,377.45	1,683.56	1,989.65	2,295.76	2,754.90
Grendon	933.93	1,089.57	1,245.24	1,400.89	1,712.21	2,023.51	2,334.82	2,801.78
Hardwick	917.47	1,070.37	1,223.29	1,376.20	1,682.03	1,987.84	2,293.67	2,752.40
Gt Harrowden	913.41	1,065.62	1,217.87	1,370.10	1,674.58	1,979.03	2,283.51	2,740.20
Lt Harrowden	939.09	1,095.59	1,252.12	1,408.63	1,721.67	2,034.69	2,347.72	2,817.26
Irchester	929.00	1,083.82	1,238.66	1,393.49	1,703.16	2,012.82	2,322.49	2,786.98
Isham	936.13	1,092.13	1,248.17	1,404.18	1,716.23	2,028.26	2,340.31	2,808.36
Mears Ashby	917.69	1,070.63	1,223.59	1,376.53	1,682.43	1,988.32	2,294.22	2,753.06
Orlbury	915.75	1,068.36	1,221.00	1,373.62	1,678.88	1,984.12	2,289.37	2,747.24
Strixton	934.22	1,089.91	1,245.62	1,401.32	1,712.73	2,024.13	2,335.54	2,802.64
Sywell	928.03	1,082.69	1,237.37	1,392.04	1,701.39	2,010.72	2,320.07	2,784.08
Wilby	930.05	1,085.04	1,240.06	1,395.06	1,705.08	2,015.08	2,325.11	2,790.12
Wollaston	930.91	1,086.05	1,241.21	1,396.36	1,706.67	2,016.96	2,327.27	2,792.72
Wellingborough	934.51	1,090.24	1,246.01	1,401.75	1,713.26	2,024.75	2,336.26	2,803.50

6. the council has determined that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2014/15 is **not** excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.

As the billing authority, the council has **not** been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of council tax for 2014/15 is excessive and that the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Parish/Town Council	2013-14			2014-15			Council Tax Change
	Tax Base	Precepts £	Council Tax Band D £	Tax Base	Precepts £	Council Tax Band D £	
Bozeat	713	28,869	40.49	719	29,112	40.49	0.00%
Great Doddington	461	22,000	47.72	465	22,000	47.31	-0.86%
Earls Barton	1,719	87,614	50.97	1,734	90,831	52.38	2.77%
Easton Maudit	37	975	26.35	37	975	26.35	0.00%
Ecton	204	11,000	53.92	206	11,000	53.40	-0.96%
Finedon	1,297	43,761	33.74	1,308	47,263	36.13	7.08%
Grendon	233	13,568	58.23	235	14,000	59.57	2.30%
Hardwick	43	1,500	34.88	43	1,500	34.88	0.00%
Great Harrowden	41	1,180	28.78	41	1,180	28.78	0.00%
Little Harrowden	300	19,800	66.00	303	20,394	67.31	1.98%
Irchester	1,435	75,491	52.61	1,447	75,491	52.17	-0.84%
Isham	302	19,173	63.49	305	19,173	62.86	-0.99%
Mears Ashby	211	7,500	35.55	213	7,500	35.21	-0.96%
Orlingbury	224	7,300	32.59	226	7,300	32.30	-0.89%
Strixton	15	900	60.00	15	900	60.00	0.00%
Sywell	342	16,000	46.78	345	17,500	50.72	8.42%
Wilby	212	9,500	44.81	214	11,500	53.74	19.93%
Wollaston	1,138	61,350	53.91	1,148	63,190	55.04	2.10%
<b>Total Parishes</b>	<b>8,927</b>	<b>427,480</b>	<b>47.89</b>	<b>9,004</b>	<b>440,809</b>	<b>48.96</b>	<b>2.23%</b>
Wellingborough Town	12,721	753,773	59.25	12,830	775,317	60.43	1.99%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21,648</b>	<b>1,181,253</b>		<b>21,834</b>	<b>1,216,126</b>		

#### **14. NOTABLE ACTIVITIES**

The annexed circulated report of the chief executive was received on the notable activities that had taken place or are planned and relate to the council's PRIDE objectives.

Particular reference was made to the following:

- Wellingborough's Got Talent – this was a very enjoyable evening and showcased the talents of the young people of the borough. The winner was 14 year old singer Lauren Alexandra Jones.
- Great Doddington affordable homes – the near completion of these affordable homes on an exception site was applauded and it was hoped that other parishes would look into this, particularly for single occupancy bungalows.
- Lea Way compulsory purchase order – thanks were extended to officers for the work involved in obtaining this compulsory purchase order, which had taken many years of hard work. Thanks were also extended to the ward councillors for their efforts in bringing this to fruition.
- Indian Republic Day – the Mayor and Mayoress had very much enjoyed the celebrations and encouraged all to attend in the future. Councillor Dholakia endorsed the Mayor's comments and commented on how the event had grown over the years and was for all of the community to enjoy.
- Older Persons' Forum – Councillor Higgins referred to this event which was held at Knight's Court and was extremely well attended.
- Civic Ball – the Mayor thanked those who attended the Civic Ball, which had been a fantastic evening. Councillor Henley also agreed that the evening had been very enjoyable, although he would have preferred it to be held in Wellingborough. Councillor L Lawman congratulated the Mayor on a fabulous evening and informed Council that the ball had been held in Kettering as the Castle had not been able to accommodate the numbers wishing to attend.
- Twinning – the Mayor had been delighted to welcome a delegation from Wittlich with cultural visits taking place to Northampton and Stoke Bruerne.
- Commonwealth Day – this would be taking place on 10 March 2014.

**RESOLVED** that the report and comments made be noted.

#### **15. CORRESPONDENCE, COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE DIRECTION OF THE MAYOR OR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING**

The Mayor had received no correspondence.

He informed Council that his next charity event was the Supersonic 70's show

to be held at the Castle on Saturday 12 April 2014. Tickets were available to purchase directly from the Castle.

Mayor

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

