

26th November 2018

Minutes of the proceedings of the **CIVIC COMMITTEE** meeting held on this day in the **Council Chamber, TOWN HALL, WOKINGHAM** from 7.30pm to 8.40pm.

PRESENT

Chairman: Mrs G S Hewetson (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: M Bishop, J McGhee-Sumner (the Mayor) and Mrs UK Clark

IN ATTENDANCE

Civic Officer – Nicola Payler

Cllr Tony Lack

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from D G Lee (Chairman), and P Mirfin.

Cllr Bob Wyatt's absence, due to a period of ill-health, was noted.

MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OR PUBLIC (Agenda Item 3)

No questions were received.

CIVIC COMMITTEE MINUTES (Agenda Item 4)

Clarification was sought on the criteria set for giving retiring gifts to Councillors (agenda item 7) but it was agreed that no changes would be made in line with decisions made in previous years:

A retiring Councillor will receive a thank you gift but a gift will not be presented to a Councillor if he/she does not get re-elected.

It was proposed by Cllr J McGhee-Sumner and seconded by Cllr Mrs UK Clark and it was

**RESOLVED
29845**

that the Minutes of the Civic Committee meeting held on 24th September 2018 (pages 15670 to 15672) be received as a true and correct record and that they be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

MONITORING REPORT (Agenda Item 5)

The Monitoring Report dated 20th September 2018 was received and noted.

1) Bake Off

The Vice-Chairman asked the Civic Officer to make enquiries to see if Churches Together in Wokingham might be interested in organising such an event.

2) To frame the High Steward scroll

This will be framed at the same time together with a photograph of the new High Steward. The High Steward is currently making arrangements for her uniform to be made and a photograph will be taken once this has been completed.

ACTION: Civic Officer



COMMITTEE'S BUDGET (Agenda Item 6)

A report on the Committee's expenditure to 31st October 2018 was received and noted.

REMEMBRANCE (Agenda Item 7)

- 1) To reflect on 2018 events and capture any additional feedback

Members recognised the additional activities and events that have been made this year for the centenary and acknowledged the success of these, particularly with the Lest we Forget Concert and the significant number of people attending the Parade and the Church Service.

A special note of thanks was given to Cllr Lack for making the special bespoke Field of Remembrance.

Members discussed the delays in the wreath laying ceremony again and considered alternative options for making improvements.

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs UK Clark and seconded by Cllr M Bishop and it was

**RESOLVED
29846**

that the Council should trial holding the wreath laying ceremony before the parade in 2019 with Councillors supporting guests where required.

- 2) To consider placing a plaque on an outside wall of the building to raise awareness about the war memorial

The Civic Officer advised that an increased number of people made enquiries this year about there not being an outside war memorial and a suggestion has been received for a plaque to be placed outside on the wall to raise awareness that a war memorial is in the building. The Civic Officer advised that if the committee choose to do this, there are listed building requirements which would have to be sought from Wokingham Borough Council.

The members discussed this and asked the Civic Officer to initially make arrangements for some good quality photographs to be taken of the war memorial. These should be placed in one of the outside noticeboards together with some information about how it can be viewed.

- 3) To consider Remembrance from 2019

The Vice-Chairman broached the subject that as we are now beyond 100 years since Armistice Day should WTC take the opportunity to re-align what we do.

Advice from the Lord Lieutenant office and the National Association of Civic Officers currently suggests that commemorations should continue.

Members discussed this and considered various ideas including whether Armed Forces Day should be given more importance in the Council calendar.

It was decided that this matter should be investigated further to get various views. The Civic Officer was asked to contact the RBL to seek their advice. The Vice-Chairman asked all members to be vigilant about this topic and feed any information into the Civic Officer to collate.

ACTION: Civic Officer and Councillors



INVITATION TO ERFSTADT (Agenda Item 8)

The Committee received a copy of the invitation for the Mayor to visit Erfstadt in July 2019 but it was agreed that a decision could not be made until the new Mayor has been elected in May. The Civic Officer should advise them accordingly.

Members agreed that no travel allowance should be given to support such visits, but if the Mayor would like to attend he /she should pay for this from the honorary allowance that is received.

ACTION: Civic Officer

INFORMATION ITEMS (Agenda Item 9)

The Committee members received a note that WTC raised £125.50 towards the Wokingham Poppy Appeal. It was also acknowledged that over £1200 was donated from the Lest We Forget concert that the Council organised.

COMMITTEE INFORMATION (Agenda Item 13)

No additional information was raised.

CHAIRMAN

