

4th October 2017

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

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr Mrs G S Hewetson

Councillors: M Bishop, Mrs UK Clark, P Lucey (The Mayor), T Lack, J McGhee-Sumner and R J Wyatt

IN ATTENDANCE

Civic Officer – Nicola Payler

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr P Mirfin (Vice-Chairman).

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)

It was proposed by Cllr Hewetson and seconded by Cllr McGhee-Sumner and it was

**RESOLVED
29613**

that the Minutes of the Civic Committee meeting held on 12th June 2017 (pages 15375 to 15378) 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 19th September 2017 was received and noted.

1) In the event of the death of the Monarch and/or senior members of the Royal Family

The Civic Officer advised that the WTC plans have been outlined as far as possible. A meeting was held with WBC to discuss working closely together for key town occasions and this was being circulated amongst amongst WBC Councillors. WTC is awaiting the outcome of this before final plans can be completed.

2) WTTA Plaque

See agenda 9.

3) Retirement of High Steward

See agenda 16.

COMMITTEE'S BUDGET (Agenda Item 6)

A report on the Committee's expenditure to 31st August 2017 was received and noted.



COUNCILLOR HATS (Agenda Item 7)

The Civic Officer advised that it was unclear from the previous meeting whether or not ladies hats should be worn inside the Town Hall for the Mayor's Sunday ceremony.

The members all agreed that ladies should wear their hats to maintain traditions. If the Mayor is a lady and she finds it difficult to wear her hat during the speeches, it should be optional for her to wear.

HERITAGE OPEN DAY (Agenda Item 8)

The Civic Officer advised the committee that the event was well attended and enjoyed by many. It was rewarding to see so many visitors enjoying the event despite the town refurbishment taking place.

The Chairman thanked the Civic Officer for organising the day.

WTTA Plaque (Agenda Item 9)

The Civic Officer advised members that the new plaque was produced and presented at the Town Hall reception on Friday 22nd September when the German Mayor and his wife visited Wokingham for the weekend with a number of twinning members.

The new plaque has now been positioned in Ertstadt Court.

CYCLE RIDE FROM WOKINGHAM TO VIRY-CHATILLON (Agenda Item 10)

The committee discussed the idea and members agreed that the Civic Officer should acknowledge and advise Mr Judge that WTC would hope to offer a send-off from Wokingham in June 2018.

Cllr Lack expressed an interest in taking part and asked the Civic Officer to forward his details to the organiser.

ACTION: CIVIC OFFICER

2018 END OF WW1 COMMEMORATION (Agenda Item 11)

The Committee received and accepted the Civic Officer's report 4/2017-2018 dated 19th September 2017 with the following ideas for Wokingham to mark the end of this period in November 2018:

- For WTC to display all the War Memorial Trail banners in the Town Hall during the week beginning Monday 5th November 2018 to Friday 9th November 2018 with a possible launch on the Monday with Mayors and Chairman from WBC towns and parishes.
- The Poppy Organiser, Mr David Dunham, is currently planning the following activities during the two weeks of the Poppy Appeal between Saturday 27 October and Saturday 11 November 2018:
 - Saturday 27 October - Saint Sebastian Band to play outside in the Market Place between 10am-12pm . Inside the Town Hall –



- display of WW1 items, crochet poppies, wreath making, a talk, possible display of local artwork and school choir singing
- Saturday 3 November - A celebrity day in the Market Place to support the Poppy Appeal where celebrities would be available to chat to and have photos taken with.
- To identify any other local events taking place in Wokingham for this commemoration and WTC to promote them altogether and distribute to our residents, e.g. Wokingham Theatre are hoping to put on a WWI play in October 2018.
- To consider planning a concert, possibly at Whitty Theatre. Civic Officer to investigate with Saint Sebastian Band and other performers.

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Hewetson and seconded by Cllr McGhee-Sumner, and it was to

RECOMMEND 29614 to F & GP that £3000 should be requested for 2018-2019 to cover associated costs for publicity and to support a concert.

The Committee asked the Civic Officer to enquire if some suitable WW1 entertainment could also be included on the Saturdays.

ACTION: CIVIC OFFICER

MACE REST RESTORATION (Agenda Item 12)

The members viewed the newly refurbished Mace Rest and were very pleased with the work that had been carried out to repair the woodwork and upholstery.

ACTION: CIVIC OFFICER

INFORMATION ITEMS (Agenda Item 13)

- 1) The Committee received a copy of a thank you letter from the Borough Mayor regarding the support WTC provides for Citizenship Ceremonies.

COMMITTEE INFORMATION (Agenda Item 14)

The Chairman advised committee members that our local Police Inspector has raised concerns with our Town Clerk about the Remembrance Parade this year due to the town centre refurbishment. Reduced traffic lanes and little room to muster would cause a number of practical difficulties.

The members discussed the situation and considered various alternative options but agreed that the most sensible approach this year would be not to hold the parade but to continue with Church Service and wreath laying ceremony.

The Civic Officer was asked to make arrangements for the Mayor and Councillors to robe at the Cornerstone and then to process in from the vestry, if possible.

The two minute silence for Armistice Day should also be re-located to Howard Palmer Gardens for this year only.

Cllr Wyatt informed the Committee that he would no longer be able to attend the 9.30am All Saints Church Service on Remembrance Sunday as he has done for a number of years as the most Senior Councillor representing the Council.



Committee members suggested the Civic Officer should ask Cllr Lee if he is able to continue with this tradition. If for any reason Cllr Lee cannot do this, the next most senior Councillor should be asked.

The Civic Officer should communicate accordingly.

ACTION: CIVIC OFFICER

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC (Agenda Item 15)

**RESOLVED
29615**

It was proposed by Cllr R J Wyatt and seconded by Cllr M Bishop and it was that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and instructed to withdraw.



PART II

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC (Agenda Item 16)

The Committee received and considered the Civic Officer's report 3/2017-2018 dated 19th September 2017 to consider the next High Steward as Lady Elizabeth Godsall retires in May 2018.

RECOMMEND 29616

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Hewetson and seconded by Cllr Lucey, and it was to Full Council that Lucy Zeal should be proposed as the new High Steward from May 2018 and for WTC to offer her the position.

In addition, an approximate cost of £3000 will be required for associated costs for a suitable farewell, scrolls and a gift. The Civic Officer should liaise with the RFO to determine if any money should be requested for the 2018-2019 budget as the changeover of the High Stewards will take place across two financial years.

ACTION: Civic Officer

CHAIRMAN

