

# 26th June 2018

Minutes of the proceedings of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held this day in the **MAIN HALL, TOWN HALL, WOKINGHAM**, from 7.30pm to 8.15pm.

## **PRESENT:**

Chairman: Cllr J P McGhee-Sumner (Mayor)

Cllrs: Cllrs M Ashwell M Bishop, C J Bowring, N Campbell-White, D O H Davies, L Forbes, S C Gurney, Mrs G S Hewetson, T Lack, D G Lee, C D Moore, M Monk, J P Mirfin, I L Shepherd-Dubey, S Steatham, A Tebboth, A N Waters,

## **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Jan Nowecki – Town Clerk

Nicky Harmsworth – Responsible Finance Officer (RFO)

## **PRAYERS**

Prayers were led by Mother Julie Mintern of St Paul's Church.

## **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs C R George, Mrs UK Clark, K G Morgan, S Odedra, M L Richards and R J Wyatt.

## **MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda Item 2)**

There were no declarations of interest.

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

Mr Croy asked when accessibility around the town would be improved and snagging completed so that more area of the market place would be open?

Cllr Mirfin responded that he had met with Balfour Beatty earlier today and had raised 12 points to them which he was expecting answers to tomorrow. A press release was planned to go out with answers to the points raised.

Cllr I Shepherd- Dubey asked how much WTC had spent on the market place project as WTC had committed to contribute to 50% of the spend in partnership with WBC. Cllr Davies reconfirmed the position that WTC has agreed the budget of £1.9m and whilst he expects that the agreed contingency would be used, no further monies had been requested and should WTC be notified of any potential variance this would need to be brought back to a future Full Council for Consideration. The amount spent by WTC to the end of June is £1,754,401.

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING (Agenda Item 4)**

It was proposed by Cllr Lee and seconded by Cllr Mirfin and the following was

**RESOLVED  
29760**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Annual Council Meeting, Mayoral Sunday held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2018 (pages 15567 to 15573) and; that the minutes of the proceedings of the Annual Council Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018 (pages 15574 to 15579) be confirmed as a true and correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

## **MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS (Agenda Item 5)**

The Mayor advised that Cllr Wyatt had recently been admitted to hospital and wished him a speedy recovery. Cllrs were advised that nominations for The Queens's Award for Voluntary Service was open and could be completed online. Following the new GDPR legislation Cllrs were also reminded that their new email addresses should be used for any town council business. The Mayor then asked Cllrs to keep Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September free for Heritage day and the Market Opening celebrations.

The Mayor's list of engagements dated 26<sup>th</sup> May – 24<sup>th</sup> June were received and noted.

#### **ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING**

##### **(Agenda Item 6)**

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs G S Hewetson and seconded by Cllr S Gurney and the following was

the minutes and any recommendations of the Arts & Culture Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018 (pages 15580 to 15583) be received.

**RESOLVED  
29761**

**ACTION: A & C OFFICER**

#### **AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING**

##### **(Agenda Item 7)**

Cllr N Campbell-White gave an overview on some key points noted in the minutes and gave thanks to Cllr Forbes for the Graffiti Newsletter and Cllr Lack for the tireless work he is undertaking to remove Graffiti from around the town.

It was proposed by Cllr N Campbell-White and seconded by Cllr A Waters and the following was

**RESOLVED  
29762**

that the minutes and any recommendations of the Amenities Committee meetings held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018 (pages 15584 to 15591) be received.

#### **PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

##### **(Agenda Item 8)**

It was proposed by Cllr Waters and seconded by Cllr Bishop and the following was

**RESOLVED  
29763**

that the minutes and any recommendations of the Planning and Transportation Committee meetings held on the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018 (pages 15563 to 15566) and; that the minutes and any recommendations of the Planning and Transportation Committee meetings held on the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2018 (pages 15592 to 15595) be received.

Cllr Waters gave an overview on some key points in the minutes and advised that the committee had received replies back from MP's concerning the amended planning policy and hoped that the interest continued to change the unfairness in the current planning legislation.

#### **CIVIC COMMITTEE MEETING**

##### **(Agenda Item 9)**

It was proposed by Cllr Lee and seconded by Cllr Lack and the following was

**RESOLVED  
29764**

the minutes and any recommendations of the Civic Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018 (pages 15596 to 15600) be received.

Cllr Lee drew the attention to agenda item 13 of the minutes concerning the death of the Monarch and other Senior Royals. The Town Clerk advised that

“Operation Bridge” as it has been named, had been worked on in conjunction with WBC and confirmed that the proclamation of the new king would be held in Market Place.

**FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING  
(Agenda Item 10)**

It was proposed by Cllr Davies and seconded by Cllr Gurney and the following was

**RESOLVED  
29765**

that the minutes and any recommendations of the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2018 (pages 15601 to 15613) be received.

**MARKETS DEVELOPMENT WORKING PARTY  
(Agenda Item 11)**

The Town Clerk’s update report 06/2018 was received and noted.

It was proposed by Cllr Ashwell and seconded by Cllr Mrs Forbes and the following was

**RESOLVED  
29766**

that the notes and any recommendations of the Market Development Working Party held on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> June 2018 be received.

**STRATEGY WORKING PARTY  
(Agenda Item 12)**

It was proposed by Cllr Davies and seconded by Cllr Shepherd-Dubey and the following was

**RESOLVED  
29767**

that the notes and any recommendations of the Strategy Working Party held on the on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2018 be received.

Cllr Shepherd-Dubey asked if the Elms field playground was going to be fully accessible to children and adults and the Town Clerk advised that following this meeting she had been advised that this was now included in the detailed planning.

**INTERNAL AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2018  
(Agenda Item 13)**

It was proposed by Cllr Davies and seconded by Cllr Campbell-White and the following was

**RESOLVED  
29768**

a) that the Internal Auditor’s reports dated 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018 and 29<sup>th</sup> May 2018 respectively, for the Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2018 be received,  
(b) that the review of the effectiveness of the internal audit as approved by the F&P Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2018 performed by this Council for the year end March 2018 be received and  
(c) that Claire Connell be confirmed as the Internal Auditor for this council for the financial year 2018/2019.

Thanks were given to the RFO.

**ANNUAL RETURN 2017/2018  
(Agenda Item 14)**

It was proposed by Cllr Davies and seconded by Cllr Campbell-White and the following was

**RESOLVED  
29769**

(a) that the Financial Statements for the year ending 31st March 2018 including the charity statements for King George V and Leslie Sears playing fields be received and approved.

(b) that the annual return variance review which accompanies the annual return to the Audit Commission be received and approved.

(c) that the Local Council's Annual Return for the year ending 31st March 2018 be received and approved.

The Mayor and Town Clerk duly signed the Annual Return at the meeting.

Cllr Bowring joined the meeting.

**REGENERATION UPDATE  
(Agenda Item 15)**

Cllr P Mirfin gave a verbal update on the Regeneration including

- Peach place progressing well, tenants would be announced in blocks
- Elms field – viewing platform will be available on September 15<sup>th</sup> Event
- Changes to car parking at Shute End
- Timescales for handing over to Aldi Feb 2019, Premier Inn May 2019, Elms field park to WTC June 2019 and Cinema July 2019
- Market Place – meeting held today with Balfour Beatty and a further meeting to be held tomorrow as the main priority was to get the project finished on time.

**ACTION:**

**COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES  
(Agenda Item 16)**

Reports were received from Councillors who represent the Town Council on the following outside bodies:

Emmbrook Village Hall – Verbal report from Cllr Mirfin  
Citizens Advice Wokingham – Cllr Campbell White.

**CHAIRMAN**