

## 24th July 2018

Minutes of the proceedings of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held this day in the **MAIN HALL, TOWN HALL, WOKINGHAM**, from 7.30pm to 8.00pm.

### **PRESENT:**

Chairman: Cllr J P McGhee-Sumner (Mayor)  
Cllrs: Cllrs M Ashwell, M Bishop, C J Bowring, N Campbell-White, D O H Davies, A Drake, C R George, S C Gurney, Mrs G S Hewetson, T Lack, D G Lee, C D Moore, K G Morgan, S Odedra, M L Richards, 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**

No prayers were spoken this evening.

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

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs Mrs UK Clark, L Forbes 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)**

Cllr Shepherd- Dubey asked the following question;  
I note that there will be disabled parking bays in the new Market Place area. I am concerned that these will not be marked out with the usual legally enforceable markings and may be used by people who are loading or waiting. Can you explain how you will ensure that these will be dedicated to and available for use by disabled people?'

Cllr Waters gave the following response:

The disabled parking bays are legally enforceable by WBC's CPE team. The new regulations that came out in 2016 allow variations in how restrictions are signed and lined. It is now allowed to have only a sign or only lining if the restrictions are 24 hours. However, the disabled bays are defined with signage, different textured surfaces to make them more noticeable (granite setts rather than Yorkstone) and brass wheelchair signs will be embedded in the bays to offer further clarity. Loading and unloading cannot take place in a disabled parking place, but there will be a loading area, marked with signs and again different textured surfaces to show these more prominently.

Cllr Shepherd-Dubey then asked a supplementary question of how many disabled bays would there be in the new area, Cllr Waters did not know how many but would find out and let all Cllrs know.

**ACTION: Cllr WATERS**

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

Cllr Tebboth noted that her attendance had not been recorded in the previous minutes – apologies were given for this oversight and the minutes amended accordingly. Cllr Tebboth also asked if the snagging around the market place was monitored at the end of each day and Cllr Mirfin responded that it was.

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

**RESOLVED  
29783**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Council Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018 (pages 15614 to 15617) as a true and correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

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

The Mayor's list of engagements dated 25<sup>th</sup> June – 22<sup>nd</sup> July were received and noted.

**AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING  
(Agenda Item 6)**

Cllr N Campbell-White gave an overview on some key points noted in the minutes and again gave thanks to Cllr Lack for the tireless work he is undertaking to remove Graffiti from around the town. He also advised that the blue tarpaulin which can be seen at the top of the town hall is staying there as it relates to the investigative work that has already been carried out concerning flue arrangements for the new boiler.

It was proposed by Cllr N Campbell-White and seconded by Cllr C George and the following was

**RESOLVED  
29784**

that the minutes and any recommendations of the Amenities Committee meetings held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018 (pages 15618 to 15624) be received.

Cllr Shepherd Dubey asked if the recently completed drainage project in Joel Park would be seeded once the ground settles down. The Chairman advised it would be after we have had some substantial rain.

**PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
(Agenda Item 7)**

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

**RESOLVED  
29785**

that the minutes and any recommendations of the Planning and Transportation Committee meetings held on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2018 (pages 15625 to 15628) be received.

Cllr Waters gave an overview on some key points in the minutes and advised that following the meeting he had met with the Town Clerk and Cllr Ashwell, Chairman of the Market Place Working Party, concerning issues that had been raised at the meeting. The points other than the TRO would fall under the auspices of the Market Place Working Party. Cllr Waters had received a copy of the TRO and a meeting was being held with a Senior Traffic Management Engineer from WBC on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> July in the Council Chamber where amendments to the TRO would be suggested. All Councillors were welcome to attend.

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

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

**RESOLVED  
29786**

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 16<sup>th</sup> July 2018 (pages 15629 to 15631) be received.

Cllr Hewetson gave an overview of the key points in the minutes in particular the success of the International Street Concert which had led to the decision that this event should be outsourced and a request would be taken to the September F&P meeting for more funding. Cllr Hewetson also noted that there had been a lack of Cllr support at the event and hoped that Cllrs would volunteer to assist with the book festival being held over the weekend of 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> of October 2018.

### **FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

**RESOLVED  
29787**

Cllr Bishop advised that he had incorrectly been shown in the minutes – the RFO apologised for the administrative error and would correct accordingly.

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

that the minutes and any recommendations of the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018 (pages 15632 to 15639) be received.

Cllr Davies advised that the 2019-20 grants applications are now open and asked that all Cllrs share the information to any groups they may have dealings with.

### **MARKETS DEVELOPMENT WORKING PARTY**

#### **(Agenda Item 10)**

**RESOLVED  
29788**

The Town Clerk's update report 08/2018 was received and noted.

It was proposed by Cllr Ashwell and seconded by Cllr George and the following was

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

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

#### **(Agenda Item 11)**

**RESOLVED  
29789**

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

Cllr Tebboth be elected as Member of the Arts & Culture Committee.

### **COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

#### **(Agenda Item 12)**

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

Borough Parish Liaison meeting – Cllr Bishop advised Cllrs to submit any issues with grass cutting, poor maintenance of kerbsides in a similar manner to the report that Finchampstead Parish Council had submitted ready for the meeting in September.

The following representation on outside bodies was confirmed.

- Forces Champion – Cllr Lack
- Air Cadet Force – Cllr Lack

Cllr Lack gave a verbal update on the Air Cadet meeting he had already attended and advised that a request had been made for fencing around the new hut as unsociable behaviour from local youths had been reported on numerous occasions.

Citizens Advice Wokingham – verbal report from Cllr Campbell White confirming that grant funding is being continued by WBC but there remains a shortfall for town centre work and the office will be closing one day per week.

### **REGENERATION UPDATE (Agenda Item 13)**

Cllr P Mirfin gave a verbal update on the Regeneration including

- Good news that bottom end of Denmark Street from the Library to Wellington Road and reinstatement of two- way traffic to Langborough Road on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2018.
- Market Place – still planned to complete weekend of 18/19<sup>th</sup> August with Denmark Street North reopening with final handover following a deep acid clean and seal of all the new works taking place from 20–25<sup>th</sup> August. A 6 month experimental traffic order will be introduced for up to 6 months to allow for CPE enforcement of the Market Place.
- Peach Place – moving ahead as expected – number of units signed and others with WBC legal team. Signed stores expected to be handed over for fitting mid-September with anticipated openings by end of November. Viewing platform will be available on September 15<sup>th</sup> Event
- Elms field – new road has been formed on Wellington Road and next 12 weeks will see this being extended from Shute End to Wellington Road. The foundations are going in for Premier Inn and Aldi. The new revised town park play area plans are being shown to Amenities on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> July and it is hoped that this area will be open to the public from July 2019 providing suitable access is possible. Viewing platform will be available here also on September 15<sup>th</sup> event.
- Carnival 2 – the old bowling alley has been demolished and cleared and work is planned to commence mid 2020 following the completion of Bulmershe.

Cllr Tebboth asked if, as part of the review of the Market Place works, feedback could be sought from the public as this may be useful for other projects. Cllr Mirfin advised that this was something they are planning to do but was not sure how this would be collected.

**CHAIRMAN**