

# 23<sup>rd</sup> October 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, Mrs UK Clark D O H Davies, A Drake, L Forbes, C R George, S C Gurney, Mrs G S Hewetson, T Lack, D G Lee, M Monk, K G Morgan, S Odedra, M L Richards, J P Mirfin, I L Shepherd-Dubey, A Tebboth

## **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 R J Wyatt owing to a period of ill health, Cllr S Steatham and Cllr C D Moore.

## **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;

“How much of Wokingham Town Council’s Contingency Money allocated to the Market Place Project has been spent to date. To clarify this is any spending over and above the originally agreed £1.9million budget that Wokingham Town Council has agreed to spend on this project.”

Cllr Davies, responded that at the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2017 Full Council Meeting it was resolved – Resolution No: 29532- to proceed with the £3.8m project on a 50/50 joint financial agreement with WBC and to contribute to an agreed amount of contingency as specified in the confidential Town Clerk’s report 06/2017 received at the same meeting. I can confirm that we have this month received the final invoice from WBC and the agreed contingency will all be needed.

Cllr Shepherd-Dubey asked how much was the agreed contingency amount – Cllr Davies replied this remained confidential as shown in the Town Clerk’s report for commercial reasons. Cllr Shepherd-Dubey advised that the amount of £200k was shown in Wokingham Borough Council’s Executive Paper so why was it confidential – Cllr Davies advised that he has not seen the Executive Paper, and does not have information about what WBC does or does not show in its reports.

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

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

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Council Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2018 (pages 15640 to 15643) as a true and correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

**RESOLVED  
29815**

## **MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

### **(Agenda Item 5)**

The Mayor reminded Cllrs of the events of Wokingham Remembers recognising the 100 years Commemorations of the First World War.

The Mayor's list of engagements dated 23<sup>rd</sup> July – 14<sup>th</sup> October were received and noted.

## **PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

It was proposed by Cllr N Campbell-White and seconded by Cllr I Shepherd-Dubey and the following was

**RESOLVED  
29816**

that the minutes and any recommendations of the Planning and Transportation Committee meetings held on the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018 (pages 15644 to 15647) and 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018 (pages 15673 to 15676) be received.

Cllr Campbell White gave an overview on some key points in the minutes and advised that proposals had been put forward to WBC on the experimental TRO.

## **AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

Cllr N Campbell-White gave an overview on some key points noted in the minutes and again gave thanks to Cllr Lack and the Graffiti Working Party for the work they have undertaken to remove Graffiti from around the town. He also advised that the Schools' Graffiti Presentation would be happening on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018 from 6-7pm and requested that Councillors attend to show support for the project.

It was proposed by Cllr N Campbell-White and seconded by Cllr L Forbes and the following was

**RESOLVED  
29817**

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.

## **ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

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

**RESOLVED  
29818**

the minutes and any recommendations of the Arts & Culture Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018 (pages 15658 to 15661) be received.

Cllr Hewetson advised that since this meeting a further Extraordinary Meeting of the Committee had taken place to consider tenders for the International Street Concert (ISC). Only one tender had been received and the Committee had been unable to award the contract on the evening as there remain a few points of clarification to be explored. The Town Clerk will be contacting the applicant and the committee will make its decision at the next meeting of A&C in November.

## **FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

Cllr Davies followed up Cllr Hewetson's update on the EGM for the ISC by drawing Cllrs attention to Agenda item 8 of the F&P minutes where it had been resolved that an extra £10,000 be agreed for the ISC subject to the normal budget setting approval which would be taken at a future meeting of Full Council.

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

**RESOLVED  
29819**

that the minutes and any recommendations of the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018 (pages 15662 to 15669) be received.

**CIVIC COMMITTEE MEETING  
(Agenda Item 10)**

Cllr Lee drew members to the recommendation on page 15671 concerning the request for funding for retiring Councillors in 2019 and the suggestion for a watercolour of the Town Hall showing the new Market Place which would be in the region of £500 - £1000.

Cllr Clark asked for clarification on the purchase of a 6ft soldier as shown in the minutes, The Town Clerk advised this was a commemorative structure which the Civic Officer had been successful in obtaining a grant from Wokingham Society.

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

**RESOLVED  
29820**

that the minutes and any recommendations of the Civic Committee meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018 (pages 15670 to 15672) be received.

An updated Operation London Bridge – in the event of the death of the Monarch or other senior member of the Royal Family - was received and noted

**STRATEGY WORKING PARTY  
(Agenda Item 11)**

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

**RESOLVED  
29821**

that the notes and any recommendations of the Strategy Working Party held on the 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018 be received including the recommendation in respect of student participation at Council Meetings

**MARKETS DEVELOPMENT WORKING PARTY  
(Agenda Item 12)**

The Town Clerk's update report 11/2018 was received and noted.

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

**RESOLVED  
29822**

that the notes and any recommendations of the Market Development Working Party held on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018 be received.

Cllr Ashwell gave thanks to Peter Lucey who had previously chaired this working party.

**ANNUAL RETURN – CONCLUSION OF AUDIT 2018  
(Agenda Item 13)**

The External Auditors certificate and opinion regarding the completion of the annual return for the year ended 31 March 2018 was received and it was noted that there were no matters, to which attention should be drawn. The Leader thanked the RFO for her involvement in obtaining this outcome.

## **REGENERATION UPDATE**

### **(Agenda Item 14)**

Cllr P Mirfin gave a verbal update on the Regeneration including

- Peach Place – Units are being filled and announcements made for three companies which are starting to fit, out with more announcements in the pipeline.
- Market Place – concerns have been raised regarding the recent interim safety audit. A further audit will be held in mid- December once Peach Street is fully opened. Cllr Ashwell asked if the TRO consultation was still open to which Cllr Mirfin advised it was.
- As WBC executive member for the Town Centre Cllr Mirfin had requested an independent audit on the Market Place Improvement project and this will be published on 14<sup>th</sup> December. Cllr Forbes asked for the name of the firm that were undertaking this audit but Cllr Mirfin was unable to confirm this. Cllr Tebboth asked if, as part of the review feedback could be sought from the public as this may be useful for other projects. Cllr Mirfin advised that this was not forming part of the review. The Town Clerk advised that any feedback she had received during the works had been collated and sent to WBC.

## **COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

### **(Agenda Item 15)**

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

- Citizens Advice Wokingham

**CHAIRMAN**