

# 4<sup>th</sup> December 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 Bishop, C J Bowring, Mrs UK Clark, D O H Davies, L Forbes, C R George, S C Gurney, Mrs G S Hewetson, T Lack, D G Lee, C D Moore, J P Mirfin, M L Richards, I L Shepherd-Dubey, A Tebboth and A 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 R J Wyatt, M Ashwell, M Monk, K G Morgan, A Drake and Cllr S Odedra.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

Cllr Steatham joined the meeting.

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

No questions had been received.

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

It was proposed by Cllr J McGhee-Sumner and seconded by Cllr M L Richards and the following was

**RESOLVED  
29847**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Council Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018 (pages 15678 to 15681) as a true and correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

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

The Mayor advised Cllrs that he had received a letter from the Wokingham Poppy Appeal thanking Wokingham Town Council for the support received for the Wokingham Remembers events, with special recognition to Cllr T Lack and Civic Officer Nikki Payler. He advised that the final figure for the poppy appeal had not been confirmed but it was expected to be in excess of £50,000, a new record for Wokingham.

The Mayor's list of engagements dated 18<sup>th</sup> October – 25<sup>th</sup> November were received and noted.

## **COUNCILLOR R J WYATT (Agenda Item 6)**

It was proposed by Cllr J McGhee-Sumner and seconded by Cllr M L Richards and the following was

**RESOLVED 29848** to accept an absence of Cllr R J Wyatt due to a period of ill health until May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019.

Cllr N Campbell-White joined the meeting

**AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING  
(Agenda Item 7)**

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

**RESOLVED 29849** that the minutes and any recommendations of the Amenities Committee meetings held on the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2018 (pages 15685 to 15692) be received.

Cllr Campbell White advised there were currently some external contractor issues with some of the Christmas lights which it is hoped will be resolved shortly. Cllr I Shepherd- Dubey asked whether there had been any update on agenda item 14 of the minutes concerning land adjacent to Ormonde Road Allotments with the answer given that this was still with WBC.

**PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
(Agenda Item 8)**

It was proposed by Cllr A Waters and seconded by Cllr T Lack and the following was

**RESOLVED 29850** that the minutes and any recommendations of the Planning and Transportation Committee meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018 (pages 15693 to 15696) be received.

**ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING  
(Agenda Item 9)**

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

**RESOLVED 29851** the minutes and any recommendations of the Extraordinary Arts & Culture Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018 (page 15677) and the Arts & Culture Committee meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018 (pages 15697 to 15700) be received.

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

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

**RESOLVED 29852** that the minutes and any recommendations of the Finance and Personnel Committee meetings held on the 30<sup>th</sup> October 2018 (pages 15682 to 15684) and 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018 (pages 15701 to 15711) be received.

Cllr Davies advised Cllrs that at the November meeting it had been resolved that the PCSO funding partnership arrangement would not be extended for the financial year 2019/20. The agreement had been set up to foster community engagement and lack of visibility in the town of PCSO's had left the Committee unable to justify to residents the value for money. A letter had been sent to TVP explaining that if the situation changed the committee would be prepared to discuss it in the future.

The Town Clerk gave a verbal update to advise that the Market & Bloom Officer post had been offered to one candidate who had accepted but then changed her

mind, however another well qualified candidate has accepted and would be coming in for some handover time but would be starting officially on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019.

#### **CIVIC COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

It was proposed by Cllr D Lee and seconded by Cllr Mrs G Hewetson and the following was

**RESOLVED  
29853**

that the minutes and any recommendations of the Civic Committee meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018 (pages 15712 to 15714) be received.

Cllr Lee advised that he would be requesting the Committee to revisit the criteria for retiring gifts.

#### **STRATEGY WORKING PARTY**

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

It was proposed by Cllr D Davies and seconded by Cllr C George and the following was

**RESOLVED  
29854**

that the notes and any recommendations of the Strategy Working Party held on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018 be received.

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

##### **(Agenda Item 13)**

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

- Borough Parish Liason Meeting
- Citizens Advice Wokingham
- Army Cadets – verbal update from Cllr Lack
- Emmbrook Village Hall – verbal update from Cllr Mirfin

#### **REGENERATION UPDATE**

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

Cllr P Mirfin gave a verbal update on the Regeneration including

- Peach Place – Units are being filled and all expected to be fully let by March.
- Drainage works on Wellington Road causing traffic disruptions but expected to be completed by Sunday
- Site porta cabins have been moved from Elms Field
- Elms Field park and play area expected to be open in summer 2019
- New roads on Elms Field expected to be completed in January 2019
- Shute End Roads expected to be completed mid December 2018.

#### **COUNCIL YEAR CALENDAR**

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

The Town Council municipal year calendar May 2019 to April 2020 was received and noted. Cllr Surgeries would be removed from the Calendar .The Town Clerk advised that Clerks for each committee would send out invites to each meeting in the new year and that invites to civic events would also be sent out so that these would also appear in Cllr diaries. Cllr Lack asked what was planned to celebrate the 800 years of the Charter Market, the Town Clerk explained that it was hoped this would be incorporated into the Heritage Weekend and possibly used in the

Bloom entry in 2019 but asked if anyone had any specific suggestions to let her know.

**MOTION**  
**(Agenda Item 16)**

Motion 1 was submitted by Cllr A Tebboth:

'This council opposes the closure of Wokingham's post office and its franchising to WH Smith. The Council will write to the Post Office calling for the abandonment of plans to franchise Wokingham's post office and calls on John Redwood MP to write to the Minister for the Post Office to request that this proposal be abandoned.'

This motion was seconded by Cllr S Gurney and a debate followed.

Cllr D Davies proposed an amendment as follows:

Wokingham Town Council opposes the closure of Wokingham's post office building and its franchising to WH Smith. This Council do not consider W H Smith large enough to accommodate existing customers nor to provide for the extra residents coming from the 13,000 new houses being built around Wokingham up to 2026.

This Council will write to the Post Office and will call on John Redwood MP to continue his much appreciated efforts, to challenge the move, with the Minister and the Post Office, to ensure postal services are maintained within the Town Centre of Wokingham in the current easily accessible building.

This motion was seconded by Cllr D Lee and a debate followed.

The Mayor asked for a vote on the amendment and it was agreed that the amended motion be carried and the Town Clerk requested to write to the Post Office and John Redwood MP.

**ACTION : TOWN CLERK**

**CHAIRMAN**