

# 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019

Minutes of the proceedings of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held this day in the **MAIN HALL, TOWN HALL, WOKINGHAM**, from 7.30pm to 8.10pm.

## **PRESENT:**

Chairman: Cllr J McGhee-Sumner (Mayor)

Cllrs: Cllrs M Ashwell, M Bishop, C Bowring, Mrs UK Clark, N Campbell White, A Drake, D O H Davies, L Forbes, C George, S Gurney, T Lack, D Lee, J P Mirfin, M Richards, I Shepherd-Dubey, S Steatham and A Tebboth.

## **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, Mrs G S Hewetson, K G Morgan, C Moore and Cllr S Odedra.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

## **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 C George and seconded by Cllr M L Richards and the following was

**RESOLVED  
29874**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Council Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2018 (pages 15715 to 15718) as a true and correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

## **MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

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

The Mayor asked that any Cllr who was intending to come along to the Civic Awards on the evening of Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January and had not yet advised the Civic Officer of their attendance to do so as soon as possible.

The Mayor advised Council that staff were having a team "away-day" on 6<sup>th</sup> March and therefore the offices would be closed until approximately 2pm.

The Mayor's list of engagements dated 3<sup>rd</sup> December – 25<sup>th</sup> December were received and noted.

## **CIVIC COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

It was proposed by Cllr D Lee and seconded by Cllr Mrs U K Clark and the following was

**RESOLVED  
29875**

that the minutes and any recommendations of the Civic Committee meetings held on the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018 (pages 15719 to 15720) and 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019 (pages 15734 to 15737) be received.

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

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

**RESOLVED  
29876**

that the minutes and any recommendations of the Planning and Transportation Committee meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2018 (pages 15721 to 15724) be received.

**FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING  
(Agenda Item 8)**

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

**RESOLVED  
29877**

that the minutes and any recommendations of the Finance and Personnel Committee meetings held on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019 (pages 15725 to 15733) be received.

Cllr Davies advised that the recommendation to set the precept had been resolved at this meeting and also noted that the CiL income received to date would be used to make an early repayment of a large element of the outstanding PWLB loan.

**AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING  
(Agenda Item 9)**

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

**RESOLVED  
29878**

that the minutes and any recommendations of the Amenities Committee meetings held on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019 (pages 15738 to 15747) be received.

Cllr Campbell White gave a brief overview of some of the items discussed at the meeting in particular the decision to enter into a vehicle leasing arrangement for a WTC van which would also be used to empty the dog waste bins, therefore bringing this in house and not have to use a third party provider.

There had recently been some incidents in respect to dog waste and requests were made to change the current bins for a more secure design. Cllr Campbell White agreed to take this back to the Amenities Committee to look into, either replacing or modifying our current bins to make them harder to access.

The litter around the Market Place and the wider town centre was discussed.

It was also noted that the allotment site at Mulberry Grove had still not been accepted by WTC owing to the poor quality of the soil.

Cllr I Shepherd- Dubey asked if the decision to refurbish the stink pipes would be revisited, this was rejected.

Cllr Mirfin advised that there will be a water bottle refilling station in Peach Place.

**STANDING ORDER 23 – MAYORAL SELECTION NOTIFICATION (Agenda Item 10)**

The Mayor reminded members of the process for Mayoral selection contained within Standing Order 23 – paragraph (d) and to note that Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019 is the date of the Mayoral Selection Committee prior to the Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting. Anyone wishing to stand to notify the Town Clerk.

## **PRECEPT BUDGETS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2020**

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

It was proposed by Cllr D Davies and seconded by Cllr S Gurney and it was

**RESOLVED  
29879**

that the following be received and approved

- a) The RFO's Report 3-2018/19 Budgets & Precept for the Financial Year 2019-2020,
- b) The Budgets showing expenditure to 31st December 2018, for year ending 31st March 2019 and the anticipated expenditure and Income for the Financial Year 2019/2020. (Pages 1 -14 previously circulated.)

## **PRECEPT – RECOMMENDATION**

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

Cllr D Davies summarised the position for the Council and advised that to ensure the sustainability of future budgets, maintaining the current level of services and activities which benefit the town community a precept of £853,331.87 was required and he proposed this to Council.

It was proposed by Cllr D O H Davies and seconded by Cllr S Gurney

**RESOLVED  
29880**

that the Finance & Personnel Committee's recommendation be accepted and that precept be confirmed and set at £853,331.87 for the financial year 2019/2020.

## **COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

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

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

- Citizens Advice Wokingham

## **REGENERATION UPDATE**

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

Cllr P Mirfin gave a verbal update on the Regeneration including

- Peach Place – More units are being filled and most units expected to be occupied by June.
- Post Office – Director of Post Office to come to Wokingham in February to meet with Mayor, Cllr Mirfin and Sir John Redwood to discuss the proposed closure
- Closure of part of Rose Street for pavement works from Clarks Corner to Bradbury Centre. One way traffic will be in place.
- Porta cabins have been moved from Elms Field to allow work to move forward on the park
- 50 year lease has been provisionally agreed by WBC for Elms Field and this will be discussed in detail at the next Strategy meeting.
- CCTV will be installed at Elms Field and Peach Place and Strategy will consider widening this in relation to Market Place.
- Toilets will be installed as part of Peach Place development.

The Town Clerk advised that she will be circulating a link to the Post Office Consultation and Cllrs were urged to submit comments.

**ACTION : TOWN CLERK**

## **STANDING ORDERS REVIEW**

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

- a) The Town Clerk's Report 01/2019 was received and noted.

b) The revised and updated standing orders were received and adjourned, in accordance with Standing Order 38, until the next Full Council meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019, where they will be discussed and voted upon.

**CHAIRMAN**