

27th June 2017

Minutes of the proceedings of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held this day in the **MAIN HALL, TOWN HALL, WOKINGHAM**, from 7.30pm to 7.55pm.

PRESENT:

Chairman: Cllr P M Lucey (Mayor)

Cllrs: Cllrs M Bishop, C J Bowring, N Campbell-White, D O H Davies, Mrs A N Drake, L Forbes, C R George, S C Gurney, Mrs G S Hewetson, T Lack, D G Lee, C D Moore, M Monk, J P Mirfin, J P McGhee-Sumner, K G Morgan, M L Richards, I L Shepherd-Dubey, S Steatham, A N Waters, R J Wyatt.

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 M Ashwell, Mrs UK Clark, 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 Lee and seconded by Cllr Mirfin and the following was

**RESOLVED
29560**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 25th April 2017 (pages 15352 to 15353) and;
that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Annual Council Meeting, Mayoral Sunday held on 14th May 2017 (pages 15354 to 15360) and;
that the minutes of the proceedings of the Annual Council Meeting held on 16th May 2017 (pages 15361 to 15362) be confirmed as a true and correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS (Agenda Item 5)

The Mayor thanked Cllr Mrs Hewetson for the planters she gifted to the Council which look lovely at the entrance of the Town Hall.

The Mayor shared his thanks to everyone involved in the International Street Concert which had been a great success. He also advised Cllrs that Mr Bernard Burton, the Honorary Meteorologist, had been inspected by the Met Office and Environment Agency and had been presented with a framed certificate in recognition of 25 years of high quality observations from the Emmbook School site.

A letter from the Office of the Lieutenancy for Berkshire was shared with the meeting and Cllrs were advised that nominations for The Queens's Award for Voluntary Service was open and could be completed online.

The Mayor's list of engagements dated 15th May – 25th June were received and noted with the amendment that the Mayor had also attended the Scouts AGM on Saturday 24th June.

ACTION: CIVIC OFFICER

**LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
(Agenda Item 6)**

It was proposed by Cllr N Campbell-White and seconded by Cllr D Lee and the following was

**RESOLVED
29561**

that Cllr D O H Davies be appointed as Leader of the Council for the Municipal Year 2017-18.

**ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING
(Agenda Item 7)**

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

**RESOLVED
29562**

the minutes and any recommendations of the Arts & Culture Committee held on 22nd May 2017 (pages 15363 to 15364) be received.

A question was asked about what the first committee objective wording actually meant and Cllr Mrs Hewetson advised that this would be reworded before the draft minutes were signed off at the next A & C Meeting.

ACTION: A & C OFFICER

**AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
(Agenda Item 8)**

It was proposed by Cllr C Moore and seconded by Cllr T Lack and the following was

**RESOLVED
29563**

that the minutes and any recommendations of the Amenities Committee meetings held on the 23rd May 2017 (pages 15365 to 15371) be received.

A question was asked whether Wokingham Town Council would be taking over the play area at Elms Field as well as the space and the Town Clerk replied that the verbal agreement made was for the whole park to be managed by WTC. Discussions were also held about the use of CCTV at the Ormonde Road Allotment site.

**PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
(Agenda Item 9)**

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

**RESOLVED
29564**

that the minutes and any recommendations of the Planning and Transportation Committee meetings held on the 30th May 2017 (pages 15372 to 15374) be received.

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

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

**RESOLVED
29565**

the minutes and any recommendations of the Civic Committee held on 12th June 2017 (pages 15375 to 15378) be received.

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING

(Agenda Item 11)

It was proposed by Cllr D O H Davies and seconded by Cllr R J Wyatt and the following was

**RESOLVED
29566**

that the minutes and any recommendations of the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting held on the 13th June 2017 (pages 15379 to 15390) be received.

MARKETS DEVELOPMENT WORKING PARTY

(Agenda Item 12)

The Town Clerk's update report 06/2017 was received and noted.

It was proposed by Cllr P Lucey and seconded by Cllr Mrs S Steatham and the following was

**RESOLVED
29567**

that the notes and any recommendations of the Market Development Working Party held on the on 24th May 2017 be received.

STRATEGY WORKING PARTY

(Agenda Item 13)

It was proposed by Cllr D O H Davies and seconded by Cllr M Bishop and the following was

**RESOLVED
29568**

that the notes and any recommendations of the Strategy Working Party held on the on 6th June 2017 be received.

INTERNAL AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2017

(Agenda Item 14)

It was proposed by Cllr D O H Davies and seconded by Cllr R Wyatt and the following was

**RESOLVED
29569**

a) that the Internal Auditor's reports dated 4th February 2017 and 1st June 2017 respectively, for the Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2017 be received,
(b) that the review of the effectiveness of the internal audit as approved by the F&P Committee held on 13th June 2017 performed by this Council for the year end March 2017 be received and
(c) that Claire Connell be confirmed as the Internal Auditor for this council for the financial year 2017/2018.

ANNUAL RETURN 2016/2017

(Agenda Item 15)

It was proposed by Cllr D O H Davies and seconded by Cllr D Lee and the following was

**RESOLVED
29570**

(a) that the Financial Statements for the year ending 31st March 2017 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 2017 be received and approved.

The Mayor duly signed the Annual Return at the meeting.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION PUBLICATION SCHEME

(Agenda Item 16)

It was proposed by Cllr P Lucey and seconded by Cllr N Campbell-White and the following was

**RESOLVED
29571**

that the publication scheme be received and approved.

REGENERATION UPDATE

(Agenda Item 17)

Cllr P Mirfin gave a verbal update on the Regeneration including

- the opening of the lane restriction of Peach Street on 12 June
- the opening of the multi storey carpark at the Carnival Site on 15 June
- demolition of the last buildings would be happening on Peach Street site in July and foundation work was almost completed for steel works
- breakfast meeting being held at WBC on 14th July from 8-10am for all Councillors to receive an update on Carnival phase 2 – please let Town Clerk know if you plan to attend.
- WTC full Council in October would include a briefing from the WBC regeneration team offering an outline of the retail strategy
- procurement for Elms Field 2 now underway
- Reassurance was given that sports arena would hold 400 seats which could be used for an Arts & Culture event.

Discussions were held around the opening/closing of Luckley Path as now that the lane restrictions had been lifted on Peach Street. It is remaining closed for the duration of the main works. There is discussion underway as to whether this should be permanently closed and Cllr Mirfin suggested a response from WTC be sent to the highways department offering the Council's views on the matter.

ACTION: P & T OFFICER

COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

(Agenda Item 18)

A verbal report was received from Cllr Wyatt from a recent meeting of Wokingham United Charities.

CHAIRMAN