

23rd January 2018

Minutes of the proceedings of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held this day in the **MAIN HALL, TOWN HALL, WOKINGHAM**, from 7.30pm to 7.52pm.

PRESENT:

Chairman: Cllr P M Lucey (Mayor)

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Jan Nowecki – Town Clerk

Nicky Harmsworth – Responsible Finance Officer (RFO)

PRAYERS

No prayers were said this evening

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs M Ashwell, C J Bowring, D G Lee, M Monk, A N Waters and S Steatham

MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

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

Cllr Davies asked the following question:

“Being aware of recent developments with Parking and that this is to be discussed at the forthcoming WBC meeting, I would like to ask that WTC write to WBC formally requesting that the same model that has been implemented in Woodley be run for a one year trial within Wokingham Town to return free parking after 6pm and before 8am, as well as on Sundays and Bank Holidays, within carparks controlled by WBC in return for an additional 10p charge at other times as compared to the existing charges”.

Cllr I Shepherd-Dubey advised that she has already asked WBC a similar question.

The Town Clerk was asked to send this question in time for the Executive meeting on Thursday 25th January 2018

Cllr Forbes asked if “free after 3 parking” which is due to finish at the end of January, could be continued until the market place improvement works are completed. Cllr Mirfin replied that as this was not an agenda item shown on the WBC agenda it was outside of the timescales but the question could be raised at the next available Forum.

Cllr Davies then passed on the sad news that Mrs Barbara Young, a long standing volunteer for the information centre had passed away yesterday. The Town Clerk was asked to pass on the Council's condolences to the family.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING (Agenda Item 4)

It was proposed by Cllr R J Wyatt and seconded by Cllr J McGhee-Sumner and the following was

**RESOLVED
29675**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Council Meeting held on 5th December 2017 (pages 15489 to 15491) be confirmed as a true and correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

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

The Mayor advised how much he enjoyed attending the ice show with the Mini Mayor and was disappointed that weather conditions meant that the Toy Run was cancelled for the first time in 20 years. However he attended High Close School on the day to congratulate the Toy Run organisers and was delighted that the presents were still delivered.

The Mayor's list of engagements were received and noted.

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

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs G Hewetson and seconded by Cllr J McGhee-Sumner and the following was

**RESOLVED
29676**

that the minutes and any recommendations of the Civic Committee meetings held on the 27th November 2017 (pages 15476 to 15478) and 7th December 2017 (pages 15492 to 15493) be received.

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

Cllr N Campbell-White gave an overview on some key points noted in the minutes.

It was proposed by Cllr N Campbell-White and seconded by Cllr K Morgan and the following was

**RESOLVED
29677**

that the minutes and any recommendations of the Planning and Transportation Committee meetings held on the 12th December 2017 (pages 15494 to 15497) be received.

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

Cllr D Davies gave an overview on some key points noted in the minutes.

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

**RESOLVED
29678**

that the minutes and any recommendations of the Finance and Personnel meeting held on 9th January 2018 (pages 15498 to 15506) be received.

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

Cllr N Campbell-White gave an overview on some key points noted in the minutes.

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

**RESOLVED
29679**

that the minutes and any recommendations of the Amenities Committee meetings held on the 16th January 2018 (pages 15507 to 15515) be received.

MARKETS DEVELOPMENT WORKING PARTY

(Agenda Item 10)

The Town Clerk's report 21/2017 was received and noted.

It was proposed by Cllr P Lucey and seconded by Cllr C George and the following was

**RESOLVED
29680**

that the notes and any recommendations of the Market Development Working Party held on the 8th January 2018 be received.

Cllr I Shepherd-Dubey asked if the delay to the re-opening of broad street was likely to incur additional financial costs, Cllr Davies responded that we are awaiting an update from WBC on any additional costs which would be communicated when received.

STANDING ORDER 30 – MAYORAL SELECTION NOTIFICATION (Agenda Item 11)

The Mayor reminded members of the process for Mayoral selection contained within Standing Order 23 – paragraph (d) and to note that Tuesday 20th March 2018 is the date of the Mayoral Selection Committee prior to the Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting.

PRECEPT BUDGETS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2019 (Agenda Item 12)

It was proposed by Cllr D Davies and seconded by Cllr Mrs G Hewetson and it was

that the following be received and approved

**RESOLVED
29681**

- a) The RFO's Report 2-2018/19 Budgets & Precept for the Financial Year 2018-2019,
- b) The Budgets showing expenditure to 31st December 2017, for year ending 31st March 2018 and the anticipated expenditure and Income for the Financial Year 2018/2019. (Pages 1 -15 previously circulated.)

PRECEPT – RECOMMENDATION (Agenda Item 13)

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 he proposed that a precept of £809,335.62 was required.

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

**RESOLVED
29682**

that the Finance & Personnel Committee's recommendation be accepted and that precept be confirmed and set at £809,335.62 for the financial year 2018/2019.

ACTION: RFO

COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES (Agenda Item 14)

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

- Wokingham United Charities – Verbal report from Cllr Wyatt where he advised that they were relaunching their grants process on 16th February 2018 at Finchampstead Baptist Centre at 12 noon and all Councillors were welcome to attend.

- Citizens Advice Wokingham
- Emmbrook Village Hall

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

(Agenda Item 15)

Cllr Davies advised that there had been some changes to some membership of committees.

It was proposed by Cllr D Davies and seconded by Cllr T Lack and following changes were

**RESOLVED
29683**

Amenities Committee

Cllr Ashwell had left this Committee

Arts & Culture Committee

Cllr Lee and Cllr Waters had left this Committee,
Cllr Bishop had joined this Committee

Planning & Transportation Committee

Cllr Ashwell had joined this Committee

Finance & Personnel Committee

Cllr Lee and Cllr Bishop had left this Committee
Cllr Waters had joined this Committee

Cllr Davies advised that there had been changes to the vice-chairman of committees.

It was proposed by Cllr D Davies and seconded by Cllr T Lack and following appointments were

**RESOLVED
29684**

Cllr C George – Vice Chairman of Amenities Committee
Cllr S Gurney – Vice Chairman of Arts & Culture Committee
Cllr K Morgan - Vice Chairman of Planning & Transportation Committee

CHAIRMAN