

28th June 2016

Minutes of the proceedings of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held this day in the **MAIN HALL, TOWN HALL, WOKINGHAM**, from 7.30pm to 8.05pm.

PRESENT:

Chairman: Cllr Mrs G S Hewetson (Mayor)

Cllrs: Cllrs M Ashwell, M Bishop, N Campbell-White, D O H Davies, Mrs A N Drake, L Forbes, C R George, T Lack, D G Lee, P M Lucey, C D Moore, M Monk, J P Mirfin, J P McGhee-Sumner, K G Morgan, S Odedra, 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 Cllr C J Bowring, Mrs UK Clark, S C Gurney

MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

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

Cllr Waters notified members that Travellers were currently located on a large area of Cantley Park and asked what the current position was for removing them from the green space. The Town Clerk advised that Wokingham Borough Council had on 24th June issued a notice to quit by 9am on 27th June. As this date had now passed the legal team at the Borough were working through the legal channels to evict the Travellers. The Town Clerk reminded Cllrs that Langborough Park had, a number of years ago, been occupied by Travellers and the legal team at WBC had been very helpful in moving them on. As a result of this the Buildings and Grounds Officer had, via the Amenities Committee, undertaken a program of securing our sites to prevent any further incursions.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING (Agenda Item 4)

It was proposed by Cllr J McGhee-Sumner and seconded by Cllr P Mirfin and the following was

**RESOLVED
29394**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Annual Council Meeting held on 17th May 2016 AM (pages 15157 to 15164) and;
that the minutes of the proceedings of the Annual Council Meeting held on 17th May 2016 PM (pages 15165 to 15169) be confirmed as a true and correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS (Agenda Item 5)

The Mayor started her communications with asking the Honorary Meteorologist Bernard Burton to accept on behalf of the council a long service award. Bernard advised that he started providing the forecasts in 1975. Cllrs were urged to look at the website for useful information. The Mayor advised that she was delighted

to attend a ceremony at WBC where Cllr Wyatt had received the honour of becoming an Honorary Alderman, which was a unique award. The Mayor thanked the Arts & Culture Officer for organising the Annual Funday in May and then thanked everyone for helping with the Civic Parade and Queens birthday celebrations held on Sunday 12th June. It was a fantastic event and Cllr Gurney is collating the feedback ready for the Town Clerk to include in her report. The Mayor also advised that following her visit to an Armed Forces briefing which she attended recently she has asked Cllr T Lack to take on the role of Armed Forces Champion.

The Mayor's list of engagements dated 18th June – 26th June were received and noted. Cllr Lucey advised he had also attended the West Forest Sinfonia on 26th June as a delegate of the Mayor.

A presentation on the events of the 12th June had been played as Cllrs arrived to the meeting and a request was made that this was circulated to all members.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK/CIVIC OFFICER

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

(Agenda Item 6)

It was proposed by Cllr P Mirfin and seconded by Cllr J McGhee Sumner and the following was

**RESOLVED
29395**

that Cllr D O H Davies be appointed as Leader of the Council for the Municipal Year 2016-17.

PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

(Agenda Item 7)

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

**RESOLVED
29396**

that the minutes and any recommendations of the Planning and Transportation Committee meetings held on the on 26th April 2016 (pages 15142 to 15145) and 10th May 2016 (pages 15153 to 15156) be received.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

(Agenda Item 8)

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

**RESOLVED
29397**

that the minutes and any recommendations of the Amenities Committee meetings held on the 3rd May 2016 (pages 15146 to 15152) be received

CIVIC COMMITTEE MEETING

(Agenda Item 9)

It was proposed by Cllr P Mirfin and seconded by Cllr J McGhee-Sumner and the following was

**RESOLVED
29398**

the minutes and any recommendations of the Civic Committee held on 23rd May 2016 (pages 15170 to 15173) be received.

ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

(Agenda Item 10)

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

**RESOLVED
29399**

the minutes and any recommendations of the Arts & Culture Committee held on 24th May 2016 (pages 15174 to 15175) 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
29400**

that the minutes and any recommendations of the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting held on the 14th June 2016 (pages 15176 to 15188) be received.

STRATEGY WORKING PARTY

(Agenda Item 12)

It was proposed by Cllr D O H Davies and seconded by Cllr J McGhee-Sumner and the following was

**RESOLVED
29401**

that the notes and any recommendations of the Strategy Working Party held on the on 25th May 2016 be received.

MARKETS DEVELOPMENT WORKING PARTY

(Agenda Item 13)

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

**RESOLVED
29402**

that the notes and any recommendations of the Market Development Working Party held on the on 8th June 2016 be received.

INTERNAL AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2016 (Agenda Item 14)

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

**RESOLVED
29403**

a) that the Internal Auditor's reports dated 19th February 2016 and 14th May 2016 respectively, for the Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2016 be received, (b) that the review of the effectiveness of the internal audit as approved by the F&P Committee held on 14th June 2016 performed by this Council for the year end March 2016 be received and (c) that Claire Connell be confirmed as the Internal Auditor for this council for the financial year 2016/2017.

The Chairman thanked the RFO for the outcome of the audit.

ANNUAL RETURN 2015/2016 (Agenda Item 15)

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

**RESOLVED
29404**

(a) that the Financial Statements for the year ending 31st March 2016 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 2016 be received and approved.

The Mayor duly signed the Annual Return at the meeting.

FOR INFORMATION (Agenda Item 16)

It was noted that Cllr S Gurney had been appointed to the Standards Board.

**COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES
(Agenda Item 17)**

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

- Wokingham United Charities
- Wokingham Volunteer Centre

CHAIRMAN