

26th July 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: M Ashwell, M Bishop, C J Bowring, N Campbell-White, D O H Davies, Mrs A N Drake, L Forbes, S C Gurney, T Lack, D G Lee, P M Lucey, 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 Cllr Mrs UK Clark, C R George, C D Moore and S Odedra.

MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

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

There were no questions from members of the council or public.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING (Agenda Item 4)

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

**RESOLVED
29418**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Council Meeting held on 28th June 2016 AM (pages 15189 to 15192) 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 that on Thursday 28th July Wokingham Theatre is hosting a presentation for their plans for an annexe to their building and was pleased that a fifty year extension to their lease had been agreed by WBC. All Cllrs welcome. The Mayor also advised that we had hosted a tea party for the children who had applied for mini mayor, together with their parents, and that this had proved to be a difficult process to choose but that Elysia a pupil a from Westende School had been chosen, which both the school and Elysia were delighted to hear. Councillors were reminded that if they wish to trawl back for earlier key decisions, the WTC website offers a search engine which is effective and just needs a key word or phase.

21st July was the judging day for Wokingham in Bloom and the Town Clerk gave feedback about the day, advising that the Community spoke for themselves and noted that, although there had been issues regarding graffiti and changes in WBC's grass cutting contract, the Judges appeared to be happy with what they had seen. This was followed by a reception at the Bradbury Centre where the

Camera Club had an exhibition of bloom projects they had documented. This was well received and the exhibition will be shown again later in August in the Town Hall and also be on display for the Annual Town Meeting. The Mayor's list of engagements dated 27th June – 24th July were received and noted.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK/CIVIC OFFICER

AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

(Agenda Item 6)

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

**RESOLVED
29419**

that the minutes and any recommendations of the Amenities Committee meetings held on the 5th July 2016 (pages 15193 to 15197) be received.

Cllr Lee noted that the Committee had suggested requesting a budget to remove graffiti in the town and asked if any further thoughts had been given around installing CCTV to catch the individuals responsible. Cllr N Campbell-White advised that CCTV had not been revisited but that Neighbourhood Police Inspector John Donachy had recently attended a Finance & Personnel Meeting where John had advised that graffiti offences are photographed and logged and that PCSO's work closely with schools and other young people's associations to see if they can find a common tag of the perpetrators and hence hold them to account.

PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

(Agenda Item 7)

It was proposed by Cllr D Lee and seconded by Cllr A Waters and the following was

**RESOLVED
29420**

that the minutes and any recommendations of the Planning and Transportation Committee meeting held on the on 12th July 2016 (pages 15198 to 15201) be received.

ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

(Agenda Item 8)

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

**RESOLVED
29421**

the minutes and any recommendations of the Arts & Culture Committee held on 18th July 2016 (pages 15202 to 15204) be received.

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING

(Agenda Item 9)

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

**RESOLVED
29422**

that the minutes and any recommendations of the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting held on the 19th July 2016 (pages 15205 to 15213) be received.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

(Agenda Item 10)

The Town Clerk's Report 08/2016 was received. Cllr Lee thanked the Town Clerk for an excellent report on the days' celebration and also extended his thanks to all the staff and Councillors who worked on the events.

COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

(Agenda Item 11)

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

- Wokingham United Charities
- WBC Land Drainage
- CAB
- Armed Forces Champion Briefing

TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION AND MARKET PLACE UPDATE

(Agenda Item 12)

Cllr Ashwell had produced a Regeneration News Update at the request of another Cllr. This included the following:

- Town Centre Regeneration project had won the “Making Development Viable Award” at the National 2016 Planning and Placemaking Awards
- Work had started on the Carnival Pool Phase 1 Multi- Storey Car Park and new bowling facility
- Peach Place – work expected to start January 2017
- Elms Field – work expected to start mid May 2017
- Carnival Pool Phase 2 – planning expected to be submitted spring 2017 with works expected to start 2019.

The Town Clerk then gave an update on the Market Place which included the following:

- Project progressing well but design remains very complex
- WBC’s framework process has approved Balfour Beatty as the contractor
- End of August key date as Balfour Beatty will have completed feasibility and costings of the work required and an internal costing will also have been undertaken, this information will come back through Council.
- Balfour Beatty has been on site this week talking to local businesses about their access needs – receiving positive feedback
- Two local businesses have contacted Town Clerk to ask if plans they have for their own business would fit into the market place vision which were very positive
- Market Place Development Working Party are giving thought on future of the Market itself
- Mosaics’ had been agreed in principle – working party starting next week.

Cllr Forbes asked for Cllrs support in terms of a grand opening of the Market Place and in suggesting a celebrity who may be able to officially open the space. Cllr Forbes is happy to lead on this with Cllr support. Cllr Mirfin suggested contacting Glebelands Care Home which has contacts with cinema and theatre. Any other suggestions to Cllr Forbes.

CHAIRMAN