

# 24 January 2017

Minutes of the proceedings of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held this day in the **MAIN HALL, TOWN HALL, WOKINGHAM**, from 7.30pm to 8.00pm.

## **PRESENT:**

Chairman: Cllr Mrs G S Hewetson (Mayor)

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

Reverend Anna Harwood from All Saints Parish Church led the prayers this evening with a minute's silence for John Nike OBE and David Matthews who was a regular volunteer in the Information Centre.

The Mayor advised that Mr Johnson was recording the Town Council meeting this evening.

## **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs N Campbell-White, C D Moore and S Odedra.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

Cllr Steatham joined the meeting.

## **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 J McGhee Sumner and seconded by Cllr R J Wyatt and the following was

**RESOLVED  
29493**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Council Meeting held on 6th December 2016 (pages 15278 to 15281) be confirmed as a true and correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

## **MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

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

The Mayor began her announcement with thanks to David Dunham for the remarkable work he has done for the Poppy Appeal with over £52,000 raised in Wokingham in 2016. Cllrs were advised that the Poppy Awards presentation would be being held at the Town Hall on the evening of 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017 and all were welcome to attend. Wokingham Fireworks Trust also raised £37,000 and had made donations of £5,000 to 5 charities in the area and smaller donations to other charities including Soulscape the Mayors charity. The Mayor

then gave an insight into the role of Mayor on Christmas day where she visited several homes and again thanked David Dunham for accompanying her. The Mayor had said that special memories had been made during this time tinged with sadness that John Nike, for the first time in 29 years, had not been able to attend the ice skating event that she enjoyed. The opening of Whitty Theatre last week was also special as she had been able to meet the Earl of Wessex who appeared to have hidden acting talents of his own. The Mayor's list of engagements dated 28<sup>th</sup> November to 22 January 2017 were received and noted.

**CIVIC COMMITTEE MEETING  
(Agenda Item 6a & 6b)**

It was proposed by Cllr P Mirfin and seconded by Cllr T Lack and the following was

**RESOLVED  
29494**

that the minutes and any recommendations of the Civic Committee meetings held on the 8th December 2016 (pages 15282 to 15283) and 16th January 2017 (pages 15302 to 15304) be received.

Cllr Mirfin reminded Councillors that they had all received a copy of the Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service consultation which had asked for feedback on the way the service was being run and urged that they responded.

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

It was proposed by Cllr D Lee and seconded by Cllr K Morgan and the following was

**RESOLVED  
29495**

that the minutes and any recommendations of the Planning and Transportation Committee meeting held on the on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2016 (pages 15284 to 15287) be received

Cllr Lee reminded all Councillors that they were all welcome to attend any meeting and asked that members note that, as a Committee, they stood by the decision made in December 2015 that the Town Council only supports developments in SDLs in sustainable locations especially in term of highway infrastructure. The consideration around Grazeley would fit into this criteria. He also advised that the committee had recently objected to a proposal to use back gardens for parking on the proposed Hewden site.

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

It was proposed by Cllr M Ashwell and seconded by Cllr L Forbes and the following was

**RESOLVED  
29496**

that the minutes and any recommendations of the Amenities Committee meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017 (pages 15288 to 15293) be received.

It was requested that Cllr Forbes paper Graffiti and Litter Eradication; Engaging Youth be circulated to all council members. Cllr Lack also reminded Councillors that the community litter pick was scheduled from 10am -12 on 1<sup>st</sup> April and all were encouraged to support.

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

## **FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **(Agenda Item 9)**

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

**RESOLVED  
29497**

that the minutes and any recommendations of the Finance and Personnel Committee meetings held on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017 (pages 15294 to 15301) be received.

## **MARKET DEVELOPMENT WORKING PARTY**

### **(Agenda Item 10)**

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

**RESOLVED  
29498**

that the notes and any recommendations of the Market Development Working Party meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016 be received.

## **STRATEGY WORKING PARTY**

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

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

**RESOLVED  
29499**

that the notes and any recommendations of the Strategy Working Party meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> December be received.

## **STANDING ORDER 30 – MAYORAL SELECTION NOTIFICATION (Agenda Item 12)**

The Deputy Mayor reminded members of the process for Mayoral selection contained within Standing Order 23 – paragraph (d) and to note that Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2017 is the date of the Mayoral Selection Committee prior to the Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting.

The Town clerk requested that Councillors let her know via email if they do not wish to be considered for Mayor. Any Councillor with four years or more service will automatically be considered and any other Councillor can be nominated.

## **PRECEPT BUDGETS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2018**

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

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

that the following be received and approved

**RESOLVED  
29500**

- a) The RFO's Report 2-2017/18 Budgets & Precept for the Financial Year 2017-2018,
- b) The Budgets showing expenditure to 31st December 2016, for year ending 31st March 2017 and the anticipated expenditure and Income for the Financial Year 2017/2018. (Pages 1 -15 previously circulated.)

## **PRECEPT – RECOMMENDATION**

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

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 £766,961 was required.

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

**RESOLVED  
29501**

that the Finance & General Purposes Committee's recommendation be accepted and that precept be confirmed and set at £766,961 for the financial year 2017/2018.

**ACTION: RFO**

### **COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES (Agenda Item 15)**

Cllr Wyatt gave a verbal update of the meeting at Wokingham United Charities on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017 and a report from Cllr N Campbell-White from Wokingham Citizens Advice was tabled.

### **TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION (Agenda Item 16)**

Cllr Ashwell gave a verbal update of the Regeneration Update January 2017 which was distributed, received and noted. Cllr Ashwell also gave the news that Aldi had today signed a pre let agreement to come to Elms Field Wokingham. Cllr Ashwell advised that a tour of the multi-storey car park was being arranged and that the Town Clerk would send out an invitation once the date is confirmed

Cllr I Shepherd-Dubey asked what was happening to support traders that are staying in the town and encourage customers whilst the regeneration takes place. Cllr Ashwell responded that the newly formed Wokingham Town Centre Business Association, which had representatives from both independent and larger retailers of the town, was working with WBC and WTC to engage with local businesses during the regeneration delivery.

Cllr Lee asked if the power points and water points would be available as requested by Arts & Culture committee for events and Cllr Ashwell advised that he had been having similar conversations with the Chair of the May Fayre earlier in the day and could confirm these were being planned for.

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**CHAIRMAN**