

# 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Minutes of the proceedings of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held this day in the **MAIN HALL, TOWN HALL, WOKINGHAM**, from 7.30pm to 8.10pm.

## **PRESENT:**

Chairman: Cllr J McGhee-Sumner (Mayor)

Cllrs: Cllrs M Ashwell, M Bishop, C Bowring, Mrs UK Clark, A Drake, D O H Davies, L Forbes, C George, S Gurney, Mrs G S Hewetson, T Lack, D Lee, J P Mirfin, M Richards, I Shepherd-Dubey, S Steatham, A Tebboth and A Waters.

## **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Jan Nowecki – Town Clerk

Nicky Harmsworth – Responsible Finance Officer (RFO)

## **PRAYERS**

Prayers were led by Mother Julie Mintern of St Paul's Church.

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

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs N Campbell White, K G Morgan, M Monk and Cllr 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 M L Richards and seconded by Cllr T Lack and the following was

**RESOLVED  
29899**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Council Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019 (pages 15748 to 15751) as a true and correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

## **MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

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

The Mayor advised Council Peach Place Plaza would be opened this weekend. The Mayor's list of engagements dated 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019 – 7<sup>th</sup> April 2019 were received and noted.

## **PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **(Agenda Item 6)**

It was proposed by Cllr A Waters and seconded by Cllr M Richards and the following was

**RESOLVED  
29900**

that the minutes and any recommendations of the Planning and Transportation Committee meetings held on the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019 (pages 15752 to 15756) and 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019 (pages 15769- 15773) be received.

Cllr Gurney asked whether there had been an update to the question raised at the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> March concerning the cleaning and sealing of the market

place. The Town Clerk advised that discussions were continuing to be held with WBC.

#### **AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING**

##### **(Agenda Item 7)**

It was proposed by Cllr M Richards and seconded by Cllr A Drake and the following was

**RESOLVED  
29901**

that the minutes and any recommendations of the Amenities Committee meetings held on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019 (pages 15757 to 15764) be received.

Cllr Lee asked if, as part of the excellent work that the Graffiti working party was doing, whether school children could be invited to attend the litter collection events. Cllr Lack advised he has recently taken over coordinating Wokingham Litter Heroes and would welcome support from anyone. Cllr Forbes is working with the Town Clerk to invite students onto Committees and this would be an opportunity to better involve young people in this activity. Cllr Forbes has also engaged with the Emmbrook, Forest and St Crispins schools on projects to educate students about the impact of graffiti and the need to eradicate it.

Cllr D Davies advised that WTC are very supportive of Public Art and advised that this would be discussed again at a future meeting. Cllr Hewetson advised that there are ongoing discussions with those interested in promoting Public Art in the town and the £5,000 budget for the suggested piece was in line with the sculpture at Montague Park. She thanked Wokingham Society for embracing the concept and encouraged colleagues to consider this positively.

#### **ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING**

##### **(Agenda Item 8)**

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

**RESOLVED  
29902**

that the minutes and any recommendations of the Arts & Culture Committee meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019 (pages 15757 to 15764) be received.

Cllr Mirfin requested that if the Community Picnic was to go ahead that special care was taken to remove all litter including any relating to drug misuse in Howard Palmer Gardens.

#### **CIVIC COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

It was proposed by Cllr D Lee and seconded by Cllr Mrs U K Clark and the following was

**RESOLVED  
29903**

that the minutes and any recommendations of the Civic Committee meetings held on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019 (pages 15774 to 15777) be received.

#### **FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

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

**RESOLVED  
29904**

that the minutes and any recommendations of the Finance and Personnel Committee meetings held on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019 (pages 15780 to 15790) be received.

Cllr Davies advised that Inspector Al Lloyd had attended the meeting and had advised Cllrs that the Police were working together with WBC for a Public Space Protection Order which would ban drinking in a public space and WTC would be a stakeholder in the consultation. He also advised that Town Hall tenant leases had been discussed at great length.

### **MAYORAL SELECTION MEETING**

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

The minutes and any recommendations of the Mayoral Selection Committee held on 19th March 2019 (pages 15778 to 15779) were received and noted.

### **STANDING ORDERS**

#### **(Agenda Item 12)**

The revised Standing Orders, which were presented at the last Full Council meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019, were presented in accordance with Standing Order 38 and have stood adjourned without discussion until this meeting.

Cllr I Shepherd- Dubey asked why all her amendments had not been included – the Town Clerk advised that any amendments were checked in accordance with guidelines of NALC. An individual standing order can be presented separately at a future meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr D Lee and and seconded by Cllr C Bowring and the following was

**RESOLVED  
29905**

That the proposed amendments to Standing Orders be received and accepted.

A vote was taken and 18 Cllrs were in favour and 1 Cllr against.

### **STRATEGY WORKING PARTY**

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

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

**RESOLVED  
29906**

That the notes and any recommendations of the Strategy Working Party meetings held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019 be received.

### **ELMS FIELD LEASE**

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

The Town Clerk's Report 02/2019 as presented to the Strategy Working Party was received and noted.

It was proposed by Cllr D Davies and and seconded by Cllr C George and the following was

**RESOLVED  
29907**

to take on the leasehold for the new Elms Field park area from Wokingham Borough Council for a period of 50 years.

### **CCTV**

#### **(Agenda Item 15)**

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

**RESOLVED  
29908**

that the recommendation from the Strategy Working Party for a one off budget of £15k for installation of CCTV around the Market Place be approved.

## **COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

### **(Agenda Item 16)**

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

- CAB
- Borough Parish Liaison Forum Meeting – verbal update from Cllr Bishop
- Wokingham District Association of Local Councils – additional verbal updated from Cllr Bishop

## **LONG SERVICE PRESENTATIONS**

### **(Agenda Item 17)**

This agenda item was deferred as Councillor Sanjay Odedra was unable to attend this meeting.

## **RETIREMENT PRESENTATIONS**

### **(Agenda Item 18)**

Retirement gifts were presented to the following Councillors for service to the Council:

- Councillor Chris Bowring
- Councillor UllaKarin Clark
- Councillor Martin Bishop
- Councillor Gwynneth Hewetson
- Councillor Mark Ashwell

## **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

### **(Agenda Item 19)**

It was proposed by Cllr D Davies and seconded by Cllr P Mirfin and it was

**RESOLVED  
29909**

that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted i.e. commercial, financial and personnel it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and instructed to withdraw.

## **HONARARY TOWNSPERSON**

### **(Agenda Item 20)**

Cllr Lee gave an overview of the Civic Officer's Report 08/2018-19 to award a posthumous Honorary Freeman (Townperson) title to Cllr Robert John Wyatt.

Cllr Lee noted that it was the Council's intention to have awarded this on Cllr Wyatt's retirement in May but sadly, if agreed, this would now have to be done posthumously.

Cllr Lee outlined the immense contribution that Cllr Wyatt had made to the community of Wokingham and the legacy he has left. He had served as a Town and Borough Councillor for in excess of 50 years, a school governor for nearly 25 years, championed the elderly and worked with the homeless. He had touched many lives, always with the aim of helping those less fortunate residents within our community.

It was proposed by Cllr D Lee and seconded by Cllr J McGhee-Sumner and it was

**RESOLVED  
29910**

Unanimously that Cllr Robert John Wyatt be awarded a posthumous Honorary Freeman (Townperson) and that his family be invited to Mayor's Sunday where a presentation would be made to them on behalf of the late Cllr Wyatt.

**CHAIRMAN**