

18th March 2019

Minutes of the proceedings of the **CIVIC COMMITTEE** meeting held on this day in the **Council Chamber, TOWN HALL, WOKINGHAM** from 7.30pm to 8.35pm.

PRESENT

Chairman: D G Lee

Councillors: M Bishop, Mrs UK Clark, Mrs G S Hewetson (Vice-Chairman) and J McGhee-Sumner (the Mayor), P Mirfin and Mrs S Steatham.

IN ATTENDANCE

Civic Officer – Nicola Payler

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

Cllr Bob Wyatt's absence, due to a period of ill-health, was noted.

Cllr Mirfin advised he may arrive late to the meeting.

MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

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

No questions were received.

CIVIC COMMITTEE MINUTES (Agenda Item 4)

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

**RESOLVED
29887**

that the Minutes of the Civic Committee meeting held on 14th January 2019 (pages 15734 to 15737) be received as a true and correct record and that they be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

MONITORING REPORT (Agenda Item 5)

The Monitoring Report dated 12th March 2019 was received and noted.

1) To frame the High Steward scroll

The Civic Officer advised that the official photographs have now been taken of the High Steward and framing is in progress.

2) Raise awareness of the war memorial

The Civic Officer showed the members the notice that has been prepared and produced about the war memorial for the outside noticeboard.

The members agreed that this provides the right level of information to raise awareness.

3) Mayor's Invite to Erfstadt

WTC is currently awaiting until the new Mayor has been elected to ask if he/she would like to visit.

4) New representative for Civic Awards Selection panel

See agenda item 7.

5) Civic Awards Criteria

See agenda item 7.



6) Gifts for retiring Councillors

The Civic Officer confirmed that civic committee members chose sketch number two from three different sketches of the Town Hall by the proposed artist.

An order has now been placed with the artist who is progressing with the production of these.

COMMITTEE'S BUDGET (Agenda Item 6)

A report on the Committee's expenditure to 28th February 2019 was received and noted.

CIVIC AWARDS (Agenda Item 7)

- 1) The Chairman advised that he asked the current Chairmen of Churches Together of Wokingham, Rev Nick Hudson, if he or a representative would like to join the civic awards judging panel. Rev Hudson confirmed he would be pleased to undertake the role.
- 2) The members received the revised list of members on the Civic Award selection panel
- 3) The members received a copy of the revised and agreed criteria which is now on the Council website.

HERITAGE OPEN DAY (Agenda Item 8)

The Civic Officer gave an update to the committee members about plans that are being made for this year which include the following:

- 1.1. Heritage Open Day will be held on Saturday 14 September between 10am and 4pm
- 1.2. The theme will be based around the 800th anniversary of receiving a Market Charter
- 1.3. Historically themed activities are being planned for inside the Town Hall, the Market Place and also Howard Palmer Gardens
- 1.4. Activities are being provisionally booked such as archery, falconry, spinning and weaving, willow weaving and apple pressing
- 1.5. The market will include our regular traders in addition to others who would have been popular years ago
- 1.6. A re-enactment of receiving the Market Charter is being considered
- 1.7. Usual activities and competitions for children are being arranged.

The members suggested a few other ideas to be considered during the planning, these were: taking money in the market in groats, stocks, talking to the Wokingham Society about our old houses in Rose Street as the Chairman recalls a lady being on-site sharing information about the timber etc.

ACTION: Civic Officer

COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE (Agenda Item 9)

The Chairman explained that Wokingham Town Council's standing orders require Cllr Mrs Steatham's non-attendance at Civic Committee meetings to be discussed.



Cllr Mrs Steatham profusely apologised for her lack of attendance and advised that she has been extremely busy with her involvement in plays at Wokingham theatre.

It was proposed by Cllr McGhee-Sumner and seconded by Cllr Mrs Clark and it was

**RESOLVED
29888**

that the Committee accepted Cllr Mrs Steatham's explanation.

ACTION: Civic Officer

OUTSIDE WAR MEMORIAL (Agenda Item 10)

Cllr Mirfin joined the meeting.

Committee members received and discussed the idea that Cllr Mrs Lynn Forbes put to the committee about Wokingham having an outside war memorial.

It was proposed by Cllr Mirfin and seconded by Cllr UK Clark and it was

**RESOLVED
29889**

that as Wokingham already has a memorial in the Town Hall amongst others, the Committee stated that for the time being, an additional one should not be added.

It is hoped that the information is being placed in the outside notice board will be in position for a number of years to assist with sharing and raising awareness of the war memorial inside the Town Hall.

COMMITTEE INFORMATION (Agenda Item 11)

Cllr Mrs Hewetson advised that there is a black sign in Ertstadt Court which looks very tired and may require some refurbishment.

The Civic Officer agreed to investigate this further.

ACTION: Civic Officer

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC (Agenda Item 12)

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs G S Hewetson and seconded by Cllr M Bishop and it was

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



PART II

NOMINATION FORM TO BE CONSIDERED (Agenda Item 13)

Members considered a nomination for an Honorary Townsperson. All civic committee members were in full agreement that this person is an extremely worthy individual to be put forward.

It was proposed by Cllr J McGhee-Sumner and seconded by Cllr Mrs UK Clark and it was to

RECOMMEND to Full Council that the person nominated is a suitable recipient of the title and
29864 that the necessary arrangements should be made for a presentation to be made, subject to approval by Full Council.

CHAIRMAN

