

# 30th July 2019

Minutes of the proceedings of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held this day in the **MAIN HALL, TOWN HALL, WOKINGHAM**, from 7.30pm to 8.30pm.

## **PRESENT:**

Chairman: Cllr L Forbes (Mayor)

Cllrs: T Lack, E Bishop, R Bishop-Firth, A Box, J Box, N Campbell-White, P Dennis, N Fox, D Hinton, P Hornsby, D Lee, T Lloyd, P Lucey, M Malvern, K Malvern, A Mather, J McGhee-Sumner, I Shepherd-Dubey

## **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Jan Nowecki – Town Clerk

Nicky Harmsworth – Responsible Finance Officer (RFO)

## **PRAYERS**

Prayers were spoken by Reverend Hannah Higginson.

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

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs P Cunnington, M Fumagalli, M Gee, S Gurney, D King, A Tebboth

## **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

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING (Agenda Item 4)**

It was proposed by Cllr Lack and seconded by Cllr Shepherd-Dubey and the following was

**RESOLVED  
29978**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Council Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2019 (pages 15809 to 15815) as a true and correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

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

**RESOLVED  
29979**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Council Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019 (pages 15816 to 15823) as a true and correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

CHAIRMANS INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_



### **MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS (Agenda Item 5)**

The Mayor's list of engagements dated 19<sup>th</sup> June – 28<sup>th</sup> July were received and noted.

The Mayor raised Council's awareness in respect to The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2020. Anyone interested in nominating a local group can do so and should get in touch with the Mayor's Secretary. Submissions close September 13<sup>th</sup>.

The Mayor announced that she would be hosting an Evening of Opera on 22<sup>nd</sup> November in aid of her charity Diana Brimblecombe Animal Rescue Centre. She would welcome any help and support from Councillors in respect to this event.

The Mayor commented that she has enjoyed her first few weeks as Mayor which have proved very busy with engagements and meetings. A particular highlight was attending the 105<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations of one of our residents.

Deputy Mayor Cllr Lack wished it to be noted that he had attended the judging day for Thames & Chilterns in Bloom and wanted to record his thanks to the Market & Bloom Officer, Town Clerk, Bloom Committee and all the volunteers who had worked so hard to ensure the town was presented at its best.

### **COUNCILLOR A TEBBOTH (Agenda Item 6)**

It was proposed by Cllr I Shepherd-Dubey and seconded by Cllr J McGhee-Sumner and the following was

**RESOLVED  
29980**

that a period of maternity leave until October 31<sup>st</sup> 2019 be accepted.

It was proposed by Cllr N Fox and seconded by Cllr T Lack and the following was

**RESOLVED  
29981**

that Cllr Tebboth be confirmed as a member of the Planning & Transportation committee.

### **AMENITIES COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 7)**

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

**RESOLVED  
29982**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Amenities Committee Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019 (pages 15824 to 15832) be received.

Cllr Dennis updated Council to fact that there had been two further meetings in recent days due to the heavy workload of the committee. Highlights included the awarding of tenders for CCTV, Town Hall boilers and Joel Park play park.

### **ARTS & CULTURE (Agenda Item 8)**

It was proposed by Cllr T Lloyd and seconded by Cllr A Box and the following was

CHAIRMANS INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_



**RESOLVED 29983** that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Arts & Culture Committee Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019 (pages 15833 to 15837) be received.

It was proposed by Cllr T Lloyd and seconded by Cllr D Hinton and the following was

**RESOLVED 29984** that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Arts & Culture Committee Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 (pages 15870 to 15875) be received.

Cllr Lloyd noted that a new event being planned is a board games evening featuring strategy games which will meet the needs of a different demographic group. Science talks are also being investigated. In addition the committee had received a very interesting presentation about broader public art across the town, which the committee has agreed should be supported in principle.

### **PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 9)**

It was proposed by Cllr I Shepherd-Dubey and seconded by Cllr P Dennis and the following was

**RESOLVED 29985** that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Planning & Transportation Committee Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019 (pages 15838 to 15842) be received.

It was proposed by Cllr I Shepherd-Dubey and seconded by Cllr A Mather and the following was

**RESOLVED 29986** that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Planning & Transportation Committee Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019 (pages 15856 to 15860) be received.

### **CIVIC COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 10)**

It was proposed by Cllr D Lee and seconded by Cllr J Box and the following was

**RESOLVED 29987** that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Planning & Transportation Committee Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019 (pages 15843 to 15845) be received.

### **FINANCE & PERSONNEL (Agenda Item 11)**

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

**RESOLVED 29988** that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2019 (pages 15846 to 15855) be received.

It was proposed by Cllr D Lee and seconded by Cllr I Shepherd-Dubey and the following was

CHAIRMANS INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_



**RESOLVED  
29989**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019 (pages 15861 to 15869) be received.

Cllr Lee noted that the Committee had received a very informative overview of the remit of the Committee from the RFO and requested that be circulated to all Councillors.

**ACTION: RFO**

**STRATEGY WORKING PARTY (Agenda Item 12)**

It was proposed by Cllr I Shepherd-Dubey and seconded by Cllr P Lucey and the following was

**RESOLVED  
29990**

that the notes of the proceedings of the Strategy Working Party Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2019 be received.

It was noted that the main work of the group at the moment is to draw together a new Strategic Plan which will then be brought to Full Council.

**WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL - FLAG PROTOCOL (Agenda Item 13)**

Cllr E Bishop proposed that the Rainbow Flag be added to the protocol of WTC so that it is included and flown at the appropriate time.

Cllr Bishop requested support for this proposal, which will be in line with Parliament and many other civic buildings across the country and given that there has been an increase in homophobic graffiti in Wokingham town centre together with a spike in hate crime nationally. Flying the rainbow flag would be an important symbolic gesture welcoming inclusivity and equality within our town.

Cllr Bishop recognised that for religious and other reasons people have different opinions on LGBTQ+ issues, however with the increase in homophobia that has been seen across the country including within Wokingham, it is important that Council uses this opportunity to show constituents that we do not tolerate this, and that we are in support of those in the LGBTQ+ community.

In addition to do so this year is appropriate as 2019 marks the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall protest.

The proposal was seconded by Cllr D Hinton who thanked the Liberal Democrat Group for including Councillors in this proposal and keeping everyone up to date.

Cllr Hinton added that he was pleased to recognise that the date of August 31<sup>st</sup> 2019 for the first raising of the flag would mark both Reading Pride and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Stonewall and in addition was pleased to hear that a Wokingham Pride event is being considered for 2020.

In supporting the motion Cllr Hinton expressed the view that councillors should try their best to represent all the people who elect them and this is a unique

CHAIRMANS INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_



opportunity to help a group of people in a completely different way, where we might not have done in the past.

In addition Cllr Hinton confirmed that any future discussions in terms of other flags should follow the Council's normal committee procedure.

The Mayor opened the proposal for wider discussion with a number of points being made in favour of the proposal which included the fact that:

- A number of Church Leaders are supportive
- Hatred and bigotry will never be tolerated
- Flying the flag offers clear commitment to inclusivity and is of significance to those who suffer in their daily lives
- Flying the Rainbow Flag should come with some suitable education and explanation of its meaning and significance
- As a Christian and church-goer we offer a fully inclusive approach and the Council should demonstrate the same
- It will offer a symbol of how far we have come from the days when homosexuality was a capital offence and this should be supported

Points made against the proposal:

- This has the potential to open the door to vast range of flags being requested. This group should not be singled out
- Has the possibility of causing offence to other groups of our residents in particular some religious groups
- Rather than singling out one particular group a clear statement should be made within the new Strategic Plan that Council does not tolerate antisemitism, homophobia, islamophobia, anti-Christian views and indeed all forms of hate.

It was proposed by Cllr E Bishop and seconded by Cllr D Hinton and the following was

**RESOLVED  
29991**

that the Rainbow Flag be added to Wokingham Town Council's flag flying protocol

16 in favour, 2 against, 1 abstention

#### **DATA PROTECTION OFFICER (Agenda Item 14)**

The Town Clerk's Report 07/2019 was received and discussed.

It was proposed by Cllr J McGhee-Sumner and seconded by Cllr I Shepherd-Dubey and the following was

**RESOLVED  
29992**

that the WBC Monitoring Officer should continue to act as the Council's external Data Protection Officer.

CHAIRMANS INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_



## **EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION (Agenda Item 15)**

Representatives reports were received in relation to the following organisations:

- Borough Parish Liaison meeting minutes.
- Wokingham Theatre
- Wokingham United Charities
- Emmbrook Village Hall
- Wokingham Job Centre Support
- Citizen's Advice Wokingham – Impact Report

Council was reminded that a second representative is needed for Emmbrook Village Hall. If anyone is prepared to do this they should let the Town Clerk know.

CHAIRMANS INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_

