

22nd October 2019

Minutes of the proceedings of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held this day in the **MAIN HALL, TOWN HALL, WOKINGHAM**, from 7.30pm to 9.10pm.

PRESENT:

Chairman: Cllr L Forbes (Mayor)

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

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 Cllr A Box. Cllr Tebboth was welcomed back from her maternity leave.

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 Gurney and the following was

**RESOLVED
30022**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Council Meeting held on 30th July 2019 (pages 15889 to 15894) as a true and correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS (Agenda Item 5)

The Mayor's list of engagements dated 29th July – 13 October were received and noted.

The Mayor reminded Councillors that she would be hosting an Evening of Opera on 22nd November in aid of her charity Diana Brimblecombe Animal Rescue Centre. She thanked those who had already purchased tickets and advised that

CHAIRMANS INITIALS _____



the event had already sold 50% of the tickets so should anyone else wish to purchase tickets not to leave it too late as they may soon be sold out.

The Mayor wanted to give thanks to the A&C officer for the successful Book Festival held at the weekend which she attended and felt it was even better than the previous year.

Deputy Mayor Cllr Lack gave a brief overview of the Princess Royal visit and the CAB AGM on 27th September and also the Judicial Service on 8th October which he attended

The Honorary Parade Marshall, Lt James Chappell gave a briefing in relation to Civic Parades as the upcoming Remembrance Parade would be the first time many of the Cllrs had been part of this particular event.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 6)

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

**RESOLVED
30023**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Amenities Committee Meetings held on 25th July 2019 (pages 15876 to 15880), 29th July 2019 (pages 15881 to 15888) and 4th September 2019 (pages 15895 to 15904) be received

Cllr Lee asked, following the information shown in the minutes of the 29th July 2019, how the Elms Field exits are being monitored as he has grave concerns that the exits from Elms Field are poorly designed as they do not have physical barriers to stop children, on for example scooters, reducing their speed before reaching the public highways. Cllr Dennis advised that contact had been made with WBC and they had risked assessed the area and felt no further action was necessary. Cllr Lee asked if this could be taken back to Amenities for further discussion, Cllr Dennis agreed to bring back as an agenda item at next meeting.

Cllr Campbell-White gave some highlights including the progress with the Town Hall boilers, the completion of Joel Park Playground which has been signed off and will be officially opening on 30th October and the recently submitted CCTV planning application. He also gave thanks to Cllr T Lack for removing the graffiti from the Woosehill underpass and repainting the area and thanked the Market & Bloom Officer, for the successful Vegan Market which was very well supported.

ACTION: Cllr Dennis/AO

ARTS & CULTURE (Agenda Item 7)

It was proposed by Cllr S Gurney and seconded by Cllr P Cunnington and the following was

**RESOLVED
30024**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Arts & Culture Committee Meeting held on 9th September 2019 (pages 15905 to 15909) be received.

CHAIRMANS INITIALS _____



Cllr Gurney gave feedback about the Book Festival that was held last weekend and gave thanks to everyone who helped make it a huge success, with special thanks to the Arts & Culture Officer, Cllrs who supported the event and the Children's Librarian from WBC. She also advised that if anyone knew of any organisation that would be willing to take over the running of any event that WTC currently organise, to enable new ideas and projects to be run, send them to A&C

Cllr lack advised that Woodley had a graffiti wall.

PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 8)

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

**RESOLVED
30025**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Planning & Transportation Committee Meetings held on 10th September 2019 (pages 15910 to 15914) and 8th October 2019 (pages 15934 to 15938) be received.

FINANCE & PERSONNEL (Agenda Item 9)

It was proposed by Cllr Gee and seconded by Cllr D Lee and the following was

**RESOLVED
30026**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting held on 17th September 2019 (pages 15915 to 15928) be received.

Cllr Gee highlighted the Annual Return and the clear conclusion of the Audit, thanked Cllr Fox for his advice with updates to the risk register and advised that the Public Works Loan would be discussed at the November meeting.

CIVIC COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 10)

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

**RESOLVED
30027**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Civic Committee Meeting held on 23rd September 2019 (pages 15929 to 15933) be received.

STRATEGY WORKING PARTY (Agenda Item 11)

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

**RESOLVED
30028**

that the notes of the proceedings of the Strategy Working Party Meetings held on 31st July 2019 and 24th September be received.

Cllr Gee gave an overview of the new strategic plan that had been worked on and the Mayor then asked for feedback from Cllrs which included:

- Hoping that new plan did not mean too much time doing the paperwork and not getting the job done

CHAIRMANS INITIALS _____



- RAG status explicit to new strategy and hoped old plans could easily be transposed to new paperwork
- Thanks to Cllr Gee and the Town Clerk for pulling the ideas together into a workable plan
- Terminology of inclusivity
- WTC leader in strategic plans and good use of RAG status
- Hoping that this does not stifle creativity
- Great way to tie everything together

It was proposed by Cllr M Gee and seconded by Cllr S Gurney and the following was

**RESOLVED
30029**

that the new Strategic Plan decision making framework be adopted.

**ANNUAL RETURN – CONCLUSION OF AUDIT 2018
(Agenda Item 12)**

The External Auditors certificate and opinion regarding the completion of the annual return for the year ended 31 March 2019 was received and it was noted that there were no matters, to which attention should be drawn. The Leader thanked the RFO for her involvement in obtaining this outcome.

EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION (Agenda Item 13)

Representatives reports were received in relation to the following organisations:

- Emmbrook Village Hall
- Borough Parish Liaison – Any thoughts/ideas to Cllr Mather
- WBC Climate Emergency – Cross Party Working Group – Verbal update from Cllr Hornsby
- Wokingham United Charities
- Citizen’s Advice Wokingham – verbal report

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (Agenda Item 14)

It was proposed by Cllr L Forbes and seconded by Cllr N Campbell-White and it was

**RESOLVED
30030**

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.

Cllr Hornsby and Cllr King left the meeting.

CHAIRMANS INITIALS _____



STRATEGY WORKING PARTY (Agenda Item 15)

**RESOLVED
30031**

It was proposed by Cllr I Shepherd-Dubey and seconded by Cllr D Lee and it was that the Town Clerk's report TC11/2019 dated 12th September be received and considered together with an updated memorandum.

The Town Clerk advised that WBC had confirmed that they were able to pay half of the costs for the cleaning of the Market Place for the remainder of this year and the following year with a view to discussing 2021-22 with WBC provider for comparative service.

Cllrs were made aware that this was a step change for the Council and the nature of the commitment was reinforced

**RESOLVED
30032**

It was proposed by Cllr I Shepherd-Dubey and seconded by Cllr N Campbell-White and it was

that Wokingham Town Council assume responsibility for the cleaning of the Marketplace

**RESOLVED
30033**

It was proposed by Cllr I Shepherd-Dubey and seconded by Cllr M Gee and it was that an in-year budget allocation of up to a maximum of £15,000 be made from the Capital reserve to cover the costs of a deep clean of the Market Place and weekly cleaning regime.

CHAIRMANS INITIALS _____

