

3rd December 2019

Minutes of the proceedings of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held this day in the **MAIN HALL, TOWN HALL, WOKINGHAM**, from 7.30pm to 8.20pm.

PRESENT:

Chairman: Cllr T Lack (Deputy Mayor)
Cllrs: E Bishop, R Bishop-Firth, J Box, N Campbell-White, P Cunnington, P Dennis, M Fumagalli, S Gurney, M Gee, D Hinton, P Hornsby, D Lee, T Lloyd, M Malvern, K Malvern, J McGhee-Sumner, I Shepherd-Dubey and 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, N Fox, D King, P Lucey and Cllr L Forbes.

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

**RESOLVED
30067**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Council Meeting held on 22 October 2019 (pages 15939 to 15943) be received 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 14 October – 24 November were received and noted.

The Deputy Mayor had been sent some comments from the Mayor who noted the variety of engagements she had attended which included Remembrance and the laying of the town wreath, the opportunity to trial the simulator with the Air Cadets which Council had supported with grant funding, the stunning fireworks display at

CHAIRMANS INITIALS _____



Cantley Park together with the recent Winter Carnival. All significant events many supported by volunteer teams.
The Mayor passed on her Christmas wishes to all colleagues and their families.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 6)

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

**RESOLVED
30068**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Amenities Committee Meetings held on 5th November 2019 (pages 15949 to 15959) be received

Cllr Campbell-White gave some highlights including the progress with the Town Hall boilers and gave thanks to the Courtyard and Piccollo Arco Restaurants for their co-operation whilst the works have been happening. Joel Park Playground appears to be getting a lot of use and WTC are still awaiting a decision on the CCTV planning application. He also advised some issues with the Christmas lights not working with problem lying with column feeds which are under WBC control – he is chasing the borough. Cllrs commented on how nice the Christmas tree looks.

Cllr Gee asked about the cycle of Committee Minutes being laid before Full Council whilst they are still in draft format, the Town Clerk advised the responsibility for confirming the accuracy of minutes rests with each individual Committee and that should any discrepancies arise they would be recorded in the individual committee meetings. To wait until all meetings have approved their minutes would mean Full Council receiving them very belatedly which would not be advisable in terms of all Councillors being kept abreast of the work of the Council.

The Town Clerk also advised that owing to an administrative error the apologies from Cllr McGhee-Sumner at the recent Civic Committee meeting had not been recorded. This would be amended at the next Civic meeting where the minutes would be confirmed.

Cllr Gurney advised that not all minutes were annotated as being draft and that this would be helpful from an audit point to track any particular decisions. The Town Clerk advised that she would remind Clerks

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 7)

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

**RESOLVED
30069**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Planning & Transportation Committee Meetings held on 12th November 2019 (pages 15960 to 15963) be received.

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ARTS & CULTURE (Agenda Item 8)

It was proposed by Cllr S Gurney and seconded by Cllr T Lloyd and the following was

**RESOLVED
30070**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Arts & Culture Committee Meeting held on 18th November 2019 (pages 15964 to 15968) be received.

Cllr Gurney gave some highlights from the meeting including a new pilot for a Science with Schools project for September 2020. Cllr Gurney also asked for volunteers to provide introductions for the Living Advent Calendar.

FINANCE & PERSONNEL (Agenda Item 9)

Cllr Gee gave a brief overview of the grants meeting and thanked Cllrs for the pre meeting work that had been required and also the RFO for preparing the full agenda and helpful backing papers. Cllr Gee also advised that at the meeting held on 19th November the Committee discussed future projects and, as the tax base was not yet known from WBC, that a maximum increase of 4.5% for the precept increase be used by the RFO for budget setting purposes.

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

**RESOLVED
30071**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Finance & Personnel Grants Committee Meeting held on 29th October 2019 (pages 15944 to 15948) be received.

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

**RESOLVED
30072**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting held on 19th November 2019 (pages 15969 to 15981) be received.

CIVIC COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 10)

Cllr Lee gave an overview on the minutes of the recent meeting including the request for a name to be added to the Town Hall Memorial and the suggestion that discussions were held with Wokingham Society to see if it would be possible to have a plaque outside the Town Hall to mark that the memorial is inside. Cllr Lee also advised that the Committee had discussed a dress code for Councillors. Councillors discussed this matter and the fact that they were representatives of the residents and appropriate dress should be adopted according to the Council meeting or event. Where members identified difficulties this would be addressed with the individual at that point.

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

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**RESOLVED
30073**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Civic Committee Meeting held on 25th November 2019 (pages 15982 to 15985) 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
30074**

that the notes of the proceedings of the Strategy Working Party Meetings held on 13th November 2019 be received.

EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION (Agenda Item 12)

Representatives reports were received in relation to the following organisations:

- Wokingham United Charities
- Wokingham Theatre

COUNCIL YEAR CALENDAR (Agenda Item 13)

The Town Council's calendar for the municipal year May 2020 to April 2021 was received and noted. The Town Clerk advised that early in the new year, each Committee Clerk would send out electronic invitations to Committee members.

CHAIRMAN

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