

25th November 2019

Minutes of the proceedings of the **CIVIC COMMITTEE** meeting held on this day in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Wokingham** from 19:30 to 21:10pm.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr D G Lee

Councillors: A Box (Vice-Chairman), R Bishop-Firth, J Box, M Gee, D King, T Lloyd, P Lucey

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk – Jan Nowecki

Student Representatives: Marcus Richardson and Raissa Kaninda
Paul Gallagher (Emmbrook Residents' Association)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J McGhee-Sumner.

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 prior to the meeting.

CIVIC COMMITTEE MINUTES (Agenda Item 4)

It was proposed by Cllr Box and seconded by Cllr King and it was

that the Minutes of the Civic Committee meeting held on 23rd September 2019 (pages 15929 to 15933) be received as a true and correct record and that they be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**RESOLVED
30062**

The Chairman brought forward Agenda Item 10 and welcomed Paul Gallagher to speak to the item.

REQUEST FOR NAME TO BE ADDED TO TOWN HALL MEMORIAL (Agenda Item 10)

The committee members received and considered the Civic Officer's report which outlined a request from a resident to add a name to the Town Hall's memorial from the 2nd World War.

- Mr Gallagher added the fact that contacts in France are currently considering adding Mr Grover to the memorial there.
- The committee discussed the situation in respect to the boundary. It was confirmed that Mr Grover did not appear on the Hurst memorial which would have, and still does, cover this address. In addition, as far as the researchers are aware he does not appear on any other local memorial.
- The Chairman confirmed that if the Committee agreed Mr Grover's name could be added to the Town Hall memorial.
- The Committee requested information about any earlier requests of this nature and the Town Clerk confirmed that the Hicks Family had requested

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their son David's name to be added but due to the boundary his name was placed on the Finchampstead memorial where the family's home is.

- Questions were raised about whether anyone from the family could be traced as it would be helpful to understand if this would be their wish.

It was proposed by Cllr Lee and seconded by Cllr Bishop-Firth and it was

**RESOLVED
30063**

that further research should be undertaken by the proposers in respect to Mr Grover's family but following this being brought to the Committee it would be supportive of Mr Grover's name being added to the Town Hall memorial. In addition when this has taken place Hurst should be notified and the addition be made public.

ACTION: Paul Gallagher/Peter Shilham, Civic Officer

MONITORING REPORT (Agenda Item 5)

The Monitoring Report dated 20th November 2019 was received and noted.

1) Local Schools may be interested in filming Mayor's Sunday or other events

WTC is waiting for a reply. Cllr Forbes and Student Representative Marcus Richardson to follow up with the school.

2) Honorary Stave refurbishment

Awaiting quotations.

COMMITTEE'S BUDGET (Agenda Item 6)

A report on the Committee's expenditure to 31st October 2019 was received and noted.

REMEMBRANCE 2019 (Agenda Item 7)

The Committee reflected on this year's Remembrance wreath laying, parade and Church Service and noted the following:

- The new positioning of wreath laying in advance of the parade was discussed and agreed that this worked well. It was noted that the time gap between that and the parade needs to be reduced.
- The committee recognised the fact that large numbers congregated on Remembrance Sunday morning, in line with The Cenotaph timing; expecting a two minute silence to be respected when in fact the practice in Wokingham has only ever been to hold this on Armistice Day. It was requested that officers consider this again, in conjunction with the Poppy Appeal, with the potential of adding a duplicate ceremony on the Sunday. This to be brought back to the committee for further consideration.
- A suggestion was made that there should be the re-introduction of a wreath laying at the Red Cross memorial. This could be easily achieved with a nominated Councillor.

ACTION: Civic Officer

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WOKINGHAM'S WAR MEMORIALS

The committee members received and considered the Civic Officer's report which offered information in respect to previous discussions about this matter, together with detail of all the Town memorials.

- The Chairman expressed the view that a new memorial should not be supported as the decisions of the time should be respected; but greater publicity, awareness raising and accessibility should be achieved in respect to the Town Memorial in the Town Hall.
- The committee revisited an earlier suggestion that a suitable plaque should be placed on the outside of the Town Hall referencing the fact that the Town Memorial is inside. This was fully supported. It was suggested that Wokingham Society be involved to discuss this matter. In addition a small trough to be placed which could, at Remembrance, offer a location to place residents' small wooden poppies as an alternative to the Field of Remembrance
- Consideration be given to having a specific open day at some point in the year, outside the Remembrance period, when the Memorial could be showcased. This could link with the museum accreditation requirements. The memorial banners were requested to be used.

ACTION: Town Clerk & Civic Officer

It was proposed by Cllr Lee and seconded by Cllr T Lloyd and it was

**RESOLVED
30064**

that investigation should be undertaken with the intention of installing a plaque and trough outside the Town Hall to mark the presence of the internal Town Memorial

ACTION: Civic Officer

A further query was raised in relation to the possibility of adding a further plaque at the memorial at Red Cross building. Cllr Box to confirm some further thoughts in relation to this and then the possibility of achieving this to be explored.

ACTION: Cllr Box & Civic Officer.

Following further discussion

It was proposed by Cllr Lucey and seconded by Cllr Gee and it was

**RESOLVED
30065**

that this Council will not support a war memorial on Market Place

It was proposed by Cllr Gee and seconded by Cllr Box and it was

**RESOLVED
30066**

that exclusive public access should be maintained to the Memorial in the two weeks prior to Remembrance Sunday, in line with the Poppy Appeal dates.

Given the above discussion the committee then explored the proposal agreed by Amenities that a Garden of Reflection should be established in Howard Palmer Gardens. The committee agreed their support of this with the proviso that it did not explicitly contain any war memorial. This to be returned for further

CHAIRMANS INITIALS _____



development through Amenities and once fully costed to be presented to F&P for financial consideration.

WTC DRESS CODE (Agenda Item 10)

The committee members received and considered the Civic Officer's report which suggested a dress code for Councillors is agreed and adopted.

The following points were made:

- The Chairman stated that as elected Councillors, members are representing residents and should dress appropriately for the role. He suggested that for Full Council this should be a jacket and Council tie for male Councillors and smart attire for female Councillors; for committees it should be smart casual.
 - Comment was made that care needs to be taken in terms of ensuring that gender stereotypes are not reinforced.
 - It was noted that the Mayor wears the chain of office at Full Council and fellow Councillors should afford respect to this in terms of their own dress.
- Student representatives were asked their view and agreed smart casual at committee meetings.
- Council needs to ensure it is fully inclusive and should not place any barriers to participation through overly restrictive dress requirements. In particular this could lead to expenditure that might result in hardship.
- Footwear was particularly mentioned where people may walk longer distances as part of their commute and trainers would be viewed as the most suitable. This was also raised in respect to Civic parades.
- It was recognised that, where there might be health issues, people would and should dress appropriately for their needs and where particular religious beliefs determined dress this would of course be respected.
- Dress should not in any way be overtly offensive, for example with the presence of slogans.
- Individual members should feel able to challenge their peers but this was recognised as difficult and better management within political groups should be encouraged
- It was agreed that a formal dress code would not be drawn up at this time but that the Chairman would raise particular awareness of this discussion at the next Full Council.

COMMITTEE INFORMATION (Agenda Item 11)

The Town Clerk asked for a volunteer to join the Chairman and Cllr Dianne King at the Civic Award selection meeting on Wednesday 4 December at 10.00am. Cllr Lucey agreed to attend.

CHAIRMANS SIGNATURE _____

CHAIRMANS INITIALS _____

