

28th July 2020

In accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 this meeting was held virtually.

Minutes of the proceedings of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held virtually on 28th July 2020 from 7.30pm to 8.58pm.

PRESENT:

Chairman: Cllr T Lack (Mayor)

Cllrs:, E Bishop, R Bishop-Firth, A Box, N Campbell-White, P Cunnington, P Dennis, L Forbes, N Fox, M Fumagalli, M Gee, S Gurney, 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

The Mayor introduced his chaplain for his term of office, Reverend Judi Hattaway who opened prayers with a minute's silence to remember Councillor James Box who sadly passed away on 29th June 2020.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

There were no apologies for absence.

MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

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

Cllr K Malvern asked "Will the Chairman of Planning and Transport agree to an item at the next meeting on the controversial proposals that would, from September, allow amongst other things, up to two additional floors on a house without requiring planning permission."

Cllr I Shepherd-Dubey replied that she would arrange for an agenda item on the proposed permitted development regulation changes to be added to the September meeting.

ACTION CLLR SHEPHERD-DUBEY

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING (Agenda Item 4)

It was proposed by Cllr M Gee and seconded by Cllr M Malvern and the following was

CHAIRMANS INITIALS _____



**RESOLVED
30160**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the 47th Annual Council Meeting held on 5th May 2020 (pages 16062 to 16068) be received as a true and correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman once Covid-19 restrictions were lifted .

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS (Agenda Item 5)

The Mayor advised that owing to the Covid crisis he was alerting the Council that he may not be able to announce a Mayors' charity for this year as he had concerns about the ability to effectively raise funds and didn't want to disappoint a charity.

He also asked that Councillors reflect on whether the Council should resume face to face meetings and would welcome feedback to group leaders about this.

The Mayor raised Council's awareness in respect to The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, Cllrs discussed 4 charities they felt had offered a significant contribution during the Covid Crisis:

- Link Visiting Service
- Citizens Advice Wokingham
- Grub Club (now known as Share)
- First Days

The Mayor thanked everyone for feedback and advised that this would be discussed further with the Leaders, Town Clerk and Civic Officer.

The Mayor's list of engagements dated 5th May to 18th July 2020 were received and noted.

The Mayor drew attention to the trial of the closure of Denmark Street and reminded Councillors of the traffic management presentation by WBC which was being held tomorrow evening and asked that the Chairman of Planning & Transportation hold an extraordinary meeting to prepare an official response to the presentation, The Chairman agreed to this request.

The Mayor commented that he has enjoyed his first months as Mayor which have proved busy in a different manner to previous years owing to Covid 19 restrictions but he has been out offering thanks to local organisations and businesses.

ACTION CLLR SHEPHERD-DUBEY

AMENITIES COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 6)

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

**RESOLVED
30161**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the three Amenities Committee Meetings held on 19th May 2020 (pages 16069 to 16073), 30th May 2020 (pages 16103 to 16104) and 21st July 2020 (pages 16122 – 16125) be received.

Cllr Campbell-White highlighted a few items including the fact that at the 30th May Extraordinary meeting the Committee agreed in principle to support WBC's proposed greenway at Joel Park, also that Elms field had now transferred to the Town Council and the Mayor was still providing a graffiti removal service.

Cllr Dennis encouraged any further feedback direct to him as he is collating the Council's response to WBC's Greenways Project.

CHAIRMANS INITIALS _____



A vote was taken and this was unanimous.

ARTS & CULTURE (Agenda Item 7)

It was proposed by Cllr S Gurney and seconded by Cllr A Tebboth and the following was

**RESOLVED
30162**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Arts & Culture Committee Meetings held on 1st June 2020 (pages 16074 to 16077) and 13th July 2020 (pages 16110 to 16113) be received.

Cllr Gurney advised that a ticketed Theatre in the Park production was going ahead in Howard Palmer Gardens on Sunday 16th August and that the A&C Officer would be asking for Cllr's to help at the event. She also noted the Science in School project and Book Festival are continuing as on line events. A vote was taken and this was unanimous.

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
30163**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Planning & Transportation Committee Meetings held on 2nd June 2020 (pages 16078 to 16083) and 7th July 2020 (pages 16105 to 16109) be received.

Cllr I Shepherd-Dubey gave an update on planning applications.

A vote was taken and one Cllr voted against.

CIVIC COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 9)

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

**RESOLVED
30164**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Civic Committee Meeting held on 8th July 2020 (pages 16084 to 16088) be received.

Cllr Lee advised that Mr Grover's name would be added to the war memorial as soon as possible and that the Civic Officer was investigating installing a trough and plaque outside the Town Hall to raise awareness of the internal Town Memorial and thanked Cllr Lloyd for his design help.

A vote was taken and this was unanimous.

FINANCE & PERSONNEL (Agenda Item 10)

It was proposed by Cllr D Lee and seconded by Cllr S Gurney and the following was

CHAIRMANS INITIALS _____



**RESOLVED
30165**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting held on 9th June 2020 (pages 16089 to 16102) be received.

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

**RESOLVED
30166**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting held on 14th July 2020 (pages 16114 to 16121) be received.

Cllr Gee noted that the grants policy had been updated and also the disappointing news that Dolce Vita (Wokingham) had gone into voluntary liquidation. She also advised that the CCLA property fund that the Town Council had invested in was being carefully monitored. Cllr Gee also kindly pointed out that project funding was discussed and whilst still approved it was subject to reconsideration owing to the Covid-19 situation. Cllr Gee thanked the staff for the work they are continuing to undertake under the current challenging circumstances and the Town Clerk advised that the Grounds Person interviews had taken place today and the job had been offered to someone who had accepted subject to references and occupational health review.

A vote was taken and this was unanimous.

STRATEGY WORKING PARTY (Agenda Item 11)

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

**RESOLVED
30167**

that the notes of the proceedings of the Strategy Working Party Meeting held on 17th June 2020 be received.

EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION (Agenda Item 12)

Representatives reports were received in relation to the following organisations:

- Norreys and Westcott NAG
- Citizen's Advice Wokingham
- Emmbrook Village Hall
- Climate Emergency Cross Party Working Group – Cllr Hornsby noted he had been unable to attend the meeting but gave a verbal update on the draft minutes he had been sent and would distribute them once they had been approved. Points included
 - 56% drop in car usage during lockdown
 - A focus will be made on electric vehicle infrastructure
 - WBC hoping to increase usage of its officer car club

CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMANS INITIALS _____

