

8th December 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 8th December 2020 from 7.30pm to 8.20pm.

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, D Hinton, P Hornsby, D King, D Lee, T Lloyd, P Lucey, A Mather, M Malvern, K Malvern, J McGhee-Sumner, I Shepherd-Dubey, A Tebboth

IN ATTENDANCE:

Jan Nowecki – Town Clerk

Nicky Harmsworth – Responsible Finance Officer (RFO)

PRAYERS

Prayers were given by Father Richard Lamey

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

No apologies for absence were received.

MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda Item 2)

Cllrs R Bishop- Firth and E Bishop declared a prejudicial interest because Michael Cragg, Envoy associates, is a family friend.

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

Cllr Peter Dennis asked whether there had been responses to the formal request made to Wokingham Borough Council and Sir John Redwood following the motion passed at the previous meeting. The Town Clerk confirmed that responses had been received:

- The Rt Hon Sir J Redwood MP indicated that whilst he would encourage electors to vote he does not issue legal or other advice on people's right to vote. This is the responsibility of the Electoral Registration Authority which has access to the relevant legal advice and are independent.
- WBC confirmed it will ensure EU residents are fully informed as to their rights and this will be included in the communications plan for May 2021.

CHAIRMANS INITIALS _____



MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING (Agenda Item 4)

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

**RESOLVED
30227**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Council Meeting held on 20th October 2020 (pages 16169 to 16174) 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 reported that he was happy that the winter carnival/market had taken place at the weekend.

He also thanked the staff for all pulling together to ensure that the Christmas Tree was put up for our residents and that traditional events were taking place albeit virtually.

Cllr Lucey thanked the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the Remembrance video that had been shared on social media.

The Mayor's list of engagements dated 12th October to 27th November were received and noted.

The Town Clerk advised Council of the very many personalised touches that the Mayor had been making to offer his thanks to businesses, care homes and residents including handwriting Christmas cards with personal messages and filming multiple videos with his Lady Mayoress.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 6)

Cllr Campbell-White highlighted a few items from the minutes including the withdrawal of joint funding of the Market Place cleaning by Wokingham Borough Council and delays to the roof repairs on the RYND space.

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

**RESOLVED
30228**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Amenities Committee Meeting held on 3rd November 2020 (pages 16179 to 16183) be received.

A vote was taken and this was unanimous.

PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 7)

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

Cllr Lee asked if there had been any update on information to be shown on any street name signpost (as happens in Hartley Whitney) to acknowledge the background history around the name. The Town Clerk advised she would chase this up with Wokingham Borough Council.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

CHAIRMANS INITIALS _____



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

**RESOLVED
30229**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Planning & Transportation Committee Meeting held on 6th November 2020 (pages 16184 to 16190) be received.

A vote was taken and this was unanimous.

ARTS & CULTURE (Agenda Item 7)

Cllr Tebboth advised that the Science in School project and Book Festival had been held online and had been successful and thanked Cllr Fumagalli for his help with the Science project.

It was proposed by Cllr A Tebboth and seconded by Cllr A Box and the following was

**RESOLVED
30230**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Arts & Culture Committee Meeting held on 16th November 2020 (pages 16191 to 16192) be received.

A vote was taken and this was unanimous.

FINANCE & PERSONNEL (Agenda Item 9)

Cllr Gee noted that the grants meeting had taken place and was pleased that WTC were able to support so many good causes, including some which had worked so hard to support residents during the COVID pandemic. She also gave feedback on the recent meeting where 2021 projects from Committees had been agreed in principle, subject to the yearly budgetary approval by Full Council. The RFO was currently working on a 3% precept increase at a cost of an additional £1.72 per household. She also thanked staff who are continuing to successfully work from home where possible.

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

**RESOLVED
30231**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Finance & Personnel Committee Meetings held on 27th October 2020 (pages 16175 to 16178) and 17th November 2020 (pages 16193 – 16204) be received.

A vote was taken and this was unanimous.

CIVIC COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 10)

Cllr Lee noted that 8 nominations for Civic Awards and were to be assessed soon. A thank you event for organisations that have helped during the Covid-19 crisis would be organised at some time in the future.

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

**RESOLVED
30232**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Civic Committee Meeting held on 23rd November 2020 (pages 16205 to 16208) be received.

CHAIRMANS INITIALS _____



A vote was taken and this was unanimous.

STRATEGY WORKING PARTY (Agenda Item 11)

The notes of the proceedings of the Strategy Working Party Meeting held on 11th November 2020 were received and noted. These included the decision not to support some projects proposed by WBC which required the use of WTC's CiL income.

COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES (Agenda Item 12)

Representatives reports were received in relation to the following organisations:

- Wokingham Borough Council Climate Emergency Cross Party Working Group

- Emmbrook Village Hall

- Citizen's Advice Wokingham – Cllr Gee advised that the impact report had been circulated and the CEO Jake Morrison had received a National Citizen's Advice Award for Leadership which was a spectacular achievement. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor would write to offer congratulations to him and invite him to a future meeting to give an update on the work his organisation has been doing.

ACTION:TOWN CLERK/MAYOR

COUNCIL YEAR CALENDAR (Agenda Item 13)

The Town Council's calendar for the municipal year May 2021 to April 2022 was received and noted.

Cllr Shepherd-Dubey did advise that there may be some clashes with the WBC Audit Committee as dates had not been announced there. The Town Clerk advised that any issues may be dealt with on a case by case basis but generally dates were fixed.

The Chairman wished Cllrs, Staff and their families a very Merry Christmas and closed the meeting.

CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMANS INITIALS _____

