

26th January 2021

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 8.30pm.

PRESENT:

Chairman: Cllr T Lack (Mayor)

Cllrs: E Bishop, 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, J McGhee-Sumner, I Shepherd-Dubey, A Tebboth

IN ATTENDANCE:

Jan Nowecki – Town Clerk

Nicky Harmsworth – Responsible Finance Officer (RFO)

PRAYERS

Prayers were given in advance of the meeting by Reverend Judi Hattaway. The chairman thanked Judi for mentioning the wonderful charities in her prayers.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from R Bishop-Firth.

MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda Item 2)

None were declared.

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

No questions were received.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING (Agenda Item 4)

**RESOLVED
30249**

It was proposed by Cllr M Gee and seconded by Cllr D Lee and the following was that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Council Meeting held on 8th December 2020 (pages 16209 to 16212) 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 on Friday evening a very successful presentation had taken place for the Civic Award winners. Special thanks were given to the Civic

CHAIRMANS INITIALS _____



Officer and Arts & Culture Officer who had organised the virtual event. This was endorsed by other Councillors who had also attended. The Mayor also thanked staff for the work they were producing remotely and gave a special mention to the Amenities Officer and Groundsman who had joined during the pandemic but had managed to integrate well into the team.

The Mayor's list of engagements dated 28th November to 15th January 2021 were received and noted and in particular both he and the Deputy Mayor were very pleased to have been able to wave off the Link Visiting Scheme Volunteers on Christmas Day.

CIVIC COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 6)

Cllr Lee again offered thanks for the Civic Award Evening and gave information about the successful recipients of the awards.

**RESOLVED
30250**

It was proposed by Cllr D Lee and seconded by Cllr P Lucey and the following was

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Civic Awards Selection Committee Meeting held on 9th December 2020 (pages 16213 to 16214) be received.

**RESOLVED
30251**

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

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Civic Committee Meeting held on 11th January 2021 (pages 16220 to 16222) be received.

A vote was taken and this was unanimous.

A technical issue for Cllr Campbell-White meant that the Chairman moved to Agenda item 8 at this point in the meeting

ARTS & CULTURE (Agenda Item 8)

Cllr Gurney gave a brief overview of the minutes.

**RESOLVED
30252**

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

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Arts & Culture Committee Meeting held on 18th January 2021 (pages 16229 to 16231) be received.

A vote was taken and this was unanimous.

The Chairman then moved back to agenda item 7

AMENITIES COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 7)

Cllr Campbell-White highlighted a few items from the minutes including updates to sourcing a new contractor for the Market Place cleaning for next financial year, new trees on Elms Field and offered special thanks to Cllr Lack for the fantastic job to remove the graffiti that had happened during the Christmas break.

CHAIRMANS INITIALS _____



**RESOLVED
30253**

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

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Amenities Committee Meeting held on 12th January 2021 (pages 16223 to 16228) be received.

A vote was taken and this was unanimous.

FINANCE & PERSONNEL (Agenda Item 9)

Cllr Lee gave an update to the budget setting discussions that had taken place at the recent meeting and advised that the budget and precept for 2022 would be discussed under agenda items 11 & 12.

**RESOLVED
30254**

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

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Finance & Personnel Committee Meetings held on 19th January 2021 (pages 16232 to 16239) be received.

A vote was taken and this was unanimous.

STANDING ORDER 23 – MAYORAL SELECTION NOTIFICATION (Agenda Item 10)

The mayor reminded members of the process for mayoral selection contained within standing order 23 – paragraph (d) and noted that the date of the Mayoral Selection committee would be held on Monday 15th March 2021 prior to the Civic committee meeting.

PRECEPT BUDGETS FOR YEAR ENDING - 31ST MARCH 2022 (Agenda Item 11)

**RESOLVED
30255**

It was proposed by Cllr D Lee and seconded by Cllr I Shepherd - Dubey and it was

that the following be received and approved

- a) The RFO's Report 10 2020/21 Budgets & Precept for the Financial Year 2021-2022,
- b) The Budgets showing expenditure to 31st December 2020, for year ending 31st March 2021 and the anticipated expenditure and Income for the Financial Year 2021/2022. (Pages 1 -12 previously circulated.)

A vote was taken and this was unanimous.

PRECEPT – RECOMMENDATION (Agenda Item 12)

Cllr D Lee summarised the position for the Council and advised that to ensure a balanced budget it had been necessary to use Earmark Reserves of £63,720 to

CHAIRMANS INITIALS _____



ensure the sustainability of future budgets and recommended a precept of £970,731.56. He noted that whilst we continue to operate in a pandemic, budgets would be carefully monitored and if COVID restrictions remained in the new financial year certain projects may have to be reviewed.

**RESOLVED
30256**

It was proposed by Cllr D Lee and seconded by Cllr I Shepherd - Dubey

that the Finance & Personnel Committee's recommendation be accepted and that precept be confirmed and set at £970,731.56 for the financial year 2021/22.

A vote was taken and this was unanimous.

INFORMATION ITEM (Agenda Item 13)

The responses from Rt Hon Sir John Redwood MP and Mr Andrew Moulton, Assistant Director Governance, at Wokingham Borough Council in respect to the recent Full Council motion with regard to ensuring that non-British EU citizens are aware of their rights and opportunities to participate in local democracy were noted.

Cllr I Shepherd Dubey noted that the Planning Meeting on December 15th 2020 did not form part of the agenda, the Town Clerk advised it would be added to the next meeting for approval. She thanked Cllr Tebboth for her recent representation at the WBC Planning Committee.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

OPERATION LONDON BRIDGE (Agenda Item 14)

The Town Clerk's update report 02/2021 dated 17th January 2021 was received and noted and the Town Clerk expanded on points raised by the Committee concerning contingency arrangements should COVID restrictions remain.

The Chairman wished Cllr Gee a speedy recovery after her recent accident.

CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMANS INITIALS _____

