

# 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Minutes of the proceedings of the adjourned **FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL MEETING** of **WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL** held this day in the **MAIN HALL, TOWN HALL, WOKINGHAM**, from 7.30pm to 8.07pm.

## **PRESENT:**

Chairman: Cllr M Gee (Mayor)

Cllrs: E Bishop, R Bishop-Firth, P Dennis, N Fox, M Fumagalli, L Forbes, S Gurney, P Hornsby, T Lack, D Lee, T Lloyd, P Lucey, M Malvern, K Malvern, I Shepherd-Dubey,

## **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Jan Nowecki – Town Clerk

Nicky Harmsworth – Responsible Finance Officer (RFO)

## **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs J Ainslie, A Box, N Campbell-White, P Cunnington, M Ferrai, D Hinton, D King, A Mather and Cllr A Tebboth.

## **MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda Item 10)**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (Agenda Item 11)**

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

**RESOLVED  
30444**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Council Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022 (pages 16507 to 16515) be accepted as a true and correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

A vote was taken and 15 Cllrs were in favour and 1 Cllr abstained

## **MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS (Agenda Item 14)**

The Mayor asked Cllr Lack, the previous Mayor, if he would like to say anything about his last engagements, Cllr Lack advised that he had spoken on Sunday but his highlight was the opening by Maya, a market trader, of her shop in Peach Place.

The Mayor reminded Cllrs that details had been sent out and there was still a need for volunteers at upcoming events ie Fun Day, Jubilee Concert, E Bike event and Theatre in the Park.

The Mayor advised that she wanted to change things a little as she saw the Council as servants of the people and the Mayor as servant of the Council and would prefer not to be addressed as your worship but would be happy to be addressed as Mayor Gee or Maria. She also advised that Cllrs would only be

CHAIRMANS INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_



required to stand if addressing the meeting. She noted that it would be up to future Mayors to decide how they would like to run meetings.

Mayor Gee then gave thanks again to Cllr Lack and his wife Claire for the previous two years and hoped that she could live up to work they had achieved.

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OR PUBLIC  
(Agenda Item 13)**

No questions had been received.

**ATTENDANCE REGISTER (Agenda Item 14)**

The Attendance Chart extracted from the Attendance Register of Members at Council and Committee meetings for the past year was received. Council expressed its disappointment about the poor attendance of Cllrs D Hinton and D King.

**LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (Agenda Item 15)**

It was proposed by Cllr P Dennis and seconded by Cllr Bishop-Firth and it was

**RESOLVED  
30446**

that Cllr I Shepherd-Dubey be appointed leader of the Council for the Municipal Year 2022-23.

A vote was taken and 15 Cllrs were in favour and 1 Cllr abstained.

**STANDING COMMITTEES – MEMBERSHIP (Agenda Item 16)**

The Mayor advised that the Standing Committees be elected for the ensuing year subject to Local Government Act 1972, Section 101 (1)(a) and

- (i) In accordance with Standing Order No 19b - if other Members wish to stand, then no Member shall serve on more than two Standing Committees.
- (ii) Relevant Standing Orders 18 and 19.

**(a) AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

**MEMBERSHIP**

The Town Clerk announced the following Councillors nominated for Membership of the Amenities Committee for the ensuing year. This committee has delegated authority in accordance with Standing Order 18.3a and shall consist of no more than nine members;

Cllrs R Bishop-Firth, M Ferrai, N Campbell White, P Dennis, L Forbes, D Hinton, T Lack, P Lucey and M Malvern.

It was proposed by Cllr M Malvern and seconded by Cllr L Forbes and it was

**RESOLVED  
30447**

that Cllrs R Bishop-Firth, M Ferrai, N Campbell White, P Dennis, L Forbes, D Hinton, T Lack, P Lucey and M Malvern be elected to the Committee.

CHAIRMANS INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_



**CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR**

Cllr M Malvern nominated Cllr T Lack as Chair of the Amenities Committee who then in turn nominated Cllr P Dennis as Vice Chair of the Amenities Committee

It was proposed by Cllr M Malvern and seconded by Cllr L Forbes and it was

that Cllr T Lack be elected as Chair of the Amenities Committee for the ensuing year.

**RESOLVED  
30448**

It was proposed by Cllr M Malvern and seconded by Cllr L Forbes and it was

that Cllr P Dennis be elected as Vice Chair of the Amenities Committee for the ensuing year.

**RESOLVED  
30449**

Mayor Gee asked for a vote to be taken on Committee Membership, 15 Cllrs were in favour and 1 Cllr abstained.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

Mayor Gee duly announced that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Amenities Committee for the ensuing year would be Cllrs T Lack and P Dennis respectively, and that members would be Cllrs R Bishop-Firth, M Ferrai, N Campbell White, L Forbes, D Hinton, P Lucey and M Malvern.

**(b) PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

The Town Clerk announced the following Councillors nominated for Membership of the Planning & Transportation Committee for the ensuing year. This committee has delegated authority in accordance with Standing Order 18.3b and shall consist of no more than nine members;

Cllrs P Dennis, N Fox, M Fumagalli, D Hinton, L Forbes, K Malvern, I Shepherd-Dubey and A Tebboth.

It was proposed by Cllr K Malvern and seconded by Cllr P Dennis and it was

that Cllrs P Dennis, N Fox, M Fumagalli, D Hinton, L Forbes, K Malvern, I Shepherd-Dubey and A Tebboth be elected to the Committee.

**RESOLVED  
30450**

**CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR**

Cllr K Malvern nominated Cllr N Fox as Chair of the Planning and Transportation Committee who then in turn nominated Cllr I Shepherd-Dubey as Vice Chair of the Planning and Transportation Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr K Malvern and seconded by Cllr P Dennis and it was

that Cllr N Fox be elected as Chair of the Planning and Transportation Committee for the ensuing year.

**RESOLVED  
30451**

It was proposed by Cllr Malvern and seconded by Cllr P Dennis and it was

CHAIRMANS INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_



**RESOLVED  
30452**

that Cllr I Shepherd- Dubey be elected as Vice Chair of the Planning and Transportation Committee for the ensuing year.

Mayor Gee asked for a vote to be taken on Committee Membership, 15 Cllrs were in favour and 1 Cllr abstained.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

Mayor Gee duly announced that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Planning and Transportation Committee for the ensuing year would be Cllrs N Fox and I Shepherd-Dubey respectively, and that members would be Cllrs P Dennis, M Fumagalli, D Hinton, L Forbes, K Malvern and A Tebboth.

**(c) FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

The Town Clerk announced the following Councillors nominated for Membership of the Finance & Personnel Committee for the ensuing year. This committee has delegated authority in accordance with Standing Order 18.3c and shall consist of no more than nine members;

Cllrs P Cunnington, N Fox, M Gee, S Gurney, T Lack, D Lee, A Mather, K Malvern and I Shepherd-Dubey.

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

**RESOLVED  
30453**

That Cllrs P Cunnington, N Fox, M Gee, S Gurney, T Lack, D Lee, A Mather, K Malvern and I Shepherd-Dubey be appointed to the Committee.

**CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR**

Cllr I Shepherd-Dubey nominated Cllr A Mather as Chair of the Finance & Personnel Committee, and Cllr S Gurney, the Deputy Mayor (in Cllr Mather's absence) nominated D Lee as Vice Chair of the Finance & Personnel Committee.

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

**RESOLVED  
30454**

that Cllr A Mather be elected as Chair of the Finance & Personnel Committee for the ensuing year.

It was proposed by Cllr I Shepherd-Dubey and seconded by Cllr S Gurney and it was

**RESOLVED  
30455**

that Cllr D Lee be elected as Vice Chair of the Finance & Personnel Committee for the ensuing year.

Mayor Gee asked for a vote to be taken on Committee Membership, this was unanimous.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Deputy Mayor duly announced that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Finance & Personnel Committee for the ensuing year would be Cllrs A Mather and D Lee respectively, and that members would be

CHAIRMANS INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_



Cllrs P Cunnington, N Fox, M Gee, S Gurney, T Lack, K Malvern and I Shepherd-Dubey

**(d) CIVIC COMMITTEE**

The Town Clerk announced the following Councillors nominated for Membership of the Civic Committee for the ensuing year. This committee has delegated authority in accordance with Standing Order 18.3d and shall consist of no more than nine members;

Cllrs J Ainslie, R Bishop-Firth, M Ferrai, D King, T Lack, D Lee, T Lloyd, P Lucey and K Malvern.

It was proposed by Cllr T Lloyd and seconded by Cllr P Lucey and it was

**RESOLVED  
30456**

that Cllrs J Ainslie, R Bishop-Firth, M Ferrai, D King, T Lack, D Lee, T Lloyd, P Lucey and K Malvern be appointed to the Committee.

**CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR**

Cllr T Lloyd nominated Cllr D Lee as Chair of the Civic Committee who then in turn nominated R Bishop Firth as Vice Chair of the Civic Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr T Lloyd and seconded by Cllr P Lucey and it was

**RESOLVED  
30457**

that Cllr D Lee be elected as Chair of the Civic Committee for the ensuing year.

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

**RESOLVED  
30458**

that Cllr R Bishop Firth be elected as Vice Chair of the Civic Committee for the ensuing year.

Cllr Gurney asked if there was a reason why Cllr King had only attended one Civic meeting in the previous year, the Town Clerk replied it was for health reasons.

Mayor Gee asked for a vote to be taken on Committee Membership, 15 Cllrs were in favour and 1 Cllr abstained.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

Mayor Gee duly announced that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Civic Committee for the ensuing year would be Cllrs D Lee and R Bishop- Firth respectively, and that members would be Cllrs J Ainslie, M Ferrai, D King, T Lack, T Lloyd, P Lucey and K Malvern.

**(e) ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE**

The Town Clerk announced the following Councillors nominated for Membership of the Arts & Culture Committee for the ensuing year. This committee has delegated authority in accordance with Standing Order 18.3e and shall consist of no more than nine members;

Cllrs J Ainslie, E Bishop, P Cunnington, M Fumagalli, S Gurney, P Hornsby, T Lloyd, and M Malvern and A Tebboth.

CHAIRMANS INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_



It was proposed by Cllr P Hornsby and seconded by Cllr E Bishop and it was

**RESOLVED  
30459**

that Cllrs J Ainslie, E Bishop, P Cunnington, M Fumagalli, S Gurney, P Hornsby, T Lloyd, and M Malvern and A Tebboth be appointed to the Committee.

**CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR**

Cllr P Hornsby nominated Cllr S Gurney as Chair of the Arts & Culture Committee who then in turn nominated A Tebboth as Vice Chair of the Civic Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr P Hornsby and seconded by Cllr E Bishop and it was

**RESOLVED  
30560**

that Cllr S Gurney be elected as Chair of the Arts & Culture Committee for the ensuing year.

It was proposed by Cllr P Hornsby and seconded by Cllr E Bishop and it was

**RESOLVED  
30561**

that Cllr A Tebboth be elected as Vice Chair of the Arts & Culture Committee for the ensuing year.

Mayor Gee asked for a vote to be taken on Committee Membership, this was unanimous.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Deputy Mayor duly announced that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Arts & Culture Committee for the ensuing year would be Cllrs S Gurney and A Tebboth respectively, and that members would be J Ainslie, E Bishop, P Cunnington, M Fumagalli, P Hornsby, T Lloyd, and M Malvern.

**EMERGENCY COMMITTEE (Agenda item 17)**

The Town Clerk gave background into why the Emergency Committee may be required to be called and will be constituted in accordance with Standing Order 24.

**MAYORAL SELECTION COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 18)**

It was confirmed that the Mayoral Selection Committee for 2022/23 will be in accordance with Standing Order 23.

**STRATEGY WORKING PARTY (Agenda Item 19)**

Cllr Lack announced the following Councillors nominated for Membership of the Strategy Working Party for the ensuing year.

**RESOLVED  
30562**

Cllrs N Fox, S Gurney, D Hinton, T Lack, D Lee, A Mather, A Tebboth and I Shepherd-Dubey

Cllr Lack nominated Cllr I Shepherd-Dubey as Chair of the Strategy Working Party who then in turn nominated S Gurney as Vice Chair of the Strategy Working Party.

It was proposed by Cllr T Lack and seconded by Cllr D Lee and it was

CHAIRMANS INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_



**RESOLVED  
30463**

that the following Councillors constitute the Strategy Working Party for the ensuing year.

Cllrs N Fox, S Gurney, D Hinton, T Lack, D Lee, A Mather, A Tebboth and I Shepherd-Dubey and that Cllr Shepherd-Dubey and Cllr Gurney be Chair and Vice Chair respectively.

Mayor Gee asked for a vote to be taken on Committee Membership, this was unanimous.

**COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES (Agenda Item 20)**

The following representation on outside bodies was confirmed:

- **Emmbrook Village Hall Management Committee** - Cllrs K Malvern/R Bishop-Firth
- **Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAGS)** –
  - **Eventons & Town:** Cllrs A Mather/T Lack/D Hinton
  - **Norreys & Wescott:** Cllr N Fox/P Cunningham/P Lucey
- **Wokingham Borough/Parish Liaison Group** – Cllr A Mather
- **Wokingham & Borough Sports Council** – Cllr D Hinton
- **Armed Forces Champion** – Cllr T Lack
- **Berkshire Association of Local Councils (BALC)** - Cllr D Hinton/S Gurney

**Grant Awards Representation**

- **Wokingham Citizens Advice** – Cllr M Gee
- **Wokingham Winter Carnival Committee** – Cllr M Gee
- **Wokingham Lions (May Fayre)** – Cllr A Tebboth
- **Link Visiting Scheme** – Cllr T Lack
- **Wokingham Job Support** – Cllr R Bishop-Firth
- **All Saints – Space for All** – Cllr D Lee
- **More Arts** – Cllr T Lloyd

Cllr Gurney asked if it would be appropriate to send an alternative to any meeting should the representative not be able to attend as it was noted that some representatives had not attended any meetings. The Town Clerk responded that that was acceptable and to let her know if anyone wished to be noted as an alternative. Mayor Gee asked for a vote to be taken on Council Representation, this was unanimous.

**AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2021/22 (Agenda Item 21)**

Cllr D Lee gave background into the Audit regime.

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

CHAIRMANS INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_



**RESOLVED  
30465**

(a) that the Internal Auditor's reports dated 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022 respectively, for the Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 be received,  
(b) that the review of the effectiveness of internal audit performed by this Council for the year end March 2022 be received and  
(c) that Claire Connell be confirmed as the Internal Auditor for this council for the financial year 2022/2023.

**ANNUAL RETURN 2021/2022 (Agenda Item 22)**

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

(a) that the Financial Statements for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 to include the charity statements for King George V and Leslie Sears playing fields be received and approved.

(b) that the annual return variance review which accompanies the annual return to the Audit Commission be approved.

(c) that the Local Councils Annual Return for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 be approved.

**RESOLVED  
30466**

The Mayor thanked the RFO for all her work to ensure the Council had received such a positive outcome.

**DATA PROTECTION OFFICER (Agenda Item 23)**

It was noted that the Data Protection Officer will remain the same for the municipal year 2022-23, being the Wokingham Borough Monitoring Officer.

Mayor Gee closed the meeting and noted that this would be the Town Clerk's last Annual Meeting

**CHAIRMAN**

CHAIRMANS INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_

