

6th December 2022

Minutes of the proceedings of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Main Hall, Town Hall, Market Place, Wokingham on 6th October 2022 from 7.30pm to 8.20pm.

PRESENT:

Chairman: Cllr M Gee (Mayor)

Cllrs: A Box, R Bishop-Firth, N Campbell-White, P Cunnington, P Dennis, M Ferrai, L Forbes, N Fox, P Hornsby, D King, T Lloyd, S Gurney, D Lee, T Lack, M Malvern, K Malvern, A Mather, I Shepherd-Dubey and A Tebboth.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Jan Nowecki – Town Clerk.

Nicky Harmsworth – RFO

Katy Hughes – Town Clerk Designate

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs: J Ainslie, E Bishop, P Lucey, D Hinton and M Fumagalli.

MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda Item 2)

None were declared.

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

There were no questions raised.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING (Agenda Item 4)

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

**RESOLVED
30549**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Council Meetings held on 18th October 2022 (pages 16620-16624) be received as a true and correct record and that they be signed by the Chair.

A vote was taken and this was unanimous.

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS (Agenda Item 5)

The Mayor's list of engagements dated 17th October 2022 – 27 November 2022 were received and noted.

The Mayor highlighted that:

- Cllr Forbes was standing down from P&T and thanked for her work on the Committee. In view of the training requirements needed for that Committee, a replacement is not being sought but if anyone would like to volunteer, speak to the Town Clerk, The P&T Officer or Cllr Fox.
- 17th December Wokingham Choral Society are holding a family carol concert at the Carnival Hub. The RFO was asked to send a link to Cllrs to support the event.

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- Variety of events attended including the Open Day in the Town Hall, the opening of the bike lockers in Demark Street and visits to the allotment sites.
- A Vigil was held on White Ribbon Day attended by several Cllrs and the ambassadors, Cllr Lee and Gurney.
- The Giving Tree event was also attended which is a great community event.
- The Mayor offered her thanks to David Dunham for his work with the poppy appeal and advised that the total is now standing at £51,365.19.
- Other community events had been attended including the Armistice Day, Remembrance Sunday, Winter Carnival and the switching on of the Christmas lights by the Mini Mayor.
- The Mayor advised that Cllrs couldn't achieve such events for Wokingham without the efforts of our brilliant staff, and offered her thanks to all our staff, for their hard work that makes Wokingham Town such a distinctive and supportive community, and a great place to live.
- She also noted that this is also a poignant meeting as it is the last Full Council for our Town Clerk, Jan Nowecki, who retires at the end of the month and offered her thanks on behalf of the Town Council for her dedicated service. She will be missed and the Mayor invited everyone to join her after the meeting for drinks and nibbles and a chance to reminisce.

FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 6)

Cllr A Mather gave thanks to the Town Clerk, RFO and previous administrations for looking after the finances and leaving the council in a good position. He highlighted that:

- Cllrs had compromised on projects for next year by covering ongoing projects via the precept and other projects via reserves owing to the current increase in inflation. The RFO had been instructed to work to a maximum 7% increase in our precept for 2023-24

Cllr Campbell-White asked if the grant allocation for Wokingham in Need was in addition to the money already agreed for the Garden of Reflection. The Town Clerk advised that it was for a different project at Wokingham Hospital and that they had assured her both projects could be undertaken.

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

**RESOLVED
30550**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Finance & Personnel Grants Committee Meeting held on 25th October 2022 (pages 16625 – 16628) be received and;

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting held on 15th November 2022 (pages 16641 – 16652) be received.

The revenue monitoring which had been presented at the meeting was also received and noted.

A vote was taken and this was unanimous

Cllr P Hornsby joined the meeting.

CHAIRMANS INITIALS _____



AMENITIES COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 7)

Cllr T Lack advised that

- 21 trees had been planted but unfortunately two have been vandalised in King George V park
- Wraps on utility cabinets had now been passed to A&C Committee
- Footpaths in Leslie Sears and King George V completed
- Greenway on Jubilee Avenue had resurfaced and it was noted that WBC wanted to revisit the route crossing Joel Park – meetings are planned with WBC

It was proposed by Cllr T Lack and seconded by Cllr M Malvern and the following was

**RESOLVED
30551**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Amenities Committee Meeting held on 1st November 2022 (pages 16629 to 16632) be received.

A vote was taken and was unanimous.

PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 8)

Cllr N Fox noted the following that had been discussed in the meetings:

- Planning application for Land At Edneys Hill in Wokingham
- Installation of four secure bicycle storage in Wokingham

It was proposed by Cllr Fox and seconded by Cllr P Dennis and the following was

**RESOLVED
30552**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Planning & Transportation Committee Meetings held on 8th November 2022 (page 16633 to 16637) be received.

A vote was taken on these meetings and was unanimous.

ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 9)

Cllr Gurney updated members:

- The creation of the panels at Erftstadt Court have been completed and these are now expected to be in place by the end of the year.
- Changes to the Book Festival with the event no longer being streamed, and the Town Hall only being used on the Sunday.
- Dressing the Christmas Tree had taken place yesterday and had been well attended – Cllr Forbes noted that an event was taking place at St Pauls Church which may have affected attendees.

It was proposed by Cllr S Gurney and seconded by Cllr P Cunnington and the following was

**RESOLVED
30553**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Arts & Culture Committee Meeting held on 14th November 2022 (pages 16638 to 16640) be received.

A vote was taken and this was unanimous.

CIVIC COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 10)

Cllr Bishop-Firth had chaired the meeting and gave a brief overview including

- Reflection on Remembrance and thanks given to the Civic Officer.

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- Mayor's Sunday Church Service and maintaining traditions whilst being mindful that not all Mayors may wish to be personally blessed.
- Approach to giving gifts to retiring Councillors.
- Challenges around King's Coronation just after the election.

It was proposed by Cllr R Bishop-Firth and seconded by Cllr M Ferrai and the following was

**RESOLVED
30554**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Civic Committee Meeting held on 21st November 2022 (pages 16653 to 16656) be received.

A vote was taken and was unanimous.

STRATEGY WORKING PARTY (Agenda Item 11)

Cllr Gurney gave an overview of the meeting held on 23rd November 2022. The Town Clerk was thanked for producing such a comprehensive review of the Strategic Plan 2019-2023.

STANDING ORDERS (Agenda Item 12)

The revised Standing Orders, which were presented at the last Full Council meeting of 18th October 2022, were presented in accordance with Standing Order 38 and have stood adjourned without discussion until this meeting.

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

**RESOLVED
30555**

that the proposed amendments to Standing Orders be received and accepted.

A vote was taken and was unanimous.

EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION (Agenda Item 13)

Representatives' reports were received in relation to the following organisations:

- Borough Parish Liaison Meeting
- Citizens Advice Bureau – Statistics had been provided and Cllr Bishop-Firth advised that the organisation was keen to recruit new volunteers.

COUNCIL YEAR CALENDAR (Agenda Item 14)

The Town Council's Calendar for the Municipal Year May 2023 – April 2024 was received. The Town Clerk drew attention to the Mayoral Selection Meeting which will be held 10th May 2023.

The Mayor closed the meeting and wished Cllrs and Officers a very Happy Christmas.

CHAIR

CHAIRMANS INITIALS _____

