

19th June 2023

Minutes of the proceedings of the **CIVIC COMMITTEE** meeting held on this day in **the Main Hall, Town Hall, Wokingham** from 19:30 to 21:15pm.

PRESENT

Chair: Cllr A Mather (Chair)

Councillors: R Bishop-Firth, P Cunnington, M Gee, A Jones (Vice-Chair), K Malvern, M Lucey.

IN ATTENDANCE

Civic Officer

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies were received from Cllrs A Betteridge and W Dixon.

MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

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

No questions were received.

CIVIC OVERVIEW (Agenda Item 4)

The committee members received the Civic Officer's report which provided an overview of the work of the Civic Officer.

The report noted that the work includes the following and the civic committee may be required to make decisions on matters relating to any of these topics:

- mayoral support
- management of Macebearer/Mayor's Attendant and Honorary members
- mayoral regalia
- civic events and activities.

The Chair asked the Civic Officer to talk this through to help raise their awareness of the work of the committee, for the new members. Members asked a number of questions and had a number of thoughts including the following:

- An emphasis was placed on the importance of WTC being inclusive and continually reaching out to our wider community, in all that WTC does.
- To ask Councillors if they have any useful contacts to share with Officers which might be helpful when sharing information, with key groups in the community, about WTC's work, or to find out if there is anything WTC can do to support them. However, it was recognised that as this spans across the whole of the Council and not just civic, this should be discussed further at the next Strategy working party to ensure WTC is consistent with its approach.

ACTION: Civic Officer

CHAIR'S INITIALS _____



CIVIC COMMITTEE MINUTES (Agenda Item 5)

It was proposed by Cllr Bishop-Firth and seconded by Cllr Malvern and it was

**RESOLVED
30659**

that the Minutes of the Civic Committee meeting held on 20th March 2023 (pages 16706 to 16708), be received as a true and correct record and that they be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

It was proposed by Cllr Bishop-Firth and seconded by Cllr Malvern and it was

**RESOLVED
30660**

that the Minutes of the Civic Committee meeting held on 4th April 2023 (pages 16718 to 16720), be received as a true and correct record and that they be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

MONITORING REPORT (Agenda Item 6)

The Monitoring Report dated 13th June 2023 was received and noted.

- a) **Purchase new badge and ribbon for Mini-Mayor**
Civic Officer to purchase.
- b) **Arrange for mayoral badge of office to be repaired and 2 new links to be added**
Civic Officer to make arrangements.
- c) **To consider the purchase of a new mayoral badge and chain of office at some point in the near future.**
As discussed in previous civic meetings, the committee agreed that in some point in the near future, consideration should be given to purchasing a new Mayoral chain and badge of office. The Civic Officer will explore options and bring to the committee at a future civic meeting.

COMMITTEE'S BUDGET (Agenda Item 7)

A report on the Committee's budget expenditure to 31st May 2023 was received and noted.

MAYOR'S SUNDAY FEEDBACK (Agenda Item 8)

- a) The committee received copies of thank you letters from the Deputy Lieutenant and the High Sheriff.
- b) The chair invited feedback about the day so it can be considered in future planning.

Whilst, previous discussions have taken place at recent civic meetings, members discussed the Civic Church service further. The Civic Officer advised that a civic service was planned as previously agreed, and adjustments were made for the focus of the service to be for the whole of the Council and not personally for the Mayor. Due to 2023 being an election year for WTC, plans had to be made in

CHAIR'S INITIALS _____



advance and unlike the years in between, there was limited time to make any further adjustments. Members discussed the following:

- The church Service was not well attended by the public.
- Some members missed the parade.
- WTC now has a wider mix of faiths and atheists amongst its Councillors, with different views which it needs to take into account.
- Some members felt it might be worth re-considering holding the civic service on a separate day as it was done prior to 2017.
- Some members queried who the service is for.

It was agreed that further discussions should take place at a future civic meeting to determine the best solution going forward. The Chair suggested a meeting with the Civic Officer and Town Clerk to outline a report in preparation for the next discussion.

ACTION: Civic Officer

CEREMONIAL FLAGS REQUEST (Agenda Item 9)

The committee received the Civic Officer's report outlining a request from the Grounds and Bloom Officer to display the ceremonial flags during July for the regional and national RHS Wokingham in Bloom judging days.

**RESOLVED
30661**

It was proposed by Cllr Bishop-Firth and seconded by Cllr Gee and it was that members were in full support for the flags to be displayed.

ACTION: Civic Officer

INFORMATION ITEMS (Agenda Item 10)

It was noted that the Town council's annual newsletter will be distributed to all households within the town boundary from 26 June.

COMMITTEE INFORMATION (Agenda Item 11)

There were no information items.

- a) No information was raised by members.
- b) The Civic Officer asked Councillors to share information about Armed Forces Day, taking place on Saturday 24 June to help raise awareness. The Civic Officer will email Councillors with the details.

CHAIR'S SIGNATURE _____

CHAIR'S INITIALS _____

