

23rd May 2023

Minutes of the proceedings of the adjourned **FIFTIETH ANNUAL MEETING** of **WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL** held this day in the **MAIN HALL, TOWN HALL, WOKINGHAM**, from 7.30pm to 8.28pm.

PRESENT:

Chairman: Cllr S Gurney (Mayor)

Cllrs: B Alvi, A Betteridge, R Bishop-Firth, B Callender, R Comber, S Cornish, P Cunnington, W Dixon, A Domingue, A Fraser, M Fumagalli, M Gee, A Jones, T Lack, M Lucey, K Malvern, M Malvern, A Medhurst, N Nagella, H Richards, I Shepherd-Dubey and D Spencer

IN ATTENDANCE:

Katy Hughes – Town Clerk

Nicky Harmsworth – Responsible Finance Officer (RFO)

Mr Chris Cooke – Mayor's Consort

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 12)

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr A Croy.

MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda Item 13)

There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (Agenda Item 14)

It was proposed by Cllr S Gurney and seconded by Cllr K Malvern and the following was

**RESOLVED
30620**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Council Meeting held on 4th April 2023 (pages 16721 to 16725) be accepted as a true and correct record and that they be signed by the Chair.

A vote was taken and 9 Cllrs were in favour and 3 Cllrs abstained

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

**RESOLVED
30621**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Mayoral Selection Meeting held on 11th May 2023 (page 16737) be accepted as a true and correct record and that they be signed by the Chair.

A vote was taken and this was unanimous

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS (Agenda Item 15)

(a) Cllr I Shepherd Dubey advised that

- Final four Secure Bicycle Storage had been installed at Carnival Hub – Cllr Betteridge asked where feedback could be given on the lockers themselves and the SpokeSafe App – the Mayor advised the P&T Committee should be point of contact.

CHAIR INITIALS _____



- Planning application 230881 – 19/21 Market Place was discussed and Cllr Gee noted that an amendment had now been made to this application with a new consultation end date and requested this be brought back to the next P&T meeting for further discussion.
- Request for the name of Paul Gallagher to be put forward as a proposed road name in the Emmbrook Area of Wokingham
- Cllr K Malvern asked if any update on Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) as he had attended a meeting the previous evening. The Town Clerk advised there had today been a press release from Wokingham Borough Council to note they had been awarded £606,215 from the Department for Transport's Active Travel Fund, which will pay for initial design work on the scheme along the A329 Reading Road.

It was proposed by Cllr I Shepherd Dubey and seconded by Cllr K Malvern and the following was

**RESOLVED
30622**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Planning & Transportation Committee held on 18th April 2023 (pages 16726 to 16730) be received.

A vote was taken and 9 Cllrs voted in favour – the newly elected Cllrs abstained.

(b) Cllr M Gee highlighted that

- The Audit report and Annual Return were shown as a separate agenda item later in the meeting

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

**RESOLVED
30623**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting held on 25th April 2023 (pages 16731- 16735) be received.

A vote was taken and 9 Cllrs voted in favour – the newly elected Cllrs abstained.

(c) Cllr Lack gave the background into why an Extraordinary Amenities Committee meeting was held.

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

**RESOLVED
30624**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Extraordinary Amenities Committee Meeting held on 3rd May 2023 (page 16736) be received.

A vote was taken and 9 Cllrs voted in favour – the newly elected Cllrs abstained.

**MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS
(Agenda Item 16)**

The Mayor welcomed everyone back to the adjourned 50th meeting and wanted to thank everyone for attending Sunday's meeting and supporting her appointment as Mayor and she felt truly honored.

CHAIR INITIALS _____



The Mayor advised that whilst the Town Council might not do the heavy lifting of WBC such as welfare, schools, roads and waste she felt WTC was very important as we really do serve the residents and make lives better. The past month's events that Cllr Gee, as the previous Mayor had attended, showed the breadth of the Community served and she was pleased to attend some of them too as Deputy Mayor. Mayor Gurney then gave thanks again to Cllr Gee and her husband Chris for the previous year and hoped that she could live up to work they had achieved and was very much looking forward to what this year will bring. In her term of Office, she wants to foster a sense of belonging and community, there were lots of new faces and was keen to get to know each other and become one Council.

The Mayor reminded Cllrs that it was the Fun Day this weekend and thanked those that had already volunteered but advised more were always welcome and that it was a great way to meet Residents and collect feedback. The Party in the Park is the following Saturday and whilst volunteers not needed again it would be great for Councillors to attend especially A&C Committee members to understand about the events.

The Mayor then requested those that had not completed their Pecuniary Interests to do so as soon as possible and pass information to the Town Clerk. For those Cllrs who were continuing in post could they advise the Town Clerk that their interests were still current.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OR PUBLIC (Agenda Item 17)

No questions had been received.

ATTENDANCE REGISTER (Agenda Item 18)

The Attendance Chart extracted from the Attendance Register of Members at Council and Committee meetings for the past year was received.

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (Agenda Item 19)

It was proposed by Cllr Fumagalli and seconded by Cllr Domingue and it was

**RESOLVED
30625**

that Cllr M Gee be appointed leader of the Council for the Municipal Year 2023-24.

A vote was taken and this was unanimous.

STANDING COMMITTEES – MEMBERSHIP (Agenda Item 20)

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

CHAIR INITIALS _____



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;

Cllr Lack, Cllr M Malvern, Cllr Fraser, Cllr Cornish, Cllr Bishop-Firth, Cllr Richards, Cllr Fumagalli, Cllr Nagella and Cllr Medhurst

It was proposed by Cllr T Lack and seconded by Cllr M Malvern and it was

**RESOLVED
30626**

that Cllrs Lack, Cllr M Malvern, Cllr Fraser, Cllr Cornish, Cllr Bishop-Firth, Cllr Richards, Cllr Fumagalli, Cllr Nagella and Cllr Medhurst be appointed to the Amenities Committee.

A vote was taken and this was unanimous.

CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR

Cllr Bishop-Firth nominated Cllr Lack as Chair of the Amenities Committee. Cllr Richards nominated Cllr M Malvern as Vice Chair of the Amenities Committee

It was proposed by Cllr Bishop Firth and seconded by Cllr Fraser and it was

**RESOLVED
30627**

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

The Town Clerk asked for a vote to be taken which was unanimous.

It was proposed by Cllr Richards and seconded by Cllr Fumagalli and it was

**RESOLVED
30628**

that Cllr M Malvern be elected as Vice Chair of the Amenities Committee for the ensuing year.

The Town Clerk asked for a vote to be taken which was unanimous.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mayor Gurney duly announced that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Amenities Committee for the ensuing year would be Cllrs T Lack and M Malvern respectively, and that members would be Cllr Fraser, Cllr Cornish, Cllr Bishop-Firth, Cllr Richards, Cllr Fumagalli, Cllr Nagella and Cllr Medhurst.

(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;

Cllr Shepherd-Dubey, Cllr Nagella, Cllr Betteridge, Cllr K Malvern, Cllr Dixon Cllr Alvi, Cllr Spencer, Cllr Croy, one vacancy had not been filled and Cllr Lack offered to occupy this seat.

CHAIR INITIALS _____



**RESOLVED
30629**

It was proposed by Cllr Shepherd-Dubey and seconded by Cllr Nagella and it was that Cllr Shepherd-Dubey, Cllr Nagella, Cllr Betteridge, Cllr K Malvern, Cllr Dixon, Cllr Alvi, Cllr Spencer, Cllr Croy and Cllr Lack be appointed to the Committee.

The Mayor asked for a vote to be taken on Committee Membership, all Cllrs were in favour.

CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR

Cllr Betteridge nominated Cllr Shepherd-Dubey as Chair of the Planning and Transportation Committee, Cllr K Malvern nominated Cllr Nagella as Vice Chair of the Planning and Transportation Committee.

**RESOLVED
30630**

It was proposed by Cllr Betteridge and seconded by Cllr Dixon and it was

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

The Town Clerk asked for a vote to be taken which was unanimous.

**RESOLVED
30631**

It was proposed by Cllr K Malvern and seconded by Cllr Gee and it was

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mayor Gurney duly announced that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Planning and Transportation Committee for the ensuing year would be Cllrs Shepherd-Dubey and Nagella respectively, and that members would be Cllr Betteridge, Cllr K Malvern, Cllr Dixon, Cllr Alvi, Cllr Spencer, Cllr Croy and Cllr Lack.

(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;

Cllr Gee, Cllr Alvi, Cllr Lack, Cllr Comber, Cllr Richards, Cllr Mather, Cllr Shepherd-Dubey, Cllr Callender and Cllr Lucey.

**RESOLVED
30632**

It was proposed by Cllr Gee and seconded by Cllr Alvi and it was

that Cllr Gee, Cllr Alvi, Cllr Lack, Cllr Comber, Cllr Richards, Cllr Mather, Cllr Shepherd-Dubey, Cllr Callender and Cllr Lucey be appointed to the Committee.

The Mayor asked for a vote to be taken on Committee Membership, all Cllrs were in favour.

CHAIR INITIALS _____



CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR

Cllr Comber nominated Cllr Gee as Chair of the Finance & Personnel Committee, and Cllr Dixon nominated Cllr Alvi as Vice Chair of the Finance & Personnel Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr Comber and seconded by Cllr Dixon and it was

**RESOLVED
30633**

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

The Town Clerk asked for a vote to be taken which was unanimous.

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

**RESOLVED
30634**

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

The Town Clerk asked for a vote to be taken which was unanimous.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mayor Gurney duly announced that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Finance & Personnel Committee for the ensuing year would be Cllr Gee and Cllr Alvi respectively, and that members would be Cllr Lack, Cllr Comber, Cllr Richards, Cllr Mather, Cllr Shepherd-Dubey, Cllr Callender and Cllr Lucey.

(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;

Cllr Mather, Cllr Jones, Cllr Bishop-Firth, Cllr Gee, Cllr K Malvern, Cllr Dixon, Cllr Betteridge, Cllr Cunningham and Cllr Lucey.

It was proposed by Cllr Gee and seconded by Cllr Jones and it was

**RESOLVED
30635**

that Cllr Mather, Cllr Jones, Cllr Bishop-Firth, Cllr Gee, Cllr K Malvern, Cllr Dixon, Cllr Betteridge, Cllr Cunningham and Cllr Lucey be appointed to the Committee.

The Mayor asked for a vote to be taken on Committee Membership, all Cllrs were in favour.

CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR

Cllr Gee nominated Cllr Mather as Chair of the Civic Committee and Cllr Jones as Vice Chair of the Civic Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr Gee and seconded by Cllr Betteridge and it was

**RESOLVED
30636**

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

CHAIR INITIALS _____



The Town Clerk asked for a vote to be taken which was unanimous.

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

**RESOLVED
30637**

that Cllr Jones be elected as Vice Chair of the Civic Committee for the ensuing year.

The Town Clerk asked for a vote to be taken which was unanimous.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mayor Gurney duly announced that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Civic Committee for the ensuing year would be Cllr Mather and Cllr Jones, and that member would be Cllrs Bishop-Firth, Cllr Gee, Cllr K Malvern, Cllr Dixon Cllr Betteridge, Cllr Cunnington and Cllr Lucey.

(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;

Cllr Callender, Cllr Domingue, Cllr Fumagalli, Cllr Fraser, Cllr M Malvern, Cllr Gurney, Cllr Cornish, Cllr Cunnington and Cllr Medhurst.

It was proposed by Cllr Callender and seconded by Cllr Domingue and it was

**RESOLVED
30638**

that Cllr Callender, Cllr Domingue, Cllr Fumagalli, Cllr Fraser, Cllr M Malvern, Cllr Gurney, Cllr Cornish, Cllr Cunnington and Cllr Medhurst be appointed to the Committee.

The Mayor asked for a vote to be taken on Committee Membership, all Cllrs were in favour.

CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR

Cllr Cornish nominated Cllr Callender as Chair of the Arts & Culture Committee. Cllr Fraser nominated Cllr Domingue as Vice Chair of the Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr Cornish and seconded by Cllr Medhurst and it was

**RESOLVED
30639**

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

The Town Clerk asked for a vote to be taken which was unanimous.

It was proposed by Cllr Fraser and seconded by Cllr Cornish and it was

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

The Town Clerk asked for a vote to be taken which was unanimous

CHAIR INITIALS _____



ANNOUNCEMENT

Mayor Gurney duly announced that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Arts & Culture Committee for the ensuing year would be Cllr Callender and Domingue respectively, and that members would be Cllr Fumagalli, Cllr Fraser, Cllr M Malvern, Cllr Gurney, Cllr Cornish, Cllr Cunningham and Cllr Medhurst.

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE (Agenda item 21)

The Town Clerk announced the following Councillors nominated for Membership of the Emergency Committee for the ensuing year. This committee has delegated authority in accordance with Standing Order 24;

Cllr Comber, Cllr Lack, Cllr Shepherd-Dubey, Cllr Callender, Cllr Gee, Cllr Mather
Cllr Croy, Cllr Betteridge and Cllr Richards

It was proposed by Cllr Gee and seconded by Cllr Shepherd- Dubey and it was

**RESOLVED
30640**

that Cllr Comber, Cllr Lack, Cllr Shepherd-Dubey, Cllr Callender, Cllr Gee, Cllr Mather, Cllr Croy, Cllr Betteridge and Cllr Richards be appointed to the Committee.

The Mayor asked for a vote to be taken on Committee Membership, all Cllrs were in favour.

MAYORAL SELECTION COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 22)

It was confirmed that the Mayoral Selection Committee for 2024/25 will be in accordance with Standing Order 23.

STRATEGY WORKING PARTY (Agenda Item 23)

The Town Clerk announced the following Councillors nominated for Membership of the Strategy Working Party for the ensuing year;

Cllr Gurney, Cllr Gee, Cllr Shepherd-Dubey, Cllr Domingue, Cllr Croy, Cllr Jones
and Cllr Spencer

It was proposed by Cllr Domingue and seconded by Cllr Jones and it was

**RESOLVED
30641**

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

Cllr Gurney, Cllr Gee, Cllr Shepherd-Dubey, Cllr Domingue, Cllr Croy, Cllr Jones
and Cllr Spencer

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

CHAIR INITIALS _____



COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES (Agenda Item 24)

The following representation on outside bodies was confirmed:

Emmbrook Village Hall Management Committee (2)	Cllr K Malvern, Cllr Alvi
Evendons and Town NAG -	Cllr Gurney, Cllr Dixon
Norreys and Wescott NAG	Cllr Nagella
Wokingham Borough/Parish Liaison Forum	Cllr Domingue
Wokingham & Borough Sports Council	Cllr Nagella
Armed Forces Champion	Cllr Jones
Berkshire Association of Local Councils (BALC)	Cllr Gee, Cllr Gurney
White Ribbon Campaign	Cllr Fumagalli, Cllr Gee, Cllr Jones
Wokingham Citizens Advice	Cllr Comber
Wokingham Lions (May Fayre & Winter Carnival)	Cllr Jones, Cllr Nagella
Wokingham Job Support	Cllr Cornish
Morearts	Cllr Medhurst
Wokingham In Need	Cllr Richards

GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE (Agenda Item 25)

The Town Clerk's report 10/2023 dated 9th May 2023 was received.

It was proposed by Cllr Lack and seconded by Cllr Nagella and the following was

**RESOLVED
30642**

that Wokingham Town Council continues to maintain itself as a council with the General Power of Competence until May 2027.

CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE (Agenda item 26)

It was proposed by Cllr Richards and seconded by Cllr Callender and the following was

**RESOLVED
30643**

that Wokingham Town Council members agree to abide by the spirit of the Civility and Respect pledge.

It was proposed by Cllr Bishop Firth and seconded by Cllr Medhurst and the following was

**RESOLVED
30644**

that the Town Clerk be authorised to sign up to the pledge on behalf of Wokingham Town Council.

AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022/2023 (Agenda Item 27)

The Mayor gave a little background into the Audit regime and thanked the RFO for her work during the year.

CHAIR INITIALS _____



**RESOLVED
30645**

It was proposed by Cllr Lack and seconded by Cllr Domingue and the following was

- (a) that the Internal Auditor's reports dated 6th February 2023 and 17th April 2023 respectively, for the Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2023 be received,
- (b) that the review of the effectiveness of internal audit performed by this Council for the year end March 2023 be received and
- (c) that Claire Connell be confirmed as the Internal Auditor for this council for the financial year 2023/2024.

ANNUAL RETURN 2022/2023 (Agenda Item 28)

**RESOLVED
30646**

It was proposed by Cllr M Gee and seconded by Cllr Shepherd-Dubey and the following was

- (a) that the Financial Statements for the year ending 31st March 2023 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 31st March 2023 be approved.

SEALING OF THE LEASE FOR PICCOLO ARCO (Agenda Item 29)

**RESOLVED
30647**

It was proposed by Cllr Cunningham and seconded by Cllr Spencer and it was

that in accordance with Standing Order 22, the lease document for the renewal of the Piccolo Arco lease on terms approved by the Finance and Personnel Committee (resolutions: 30597 and 30612) be sealed.

DATA PROTECTION OFFICER (Agenda Item 23)

It was noted that the Data Protection Officer will remain the same for the municipal year 2023-24, being the Wokingham Borough Monitoring Officer.

The Mayor thanked everyone and closed the meeting.

CHAIR

CHAIR INITIALS _____

