

# 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Minutes of the proceedings of the **CIVIC COMMITTEE** meeting held on this day in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Wokingham** from 19:31 to 20:28pm.

## **PRESENT**

Chair: Cllr K Malvern (Chair)

Councillors: A Jones (Vice-Chair), A Betteridge, R Bishop-Firth, W Dixon and T Lack.

## **IN ATTENDANCE**

Civic Officer

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

Apologies were received from Cllrs S Gurney and P Cunningham.

## **MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda Item 2)**

Cllr A Jones asked for it to be noted that he is a member of the Wokingham Lions Club and Wokingham Society.

Cllr K Malvern asked for it to be noted he is a member of Wokingham Society.

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

No questions were received.

## **CIVIC COMMITTEE MINUTES (Agenda Item 4)**

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

### **RESOLVED 30979**

that the Minutes of the Civic Committee meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024 (pages 17098 to 17102), be received as a true and correct record and that they be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

It was proposed by Cllr K Malvern and seconded by Cllr W Dixon and it was

### **RESOLVED 30980**

that the Minutes of the Civic Award Selection Committee meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024 (pages 17118 to 17119), be received as a true and correct record and that they be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

## **CIVIC AWARDS EVENT (Agenda Item 5)**

CO shared update with committee:

- Presentation ceremony is arranged for the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025.
- We are expecting around 50 people attending including VIPs plus WTC officials.
- A good field of 14 nominations was received which were then narrowed down to the 9 winners with 8 able to attend. Cllr W Dixon was able to describe the selection process for the rest of Committee. He added that the Wokingham Today awards timing has moved away from our awards which may have helped with the publicity.

CHAIR'S INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_



- Civic will be seeking councillors to act as hosts to the winners and in view of the increase in numbers, will be allocating one councillor to two winners.
- The format will essentially be the same as last year with a citation being read out by one of the winner's sponsors before presenting the award.
- The main change will be the introduction of an interval in the middle to serve the savoury buffet and a mingling session at the end to serve the dessert buffet. This is mainly to facilitate catering logistics.
- Our usual photographer will be present.
- Budget for the Civic Awards has been increased for the additional numbers and increased market costs with new caterer.
- Award trophies are booked in for engraving 14<sup>th</sup> January.
- Very good feedback is being received from the winners and their sponsors with many delighted to be chosen and to have nominated successfully.
- The winners are a good cross-section of volunteering are not mostly from one type of sector.

Cllr W Dixon requested that a winner's summary list be shared with Committee.

**ACTION: Civic Officer**

#### **MONITORING REPORT (Agenda Item 6)**

The Monitoring Report dated 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 was received and noted.

**a) Application of UV film to Town Hall windows to protect its historical items from further damage and preserve for the future.**

Awaiting new date with WBC-CO as last one cancelled in December.

**b) Beating the Bounds Walk**

It was agreed by Committee that this item may now be removed from the report.

**c) Consider opportunities at Remembrance to make the wreath laying ceremony more visible to a wider audience**

CO is currently attempting to set up a meeting of the Working Party in January but due to busy diaries, this likely to slip into early February.

**d) Consider request for a plaque from Wokingham Lions Club**

Depends on outcome of Wreath Laying Working party meeting.

**e) Consider how to make the Remembrance Service more multi-faith**

Cllr R Bishop-Firth will provide CO with contact details of the Equality Forum as a source of community contacts within other faiths.

**ACTION: Civic Officer**

**f) Ten years since REME left Wokingham**

Planning meeting to be scheduled after Civic Awards Ceremony delivered.

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**g) More Arts Christmas Music Event**

An event review meeting is scheduled for 14th January 2025 with More Arts to capture lessons learned for future event planning.

There was discussion and a question raised regarding what will be happening within Civic/WTC to commemorate VE80. It was noted that the actual date will not be a bank holiday. CO to investigate further and report back.

**ACTION: Civic Officer**

**COMMITTEE'S BUDGET (Agenda Item 7)**

A report on the Committee's budget expenditure to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 was received and noted.

CO shared the latest forecast figures which had recently been revised against the figures already used to set the budget for next year. He advised that this latest revision had yielded a net forecast saving of around £1.5k in spite of increased Civic Awards expenditure.

Cllr T Lack raised a question about when the Civic budget (precept) was already set for next year as this forecasting activity took place after that stage at F&P.

**ACTION: Civic Officer**

Cllr R Bishop-Firth asked what is happening with Wokingham Remembers as it has a budget line. It was suggested that it should be on the Monitoring Report. CO to find out and report back to Committee via Monitoring Report.

**ACTION: Civic Officer**

Cllr A Betteridge asked if a variance column may be added to the Budget Report as the figures are not meaningful without this

**ACTION: Civic Officer**

**INFORMATION ITEMS (Agenda Item 8)**

None added.

**COMMITTEE INFORMATION (Agenda Item 9)**

- a) No information was raised by members.
- b) No information was identified for marketing purposes. However, it was advised by the Civic Officer that the Civic Awards Presentation Ceremony details will be released to the press and social media after the event and the process to encourage nominations for next year will begin soon afterwards.
- c) It was noted that the next meeting will be on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

**ACTION: Civic Officer**

**CHAIR'S SIGNATURE**\_\_\_\_\_

CHAIR'S INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_

