

WOOTTON BASSETT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Wootton Bassett Town Council held on Thursday 6th October 2011 at 7.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Station Road, Wootton Bassett.

PRESENT: Councillors: Steve Bucknell, Jon Booth, Susan Doyle, Linda Frost, Owen Gibbs, Paul Heaphy, Sue Hughes, Mike Leighfield, Peter Roberts, Jenny Stratton, Steve Walls, Audrey Wannell, Chris Wannell.

Also in attendance: Wiltshire Councillor Peter Doyle

Officers in Attendance: Johnathan Bourne, Town Clerk, Michelle Temple, Administrative Team Leader, Emily Maiden, Administrative Assistant.

QUESTION TIME

To receive questions from members of the public for a period not exceeding ten minutes.

Mr Nigel Payne has recently opened a business on the High Street. He explained that he has attended the meeting in order to introduce himself, and to thank the Council for all their hard work, especially with the recent media attention. Mr Payne extends his gratitude on behalf of himself and his family.

43. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mary Champion and Ernie Taylor.

44. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

To receive Declarations of Interest in accordance with the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007.

Councillors Steve Bucknell and Mike Leighfield declared an interest in the item in Private Session, and would not therefore take part in the discussion surrounding that issue.

45. WRITTEN REPORTS

Wootton Bassett Police- Inspector Chris Martin was in attendance to present a report from Wootton Bassett Police. The report covered the following points:-

a) Neighbourhood Policing Policy

The current priority remains as reducing anti-social behaviour. In the lead up to Halloween, and with the onset of darker evenings, focusing on anti-social behaviour was deemed appropriate. Bonfire Night, Halloween and late night shopping have previously attracted incidents of anti-social behaviour, and it is hoped that by focusing on the issue, the number of problems can be reduced.

b) Repatriations

Although RAF Brize Norton officially took over responsibility for repatriations on 31st August, the Police have remained extremely busy in the lead up to the Ceremonial Appreciation Event on October 16th 2011.

c) New Telephone Number

The new non-emergency number '101' was introduced on 19th September 2011, to take the place of the old '0845' number.

The new number is far easier to remember, and only costs 15p, regardless of how long the caller is on the line, and whether the call is made from a mobile or a landline.

d) Crime Figures

Inspector Martin explained the table of figures included with his report. The figures shown were the latest available for Wootton Bassett, with new statistics due to be released shortly after the Council meeting of October 6th 2011. The figures compare favourably with figures taken from the same time last year.

e) Changes to Policing in the Wootton Bassett area

Inspector Martin explained that there had been some major changes to the way that policing in Wootton Bassett and the surrounding area is run. The major differences are outlined below:-

- Four 'Response Hubs' have been created, with the 'hub' for Wootton Bassett also including the Swindon area.
- This has meant an increased police presence in Wootton Bassett, with two double-crewed cars servicing the area daily.
- Although in its early stages, the 'hub' model has seen 100% of targets achieved. If the model is shown to be ineffective, then policing will revert back to the previous model. These early indications are clearly very positive however.

A question about the 'Local Resolution' scheme of dispensing justice was asked of the Inspector, specifically, was it effective? Inspector Martin explained that Local Resolutions are a way of bringing people to justice where 'smaller crimes' have been committed. These types of crimes could include breaking of flowerpots in someone's garden. The victim then has the opportunity to agree what the response should be. The resolution to this example could be that the offender mows the victim's lawn as a punishment, or simply pays for the damage caused. Inspector Martin states that Local Resolution is a very popular way of resolving minor issues, both with those involved and the Officers concerned.

Questions were raised over the age groups targeted by Local Resolution, and Inspector Martin explained that, although it was the perfect solution for youths as there is no Criminal Record involved, there seems to be an equal number of adults being put through the system. The most important factor with Local Resolution is that the victim is comfortable with the steps taken to achieve justice.

The Mayor thanked Inspector Martin and his team for all their support and hard work.

Wootton Bassett Town Council Vandalism/Crime Log – Mr Ralph White, Grounds Maintenance Team Leader, submitted a report showing the current cost of vandalism around the various Town Council sites.

Wiltshire Councillors – Written reports were submitted by Wiltshire Councillors Peter Doyle and Bill Roberts. Councillor Doyle conveyed a message of support on behalf of Wiltshire Council in the run up to the Ceremonial Appreciation Event on 16th October 2011.

Member of Parliament – James Gray's report contained information from the Parliamentary Boundary Commission, who are proposing that the Lyneham Parish should not be part of the North Wiltshire constituency, and should instead be added to the Devizes constituency. James Gray feels that this is not suitable for the Parish of Lyneham, as residents of the area naturally look to Wootton Bassett rather than Devizes. For this reason, James Gray is campaigning to keep Lyneham as part of the North Wiltshire constituency.

The Boundary Commission are not only looking to relocate Lyneham to Devizes, but to rename 'North Wiltshire' as 'Chippenham'. James Gray is therefore urging the Town Council and individual Members to write to the Boundary Commission expressing concern at these suggestions.

Members agreed with the MP, and it was therefore **RESOLVED** that the Town Council would write to the Parliamentary Boundary Commission to express the opinion that:-

- a) Lyneham Parish should not be included within the boundaries of the Devizes constituency.
- b) The name 'Chippenham' does not accurately cover the area of North Wiltshire, and is therefore inappropriate for use as a constituency name.

Members were urged to visit the Boundary Commission website, and to encourage others to do so to register their views.

46. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED to confirm and sign Minutes of meetings of the Council held on Thursday 14th July 2011 (WBTC/3/2011-2012) and Thursday 22nd September 2011 (WBTC/4/2011-2012). Copies previously circulated.

47. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor advised Members of the following:-

- a) Councillor Bill Roberts has formally resigned from Wootton Bassett Town Council. He remains as a Unitary Councillor for Wootton Bassett.

RESOLVED to write to Bill Roberts, thanking him for his service on the Town Council over the years.

- b) The Mayor reported on visits to the local Brownies and Guide Associations, which he described as 'fantastic'.
- c) The Mayor also reported on two ceremonies, the Sunset Ceremony marking the end of repatriations through Wootton Bassett, and the Mayor's Civic Service. The Mayor described the Sunset Ceremony as 'wonderful and moving', and thanked all those who took the time to attend the Civic Service. The Mayor extended a thank you to the Town Council staff for organising these events.
- d) The Mayor thanked everyone for their ongoing support at such a busy time in the lead up to the Ceremonial Appreciation Event.

The Deputy Mayor notified Members of several visits he has made on behalf of the Mayor. These included attending Ashgrove House to celebrate the 100th birthday of one of the residents, and the Civic Service in Chippenham.

48. TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS

There were no questions either with or without notice received under Standing Orders.

49. PLANNING COMMITTEE

Report on meetings of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 2nd August 2011 and Thursday 25th August 2011. Owen Gibbs informed the Council that the last meeting of the Planning Committee was not

quorum.

RESOLVED to adopt the reports.

50. AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Report on a meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 8th September 2011.

RESOLVED to adopt the report.

51. REVENUE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Report on a meeting of the Revenue and Resources Committee held on Thursday 22nd September.

RESOLVED to adopt the report.

52. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

Wiltshire Council is setting up a 'front runner' Neighbourhood Planning Project in the Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Community Area, as part of the new Localism Bill. It was decided at a previous meeting of the Area Board to progress the Neighbourhood Planning Project in collaboration with spatial planning officers. The Neighbourhood Planning Forum would replace the Rural Buffer Zone Task Group.

Wiltshire Council wishes to appoint representatives to the Neighbourhood Planning Forum from each Town and Parish Council in the Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Community Area.

Wiltshire Council is requesting that an official representative be appointed by the Council. Councillor Bucknell has already volunteered his services.

The Council was asked to decide who it wished to appoint.

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Steve Bucknell as the Council's representative on the Neighbourhood Planning Forum.

Further RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Chris Wannell as deputy to Councillor Bucknell.

The Mayor extended his thanks to Councillor Steve Bucknell for offering his services to the Neighbourhood Planning project. Councillor Bucknell asked Members to email him if they had any issues related to Neighbourhood Planning.

53. PRESS RELEASES

The Council was asked whether it would like to issue any Press Releases in respect of the Committee Agenda items.

RESOLVED to issue Press Releases on the following:-

- Neighbourhood Planning – it was felt that it may be beneficial to issue a Press Release explaining what the Neighbourhood Planning project is and how it is an important issue for residents of Wootton Bassett.

54. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED that members of the public and press be requested to leave the meeting to allow discussion of the establishment, property and finance matters as it is considered that the publicity would be prejudicial by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.