

RWBTC/5/2015-2016

1st October 2015

ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council held on Thursday 1st October 2015 at 7.30pm in the Committee Room at Royal Wootton Bassett Rugby Club, Ballards Ash, Royal Wootton Bassett.

PRESENT: Councillors: Mary Champion (late), Mike Farrow, Ian Ferries, Linda Frost, Paul Heaphy, Sue Hughes, Mike Leighfield, Michael Page, Marion Sweet, Audrey Wannell, Chris Wannell, John Wilks (late).

Officers in Attendance: Johnathan Bourne, Town Clerk and Michelle Temple Administrative Services Manager, Emily Maiden, Committee Clerk and Administrative Officer.

48. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sue Doyle and Steve Bucknell.

49. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive Declarations of Interest in accordance with sections 10 and 12 of Wiltshire Council's Members Code of Conduct, as adopted by Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council at a meeting held on Thursday 12th July 2012.

RESOLVED to note that no Declarations were made.

50. JAMES GRAY MP

James Gray MP was in attendance at the meeting to speak to the Town Council about his work as a Member of Parliament for the North Wiltshire constituency. Mr Gray thanked the Council for the hard work undertaken on behalf of the residents of the town, and updated Members on the following subjects: -

- Planning – The Town Council and residents alike must be aware that the potential still exists for Royal Wootton Bassett to eventually join up with Swindon through new development, which Mr Gray feels would ‘significantly’ change the nature of the town.
- Transport – Royal Wootton Bassett is strategically linked to the rail network and new projects to upgrade the railways such as Crossrail which can be accessed via Reading. Members raised concerns over the new bridges that will be installed at Skew Bridges and Marlborough Road as part of the electrification of the Great Western line; Mr Gray suggested that any concerns be addressed to him in writing so that the appropriate assistance could be provided.
- Lyneham – The training centre will not now be a tri-service centre as originally proposed, however the use of the facility by the Army will be an asset to the local area and economy.

51. PARTY IN THE PARK 2016

Councillor Mary Champion joined the meeting, 7.48pm.

The Committee received a presentation from Tim Swinburn on a proposal to hold a Party in the Park event in Royal Wootton Bassett for 2016. Outline programme and budget previously circulated.

RESOLVED to: -

- Encourage Mr Swinburn to continue with his plans, involving the Carnival Committee. The Carnival Committee can then bring the plans to a meeting of the Full Council once the ideas have been consolidated.
- Contact the Town Council’s solicitors to identify any legal aspects that might affect the proposal.

52. WRITTEN REPORTS

The Council received a written report from Wiltshire Police, which provided an update on the work of the local Neighbourhood Policing Team since the previous meeting. It was noted that Councillors would like to see the reinstatement of the numerical portrayal of crime trends for the area.

Councillor Mike Leighfield gave a verbal update on the Area Board and expressed disappointment at the situation regarding the Campus. There will be a meeting of the Shadow Community Operations Board (SCOB) in the coming weeks to further discuss the Campus proposals and the future of the SCOB. Councillor Leighfield will provide an update on this matter at a future meeting of the Town Council.

RESOLVED to note the reports.

53. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED to confirm and sign minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Thursday 20th August 2015 [RWBTC/4/15-16]. Copy previously circulated.

54. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor gave a brief update on recent events that he has attended, including the Noremarsh School Fun Run.

55. TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS

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

56. PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED to adopt the report on meetings of the Planning Committee held on Thursday 16th July 2015 (P/2/15-16) and Thursday 10th September 2015 (P/3/15-16). Copies previously circulated.

57. AMENITIES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED to adopt a report on a meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 10th September 2015 (A/3/15-16). Copies previously circulated.

58. REVENUE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED to adopt a report on a meeting of the Revenue and Resources Committee held on Thursday 24th September 2015 (R&R/3/15-15). Copy to follow.

59. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

The Council received a verbal update from the Chairman Councillor Mike Leighfield on the recent Neighbourhood Planning Forum event held on Saturday 5th September 2015. It was noted that the event was successful, with over 200 residents attending on the day. In response to comments received at the event, the deadline for the consultation was extended and leaflets asking for residents' responses have been circulated to every household in the town. Following this, a further 200 people filled out the questionnaire online.

60. EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2014-2015

RESOLVED to note the External Audit report for the 2014-2015 financial year, copy previously circulated.

61. TOWN TEAM

The Council received a verbal update from the Chairman Councillor John Wilks on the activities of the Town Team, including the refurbishment of the sign cabinet outside of Sainsburys in Borough Fields. The Town Team is awaiting a redesigned map to be placed in the cabinet. Councillor Wilks thanked every member of the Town Team for all their hard work towards the signage project.

62. CASUAL VACANCY

The Council was advised that Councillor Jai Cunningham will no longer serve as a member of the Council for the East Ward of Royal Wootton Bassett. The position has been advertised in accordance with the Representation of the People Act 1985 s21. No election has been sought; therefore the Electoral Services Officer has advised that the position be filled by co-option

The Council was asked to fill the Casual Vacancy by co-option.

RESOLVED to postpone this item until the Full Council meeting of 10th December 2015.

63. 'FLY A FLAG FOR THE COMMONWEALTH' 2016

The Town Council has received correspondence from the National Association of Local Councils regarding the success of the 'Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth' day, which took place on 9th March 2015. The Town Council has been invited to take part in the 2016 event, which will take place on 14th March 2016. The Town Council is already in possession of the Commonwealth Flag and guide to participants and is therefore not required to order any resources for future Commonwealth ceremonies. The theme of the 2016 event will be 'Youth of the Commonwealth' which provides an opportunity for the involvement of the local schools.

RESOLVED to take part in the event for 2016 and to seek to engage with the local schools. The Town Council representatives and governors to be asked to liaise with the schools over this project in order to establish how they might become involved.

64. COMMUNICATIONS

The Council was asked whether it wished to issue any press releases or other communications in respect of the Committee agenda items.

RESOLVED to: -

- Thank Naomi Coleman, Linda Frost and the Office and Grounds Maintenance Teams for the hard work that was put in to secure the Silver Gilt at South West in Bloom 2015.
- Remind residents of how they can fill out the Neighbourhood Plan survey and encourage them to do so.

65. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Council is asked 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 the publicity would be prejudicial by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.