

ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council held on Thursday 10th December 2015 at 7.30pm at Manor House, Lime Kiln, Royal Wootton Bassett.

PRESENT: Councillors: Steve Bucknell, Mary Champion, Mike Farrow, Ian Ferries, Janet Georgiou, Paul Heaphy, Sue Hughes, Mike Leighfield, Marion Sweet, Audrey Wannell, Chris Wannell, John Wilks (late).

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

67. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sue Doyle, Linda Frost and Michael Page.

68. 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.

69. WRITTEN REPORTS

The Council received written reports from Wiltshire Police, James Gray MP and Councillor Mollie Groom.

Councillor Steve Bucknell proposed and it was accepted that the council pass on its thoughts to the police who dealt with the incident on the A3102.

Wiltshire Councillor Chris Hurst gave a verbal update.

Johnathan Bourne gave a verbal update on the latest Area Board.

Councillor Steve Bucknell proposed and it was accepted that the council pass on our congratulations to Wiltshire Council Highways, who are now working on footpaths, which have required attention for sometime.

Councillor Mike Leighfield advised that the Parochial Charity will be paying out small dividends from the Church Croft on Saturday 12th December 10.00am – Noon.

RESOLVED to note the reports.

70. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED to confirm and sign minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Thursday 1st October 2015 [RWBTC/5/15-16]. Copy previously circulated.

71. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor gave a brief update on recent events that he has attended.

72. TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS

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

73. PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED to adopt the reports on meetings of the Planning Committee held on Thursday 5th November 2015 (P/4/15-16) and Thursday 26th November 2015 (P/5/15-16). Copies previously circulated.

Councillor Sweet raised a concern regarding the steel enforcement bars recently put up in Superdrug. The Council have not seen a planning application.

RESOLVED to contact Wiltshire Planning Department asking if a planning application was drawn up.

74. AMENITIES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED to adopt a report on a meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 5th November 2015 (A/4/15-16). Copies previously circulated.

Councillor Bucknell advised that the website are advertising “Clean for the Queen” in April 2016 to celebrate the Queens 90th Birthday.

RESOLVED to add an item to the Amenities agenda in January 2016.

75. REVENUE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED to adopt a report on a meeting of the Revenue and Resources Committee held on Thursday 26th November 2015 (R&R/4/15-15). Copy previously circulated.

76. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

Councillor Mike Leighfield gave a brief update advising that the next meeting would be held in January 2016.

77. PARTY IN THE PARK 2016

At the Council meeting held on 1st October 2015, Mr Tim Swinburn presented a proposal to hold a Party in the Park event in Royal Wootton Bassett for 2016. Following the presentation it was resolved to contact the Town Council's solicitors to identify any legal aspects that might affect the proposal.

The Council's solicitors have considered the proposal and location suggested by Mr Swinburn, and communicated the findings to the Town Clerk, copy previously circulated.

The Council's instructions were sought.

RESOLVED on the advise from the Councils solicitor, to regretfully refuse the application.

Further RESOLVED to: -

- Contact Wiltshire Council asking for a full report about the future of a country park, which was promised to the town from Wainhomes.

78. WILTSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT

Following a meeting of the Revenue and Resources Committee held on 18th June 2015, Wiltshire Councillor Allison Bucknell was invited to attend a meeting of the full Council on 16th July 2015 to discuss Wiltshire Council service provision in light of an increase in complaints received by Town Council Officers regarding Wiltshire Council duties and responsibilities.

At both meetings, Members expressed an interest in seeing the extent of complaints received, and which areas of service provision were the most affected. A comprehensive report detailing complaints received in relation to Wiltshire Council matters over a twelve-month period from June 2014 onwards has been compiled, copy to follow. Members will have the opportunity to review the report and submit any question to the

Office staff before it is discussed at the Town Council meeting in February 2016.

The Council is asked to note the above.

RESOLVED to issue the report to all members before Christmas and discuss at the next meeting on 25th February 2016.

79. CASUAL VACANCY

The Council was advised that Councillor Jai Cunningham has ceased to be 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: -

- a) Fill the Casual Vacancy by co-option.
- b) Vote the new Member into the following positions, held by the previous incumbent– Amenities Committee, Events Working Party, Appeals Panel, Communications Strategy Working Party.

RESOLVED that Mr Steve Watts be co-opted on to the Council.

Further RESOLVED to vote Mr Watts onto the above positions including the Richard Jones Foundation, but not to be included on the Appeals panel of the Council where it was felt his inexperience might create difficulties.

80. ANNUAL ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Councillors are advised that the effect of Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1982 is that if, when considering budgetary items, any Councillor is in arrears for more than two months with his/her Council Tax, he/she must declare that Section 106 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1982 applies and neither speak nor vote on the matter before Council. Failure to observe this renders the Councillor liable for prosecution by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

It is the responsibility of the Town Council to levy a precept on Wiltshire Council to cover its costs for the 2016/2017 financial year. Wiltshire Council is the charging authority and will collect this on behalf of the Town Council.

Although Standing Committees make budgetary bids and the Revenue and Resources assesses these in making its recommendations to Council, it is the Council alone that has the power to levy the precept. The Town Council can only levy its precept once per year and this must be submitted to Wiltshire Council no later than 23rd January 2016.

At the meeting of the Revenue and Resources Committee held on Thursday 26th November 2015, it was recommended that a Precept of £839,469 be levied.

The proposed budget for the setting of the Precept was previously circulated.

It is recommended that the Council formally set the Precept for 2016/2017 as below: -

The charge for a Band D property remains at £189.81, which represents a 0% difference from the previous financial year. Based upon these figures, the total Precept for 2016/17 would be set at £839,469.

The Council was asked to formally set the Precept for 2016/2017.

RESOLVED to set the precept at £839,469. A vote of thanks given for the great work from the council staff, particularly Kalpeh Patel, Council's accountant.

81. 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: -

- Issue a press release regarding the precept
- Issue a press release advising the public of our newly appointed councilor Steve Watts for East Ward.

82. 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.