

RWBTC/7/2015-2016

25th February 2016

ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council held on Thursday 25th February 2016 at 7.30pm at Manor House, Lime Kiln, Royal Wootton Bassett.

PRESENT: Councillors: Steve Bucknell, Mary Champion, Susan Doyle, Mike Farrow, Ian Ferries, Linda Frost, Janet Georgiou, Steve Watts, Paul Heaphy, Sue Hughes, Michael Page, Marion Sweet, John Wilks (late).

Officers in Attendance: Johnathan Bourne, Town Clerk, Emily Maiden, Committee Clerk.

85. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mike Leighfield, Audrey Wannell and Chris Wannell.

86. 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.

87. WRITTEN REPORTS

Wiltshire Councillor Mollie Groom circulated a written report prior to the meeting which was noted.

There were no further reports received.

88. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED to confirm and sign minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Thursday 10th December 2015 [RWBTC/6/15-16]. Copy previously circulated.

89. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reminded Members that his Charity Fun Run is to be held on Sunday 10th April 2016 in aid of Help for Heroes.

90. TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS

No questions were received with or without notice under Standing Orders.

91. PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED to adopt a report on a meeting of the Planning Committee held on Thursday 7th January 2016 (P/7/15-16). Copies previously circulated.

92. AMENITIES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED to adopt a report on a meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 7th January 2016 (A/5/15-16). Copies previously circulated.

93. REVENUE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED to adopt a report on a meeting of the Revenue and Resources Committee held on Thursday 28th January 2016 (R&R/5/15-16). Copies previously circulated.

94. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

The Council was asked to adopt the calendar of meetings for the 2016/2017 Civic year, noting the amended date for the meeting of the Revenue and Resources Committee in September 2016. Copy previously circulated.

RESOLVED to adopt the 2016/17 calendar of meetings.

95. MEETING VENUES

The Council received a report on venues for future meetings. Copy previously circulated.

RESOLVED to:-

- Hold meetings of the full Council at Manor House with immediate effect in compliance with the Local Government Act 1972,
- Hold all meetings of the Planning, Amenities, and Revenue and Resources Committees at Manor House once the one-year contract with the Rugby Club expires at the end of March 2016.

- Continue to use the Town Council's own accommodation at 117 High Street for Working Party meetings wherever possible.
- Enquire as to the availability of the Church Hall for the Annual Town Meeting 2016.

96. BOROUGHFIELDS PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

To receive a report on the progress of discussions between the Town Council and Wiltshire Council on the transfer of Boroughfields public toilets by 1st April 2016. Copy previously circulated.

The Council's instructions were sought.

Noting that it was not a statutory duty of either the Town Council or the Local Authority to provide public toilets, the Council RESOLVED to: -

- Decline the offer from Wiltshire Council for the Town Council to take on responsibility for Boroughfields public conveniences under the current terms and conditions, and remind Wiltshire Council of the Town Council's offer to take over the toilets as part of a package to include the car park.
- Encourage Sainsbury's to take over ownership of Boroughfields toilets.
- Investigate the possibility of installing freestanding temporary toilets either in Boroughfields car park or at other locations around the town – for example, the landscaped area to the rear Sparrow Lane.
- Liaise with the Chamber of Commerce and Business Association to update them on the situation regarding the town toilets.
- Provide a report on this matter to the next Revenue and Resources meeting.

97. SLC RAILWAY

The Council received a verbal update on the progress of the railway station project from Councillor Mike Farrow. Copies of the notes provided by SLC Rail were previously circulated.

Councillor Steve Bucknell updated Members of an additional site identified as a possible location for the station. The site selected is deemed to be suitable due to its proximity to the housing developments and 55 bus route which would make the station accessible to large numbers of residents. Businesses would also benefit due to the location of the proposed station in relation to the Interface Business Park.

The project will be on-going in the long term whilst the Department of Transport and Network Rail become further involved, however positive steps forward are currently being made.

The Council noted the verbal update.

98. COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN

The Council received a report on the Community Resilience Plan, copy previously circulated.

Members considered the report and noted the need to engage the community with volunteering opportunities, which has thus far been the most difficult aspect of drafting the plan. Suggestions were made that requests for volunteers were published in every edition of the Community Magazine, and that a map be produced for use in emergency situations, showing the locations of vital equipment such as defibrillators, to be included as part of the Plan. It was suggested that any similar ideas be forwarded to Administrative Officer Avril Reeves, who has worked hard on the plan and was therefore thanked for this undertaking.

RESOLVED to: -

- Approve the first draft of the Community Resilience Plan
- Adopt the Snow Plan

- Authorise the Town Clerk to have delegated authority to utilise resources of the Town Council, such as staff and vehicles, when dealing with local emergencies.

99. CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN

To celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday in June 2016, there will be a national 'Clean for the Queen' weekend held in March 2016. Several Members have expressed an interest in taking part, information previously circulated.

The Council's instructions were sought.

It was noted that this type of activity would form part of Royal Wootton Bassett's 2016 entry into South West in Bloom. The group responsible for organising the town's entry, now known as Royal Wootton Bassett Community Together, aim to include litter picks and regular clear ups of the town as an on-going activity as opposed to something focuses on one sole weekend.

It was noted that there had been interest in the official Clean for the Queen weekend by a number of Royal Wootton Bassett based voluntary groups, including the Methodist Church, who already hold a regular litter pick throughout the year, and the Hounds running club.

RESOLVED to contact Wiltshire Council to enquire as to the availability of litter picking equipment for the community based groups in the town that wish to participate in the official Clean for the Queen weekend.

100. NOMINATION OF MAYOR ELECT

It is normal practice at the February Council Meeting in a non-election year to nominate a Mayor Elect for the forthcoming year. Election years are excluded as it is not clear whether the Mayor Elect would retain their seat at the May Election, or if the political composition of the Council might change.

The advantage of nominating a Mayor Elect is that it not only allows the incoming Mayor to plan their diary but also provides forewarning for those clubs, groups and organisations wishing to invite the Mayor to attend functions.

It is now the practice of the Council, confirmed in its Standing Orders, that the Deputy Mayor should normally become the Mayor.

The Council was therefore asked to consider nominating the Deputy Mayor Councillor Mary Champion as Mayor Elect for the forthcoming Civic Year. Proposed by Councillor Ian Ferries and seconded by Councillor Sue Doyle and

RESOLVED that Councillor Mary Champion be nominated as Mayor Elect for the forthcoming Civic year.

101. NOMINATION OF DEPUTY MAYOR ELECT

The Council is asked to consider nominating a Deputy Mayor Elect for the forthcoming Civic Year.

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Proposed by Councillor Michael Page and seconded by Councillor Paul Heaphy and

RESOLVED to nominate Councillor Steve Bucknell as Deputy Mayor Elect for the forthcoming Civic year.

102. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Council was 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.

