

MEETING OF THE WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Monday 7 August 2017

At 7pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall

Present:

Councillor B J Churchill (Chairman)

Councillors: A K Beames H B Eaglestone
C Brown A D Harvey
H W Chirgwin C Holliday
P J Dorward L M Price
J Doughty

Officers: Town Clerk Responsible Financial Officer
Democratic Services Officer

Also present: 8 members of the public

390 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for their absence were received from Cllrs Bartington, Enright, King, Morris, Reynolds and Woodward.

391 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest in matters to be discussed at the meeting.

392 **MINUTES**

The Council received and considered the minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2017.

a) **RESOLVED:** to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2017 for signature by the Chairman.

b) **MATTERS ARISING**

Minute 313 – The Town Clerk advised that a faculty had now been granted and that the stonemasons would be starting work to repair the pillars as soon as possible.

393 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mrs Brenda Woods of Edible Garden was given permission by the Chairman to address the Council for 5 minutes. This was not an agenda item and would not set a precedent for future public participation.

394 **WITNEY COMMUNITY POLICING ISSUES**

There were no police in attendance although Cllr Holliday as Chairman of the Community Resilience Group reported that things had been going well in the 3 months since it had been set up. The group was now setting priorities for the police to work on.

A member understood that the Town Council no longer had a seat on the West Oxfordshire Community Safety Partnership. As the largest town in the district which suffered a proportionally larger amount of crime he felt this was not right. He proposed that the Council should write to the Partnership to protest this. Members agreed.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk writes to the West Oxfordshire Community Safety Partnership to protest that Witney no longer had a seat on the group.

395 **MINUTES OF COMMITTEES AND SUB COMMITTEES**

a) PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 11 JULY AND 1 AUGUST 2017

The Vice Chairman of the Committee presented the above minutes to Council and moved their acceptance.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Planning and Development Committee of 11 July and 1 August 2017 as detailed, be received and any recommendations therein approved.

b) ESTATES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 3 JULY 2017

The Chairman of the Committee presented the above minutes to Council and moved their acceptance.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Estates Management Committee of 3 July 2017 as detailed, be received and any recommendations therein approved.

c) SPORTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE – 10 JULY 2017

The Chairman of the Council presented the above minutes to Council in the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee and moved their acceptance.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Sports and Recreation Committee of 10 July 2017 as detailed, be received and any recommendations therein approved with the following amendment:

Minute R330 “humps” be replaced with “traffic calming” and WODC be inserted between “relevant” and “cabinet”.

d) COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 17 JULY 2017

The Chairman of the Committee presented the above minutes to Council and moved their acceptance.

A member asked when further consideration would be given to the position of Edible Gardens. The Chairman replied that the issues were for next year and so there was plenty of time for discussion through the In Bloom Working Party and thereafter the Community Services Committee.

The Town Clerk referred to minute C354 and the proposal that had been made for the blue plaque trail. Officers had done research and discovered that the blue plaques in the town were not “official” ones but had been put up by the Town Council. She also advised that the Heritage

Trail came under the remit of Leisure and Tourism at WODC. It was agreed that the Town Clerk would bring a report on this to the next Community Services Committee meeting. A member added that the blue plaque on the Corn Exchange required updating to reflect recent refurbishment.

RESOLVED:

1. that the minutes of the Community Services Committee of 10 July 2017 as detailed, be received and any recommendations therein approved with Cllr Chirgwin being added to the list of attendees;
2. that the Town Clerk brings a report on blue plaques to the next Community Services Committee meeting.

e) POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 24 JULY 2017

The Chairman of the Council presented the above minutes to Council in the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee and moved their acceptance.

Cllr Harvey referred to minute F362 and put the following motion to Council:

In light of the concerns shown by all members of the Policy and Resources Committee including Cllrs Morris and Dorward, and in light of the fact that the existing rules and regulations for hiring The Leys Recreation Ground are there to protect the residents of Witney as well as the hirers, officers of this council and members of this council it is resolved and agreed that all future hirers of The Leys Recreation Ground abide by the existing rules and regulations and are equally treated to avoid setting precedents.

A member advised that he was now acting as a liaison between the Witney Music Festival and the Council to ensure complications did not arise again. Cllr Harvey explained that his motion was not aimed at any hirer in particular but it was to create a level playing field.

All members voted in favour of the motion which was therefore carried.

RESOLVED:

1. that the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee of 24 July 2017 as detailed, be received and any recommendations therein approved;
2. that that Cllr Harvey's motion be supported and adopted.

f) WORLD WAR ONE WORKING PARTY – 18 JULY 2017

The Chairman of the Committee presented the above minutes to Council and moved their acceptance.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of The World War One Working Party of 18 July 2017 as detailed, be received and any recommendations therein approved with the following amendments:

Minute 9 – "1914" be changed to "1916" and "aerodrome" be changed to "airfield".

g) UNITARY COUNCIL WORKING PARTY – 17 JULY 2017

The Chairman of the Committee presented the above minutes to Council and moved their acceptance.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Unitary Council Working Party of 17 July 2017 as detailed, be received and any recommendations therein approved with the following amendments:

Minute 4 – “Cllr Woodward arrived at 6.05pm” to be changed to “Cllr Woodward arrived at 5.05pm” and “Cllr Beames arrived at 6.27pm” to be changed to “Cllr Beames arrived at 5.27pm”.

Minute 5, sentence 2 to be changed to: Recess was due to start on the Friday after the meeting and it was understood that the opportunity for the plan to proceed under the rapid review process would be lost.

396 **CIVIC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Council received and considered the Mayor’s report of engagements.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

397 **TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING NOTICE OF MOTION TO COUNCIL FROM CLLR EAGLESTONE, AND SUPPORTED BY CLLRS BEAMES, HOLLIDAY AND KING**

Cllr Eaglestone put the following motion to Council:-

“At the Sports and Recreation Committee of Witney Town Council held on 22 May 2017, the following recommendation was made:-

That a feasibility study be commissioned for taking on Raleigh Crescent play area including costings and future maintenance costs, and that this be carried out by Nicole O’Donnell from OPFA.

This was resolved by Council on 26 June 2017.

We, the undersigned Councillors, ask Council to overturn this recommendation (in accordance with Standing Order 23(a)) as West Oxfordshire District Council is holding a substantial amount of S106 funding to refurbish the play area in its entirety which would be of great benefit to the community and with no capital cost to the Town Council. Therefore the resolution for a feasibility study should be rescinded to enable the Town Council to proceed with taking on Raleigh Crescent play area and renewing it with the S106 money.”

A member said that he supported the motion but asked that when the play equipment was chosen, it was as sustainable as possible to minimise future costs as the Town Clerk had advised that there was no commuted sum for future maintenance. The Town Clerk also highlighted the District Council’s legal team informed her that if the Town Council took the

play area on a lease rather than freehold it would be likely that the responsibility for grounds maintenance would not pass over.

A member asked if the motion was supported, would it mean that WODC would pay for a feasibility study. The Town Clerk replied that WODC did not understand why a feasibility study was needed – it would cost money that could be spent on play equipment.

All members agreed to support the motion.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Eaglestone’s motion be supported and adopted, therefore overturning the recommendation of the Sport & Recreation Committee made on 22 May 2017.

398 **WITNEY RADIO – REQUEST FOR GRANT FUNDING AGREEMENT**

The Council received and considered a second letter from Witney Radio asking for grant funding in return for coverage of three events. This had been received as a result of a request from the Policy and Resources Committee.

The Chairman advised that the Council had wanted to know what the money was to pay for. Cllr Holliday volunteered to speak to Witney Radio.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Holliday speaks to Witney Radio about their request for funding and what the money was to be used for.

399 **COMMUNICATION FROM THE LEADER**

There was no communication from the leader.

400 **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence for consideration.

401 **QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

The Leader was not present at the meeting but there were no questions.

402 **SEALING OF DOCUMENTS**

There were no documents for sealing.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm

Chairman