

MEETING OF THE WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Monday 6 August 2018

At 7pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall

Present:

Councillor B J Churchill (Chairman)

Councillors:	C Brown	D S T Enright
	H W Chirgwin	J S King
	P J Dorward	A McMahon
	J M Doughty	T J Morris
	H B Eaglestone	D Temple
		C K Woodward

Officers: Town Clerk
Democratic Services Officer

Others: Sgt Cochrane - Thames Valley Police
3 members of the public

Before the meeting began a minute's silence was held in memory of Suzie Geier, the Cemeteries Officer who had recently passed away.

409 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for their absence were received from Cllrs Bartington, Holliday and Price.

410 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Chirgwin declared an interest in any item relating to West Oxfordshire Community Transport (WOCT) as he was a shareholder and also in any item relating to Volunteer Link Up as he was connected to that organisation. Cllrs Churchill, Enright and King also declared interests in any item relating to WOCT as they were shareholders. Cllr Harvey declared an interest in the Planning Minutes of 26 June as he was the landlord of the building used by MuzoAkademy.

411 **MINUTES**

The Council received and considered the minutes of the Council meeting held on 25 June 2018.

a) **RESOLVED:** to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 9 May for signature by the Chairman with the following amendments:

Cllr Morris to be added to list of attendees and removed as an apology;
Cllr Harvey to be added to list of attendees.

b) **MATTERS ARISING:** there were no matters arising from the minutes.

412 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Committee adjourned in line with Standing Order 42 so that Christina Hopkinson on behalf of the Witney Music Festival could address the Council.

Following her address, the Council reconvened.

413 **AN UPDATE FROM WITNEY OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Doughty

Cllr Doughty reported that the Town Council had held a public meeting about the potential closure of Cogges Medical Practice. She informed members that WODC would be forming a working party and thanked the Communications Officer for putting information on the website and social media. MP Roberts Courts would be speaking to the Secretary of State after the summer recess and Madam Mayor would also be speaking to the MP.

Cllr Eaglestone

Cllr Eaglestone reported that WODC would be putting a “ha ha” around the area recently occupied by travellers on the land at Deer Park.

Cllr Dorward

Cllr Dorward reported that he would be taking the issue of dust created by the Burford Road building site to the Environment Committee. He had abstained from voting on badger culling as he felt it was not a black and white issue. He had also been in touch with Windrush Against Sewage Pollution (WASP) and it looked as though Thames Water were contravening EU law.

He had also raised the issue of introducing a height barrier at West Witney Sports Ground with the Sports and Social Club and they were amenable to this. They did, however, have concerns that travellers could get onto the land via other entrances.

Cllr Enright

Cllr Enright reported that WODC had discussed how to communicate better with residents when travellers set up camp. The transfer of Unterhaching Park to the Town Council was also discussed and this would come with a commuted sum.

Cllr Harvey

Cllr Harvey reported that WODC was trying to set a date for a multi-agency meeting about the results of testing done by the Environment Agency on the river Windrush.

Cllr Morris

Cllr Morris reported that the Local Plan was likely to be back from the Inspector in September. There were also issues papers out for the proposed village at Eynsham and

development west of Eynsham. The parking strategy had been formulated from the results of the parking survey.

414 **MINUTES OF COMMITTEES AND SUB COMMITTEES**

With the express permission of the Chairman, the Policy and Resources Minutes were brought forward so that the members of the public could hear the discussion.

a) **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 23 JULY 2018**

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

Members spent some time discussing the Witney Music Festival's grant application to cover the hire of The Leys which had been turned down by the Committee. Some members favoured giving the whole grant whilst others were in favour of half. The Town Clerk advised that this was a subsidised letting and the budget for the year for events on the Leys Recreation Ground was £2,000.

A member pointed out that The Leys was used by many teams that had charitable status and other events that raised money for charity and they were still charged full fees. Whilst the Music Festival organisers did not make money themselves, other businesses employed by them to run services on the two nights did. There was a commercial side to the venture.

A member formally proposed that the required rental charge should be given be covered by the subsidised lettings budget for The Leys and the balance covered by way of a grant from the discretionary grant budget.

Members voted on this proposal. 7 were in favour, 3 abstained and 2 were against. The proposal was therefore carried.

At this point, being 7.30pm, the members of the public left and Sgt. Cochrane of Thames Valley Police arrived. As Sgt Cochrane was present the committee adjourned their discussion of the Policy and Resources Minutes and Sgt Cochrane gave his report to the Council.

415 **WITNEY COMMUNITY POLICING ISSUES**

The Council welcomed Sgt Cochrane from Thames Valley Police. He gave a general update that crime in the area was up by 7% against 9% nationally.

Current issues were:

- Theft of bags and purses from the elderly
- Bike thefts
- Litter
- Roof running.

A member asked if he could have advice on dogs attacking sheep and Sgt Cochrane explained that P C Ken Cook was the Wildlife Officer for the area and could give advice.

A member complained about bikes on paths especially kids and Sgt Cochrane reiterated that they were trying to educate children.

Another member complained he had had reports of speeding in West End. Sgt Cochrane explained new initiative in conjunction with the Community Action group which would see the introduction of a volunteer run mobile speed camera.

A member explained that a new regular litter pick had been introduced for South Witney and they would be happy to take recommendations for litter picking locations from the police. Another member had spoken to McDonalds about this and had tried to persuade them to widen their litter pick area. She also indicated that there may be drug dealing happening just behind the crossing point adjacent to the Premier Inn/Lidl and Sgt Cochrane confirmed this was on the police's radar.

A member reported that there seemed to be a temporary encampment of Eastern Europeans at the Lake and Country Park. Sgt Cochrane replied that there was a factory on Station Lane that employed mainly Eastern Europeans and he would speak to the manager about this in case there was a connection.

Sgt Cochrane left the meeting at 7.45pm.

416 **MINUTES OF COMMITTEES AND SUB COMMITTEES**

The Committee returned to reviewing the Policy and Resources Minutes of 23 July.

a) **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 23 JULY 2018**

RESOLVED:

1. that the minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee of 23 July 2018 as detailed, be received and any recommendations therein approved;
2. that the required rental charge of £2,700 for the hire of the Leys Recreation Ground for the Witney Music Festival be covered by the subsidised lettings budget for The Leys and the balance covered by way of a grant from the discretionary grant budget.

b) **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 26 JUNE AND 17 JULY 2018**

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

26 June 2018 – Minute P345 – A member recalled that WODC had turned down naming a street in honour of Mary Ellis as she was still alive at the time. Now she had died, he felt the name should be put forward again. Other members advised that they had only offered names for phase one and felt it would be more appropriate to suggest this as a name for a road near to the old aerodrome when asked for names for future phases.

26 June 2018 – application WTC/079/18 – A member said that the Committee should not be prescriptive in stating that a portakabin could only be used as a classroom for 52 weeks when building often ran over. The Chairman replied that in the past portakabins had morphed into permanent structures rather than having classrooms built. The Committee had been mindful of this when commenting.

26 June 2016 – Minute P346 – The Chairman explained the issues surrounding the moving of the bus stop in front of a new development. This would be discussed again at the forthcoming Planning and Development Committee.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Planning and Development Committee of 26 June and 17 July 2018 as detailed, be received and any recommendations therein approved.

b) ESTATES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 2 JULY 2018

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 2 July 2018 as detailed, be received and any recommendations therein approved.

c) SPORTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE – 9 JULY 2018

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

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Sports and Recreation Committee of 9 July 2018 as detailed, be received and any recommendations therein be approved.

d) COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 16 JULY 2018

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

Minute C378 – a member advised that new bus shelter art work had been installed on Oxford Hill but it actually looked more like an advertisement. It was a learning process to discover what worked and what did not.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Community Services Committee of 4 June 2018 as detailed, be received and any recommendations therein approved with Cllr Woodward being removed from the list of apologies.

417 **CIVIC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

418 **OXFORDSHIRE TOGETHER**

The Council received and considered a report on collaborative working with the County Council. The Town Clerk explained that this was the result of a meeting held with County Officers, and Cllrs King and Price to discuss highway matters and how the Town Council could work with the County Council to produce more efficient services. Paul Fermer, the lead officer was happy to come and give a presentation to the Town Council if there was interest.

The Chairman stated that she was unhappy with the level of consultation done with disabled people. All members shared her concern about the newly instated slope adjacent to the new bus stops in Market Square due to its severe angle. It was agreed to write to the County Council expressing this.

RESOLVED:

1. that the report be noted;
2. that a letter be written to the County Council expressing the Town Council's concerns on the angle of the slope adjacent to the new bus stop in Market Square;
3. that Paul Fermer be invited to give a presentation to the Council on collaborative working.

419 **OXFORDSHIRE CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP – DEVELOPING AN OLDER PEOPLE'S STRATEGY FOR OXFORDSHIRE 2019 – 2023**

The Council received and considered a report from the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group on developing an older person's strategy for the County for 2019 – 2023. It was decided that those eligible could complete the consultation if they wished.

RESOLVED: that the consultation be noted.

420 **VANDALISM REPORT**

The Council received and considered the report of the Operations and Estates Officer circulated prior to the meeting. The Town Clerk advised that she had witnessed the vandalism occurring to the roof at the Langdale Hall and there would be a significant cost to repair this. A member asked that it be recorded that the Council frowned upon costs incurred by vandalism.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

421 **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

The Council received and considered a report from the Council's Health and Safety Advisor, Peninsula. A member commented on the situation the Council now found itself in; he proposed that a report on progress should be brought to the next Estates Management Committee and that all of the items should be completed by Christmas.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted and a progress report be brought to the next Estates Management Committee.

422 **GRANT – OXFORDSHIRE PLAY ASSOCIATION – TO PUT ON A PLAY DAY FOR WTC/S WW1 COMMEMORATIONS**

The Council received and considered the report of the Town Clerk which explained in more detail why the OPA had requested a grant of £1,587.50. The Policy and Resources Committee had recommended to give some of the requested grant - £500. Members

agreed that as the money already designated in the WW1 Working Party budget and was to support the WW1 Commemoration, the full grant should be given.

RESOLVED: that the OPA be awarded the full grant of £1,587.50 funded from the WW1 Working Party budget.

423 **COMMUNICATION FROM THE LEADER**

The Leader advised that the MP Robert Courts had suggested the Corn Exchange as an alternate venue to MuzoAkademy in place of the Rock Barn. He had discussed this with them also and they were interested in running the Corn exchange but wanted to see more financial information. The Leader was unsure whether this could be shared.

Members responded that this was not a spur of the moment decision and was something that needed to go through the committee system.

A member added that the Town Council would need to invite others too if the Corn Exchange was to be outsourced. Business plans would also be needed.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

424 **CORRESPONDENCE**

Members had been circulated correspondence from the Leader of WODC introducing Publica.

RESOLVED: that the correspondence be noted.

425 **QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

There were no questions to the Leader of the Council.

426 **SEALING OF DOCUMENTS**

There were no documents to be sealed.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Chairman