

MEETING OF THE WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Monday 8 October 2018

At 7pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall

Present:

Councillor B J Churchill (Chairman)

Councillors: S Bartington D S T Enright
C Brown C Holliday
P J Dorward A McMahon
H B Eaglestone L M Price
D Temple

Officers: Mrs Sharon Groth - Town Clerk
Mrs Nicky Cayley - Democratic Services Officer

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

502 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for their absence were received from Cllrs Chirgwin, Doughty, Harvey, King, Morris and Woodward.

503 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

504 **MINUTES**

The Council received and considered the minutes of the Council meeting held on 6 August 2018 and the Extra Ordinary Council meeting held on 25 September 2018.

a) **RESOLVED:** to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 6 August 2018 and the Extra Ordinary meeting held on 25 September 2018 for signature by the Chairman

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

505 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

Following his address, the Council reconvened.

Cllr Enright arrived at 6.05pm.

506 **WITNEY COMMUNITY POLICING ISSUES**

Sgt Cochrane was in attendance to give an update on policing in Witney. Whilst crime nationally was up by 10%, Witney was up by 3% so it was still a very safe place to be.

Sgt Cochrane then turned to events at Burwell Hall on the previous Saturday evening, during which a 16th Birthday Party had got out of control. Despite the hirers informing the Town Council that there would be 70 guests, over 200 were admitted, with some being charged £3 for entry and had brought in alcohol. This had resulted in Police from both inside and outside the area being called to assist the PCSOs, during which officers had items thrown at them, and were kicked and spat at. Members were appalled and thanked the Police for their work. They had also had to deal with a fight at The Griffin pub on Newland at the same time.

Sgt Cochrane asked if there were any sanctions that the Town Council could take against the organisers as when he had visited the parents they had absolved themselves of all responsibility. Members agreed they would back up the Police as far as possible.

Cllr Holliday raised issues on Madley Park on behalf of one of the members of the public present, including 3 fires and attacks on hall users. If residents spoke out, their cars were vandalised. Sgt Cochrane was aware of this but all the Police could do was to visit the known group of youths who were the perpetrators. They had not been caught in the act.

Discussion returned to Burwell Hall and Sgt Cochrane suggested a public protection order such as the one covering The Leys. Both Councillors and the police agreed that the loss of Youth Services had been detrimental and may contribute to ASB. A member felt that a round table multi agency meeting would be helpful which Sgt. Cochrane agreed with.

Sgt. Cochrane left the meeting at 7.35pm.

507 **WITNEY MUSIC FESTIVAL – TO AGREE A DATE FOR 2019**

It was agreed to take this item next with the express permission of the Chairman so that the members of the public could hear the debate and resolution.

A discussion followed on the merits of giving the Music Festival their preferred date of the second weekend in June due to the impact on the sports pitch renovations.

Cllr Bartington arrived at 7.45pm.

Members voted on a proposal that the Music Festival be given permission to hold their event on 15/16 June 2019 and on the second weekend in June thereafter. 10 members voted in favour and one member abstained.

RESOLVED: that that the Music Festival be given permission to hold their event on 15/16 June 2019 and on the second weekend in June thereafter.

2 members of the public left the meeting at 7.49pm.

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

Cllr Duncan Enright

Cllr Enright informed the Town Council that the WODC Local Plan was now in place. He added that the proposal for a garden village at Barnard Gate would be looked at on 10 December. He also stated that the CCCG were now bidding properly for facilities on new developments.

Cllr Enright added that the former RAF Stanton Harcourt had now been preserved.

Cllr Peter Dorward

Cllr Dorward also referred to the preservation of RAF Stanton Harcourt. He had attended a Water Day at WODC and it seemed the Windrush was in a dire state. It would be 2020 before anything was done about it.

Cllr Suzanne Bartington

Cllr Bartington gave an update from the County Council. This covered the additional borrowing of £120 million to repair roads, a debate called “Fit for the Future” concerning the ageing population and social care and the request for clarification on the Express Way Corridor. Single use plastics had been banned on all OCC premises.

Cllr Laura Price

Cllr Price updated on the new OCC/Cherwell District Council Chief Exec and the appointment of a Winter Director for health and social care. The County Councillors Priority Funds had received a lot of applications.

509 **REPORT BACK FROM COUNCILLORS ON THE WORK WITH EXTERNAL BODIES WHERE THEY SERVE AS THE TOWN COUNCIL’S REPRESENTATIVE**

Cllr Brown sat on the Witney Town Charity and all was going well. He had also just been appointed to the Witney Educational Foundation.

Cllr Eaglestone reported that Witney had hosted the most recent OALC larger Council’s meeting.

Cllr Enright had had the inaugural Friends of the Cemetery meeting which he now hoped would be quarterly. A draft code of conduct for the Cemeteries could be considered at the Estates Management on 5 November.

Cllr Dorward explained that the next West Witney Sports and Social Club meeting would be the following evening. He had also had a visit to St. Mary’s Church and had discussed plants growing out of walls with Rev’d Wright, the walls being the responsibility of the Town Council.

510 **MINUTES OF COMMITTEES AND SUB COMMITTEES**

a) **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 14 AUGUST, 4 SEPTEMBER & 25 SEPTEMBER 2018**

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

21 August, page 2 – Cllr Dorward advised that he would be keeping an eye on proceedings with the Corn Street Development.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Planning and Development Committee of 14 August, 4 September and 25 September 2018 as detailed, be received and any recommendations therein approved.

b) **ESTATES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 3 SEPTEMBER 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 3 September 2018 as detailed, be received and any recommendations therein approved.

c) **SPORTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE – 10 SEPTEMBER 2018**

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

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Sports and Recreation Committee of 10 September 2018 as detailed, be received and any recommendations therein be approved.

d) **COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 17 SEPTEMBER 2018**

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

Minute C473 – a member asked if there was a timescale for the WODC bin audit. The Town Clerk replied that there was not.

Minute C479 – the Leader reported that Cllr Woodward who could not be present at the meeting due to work commitments had asked to stand down as the Chairman of the Christmas Lights Committee. Cllr Brown was nominated in his place and all agreed.

Minute C477 – a member asked when the competition for the Bus Shelter Art would be launched. The Town Clerk replied that she believed it was that week.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Community Services Committee of 17 September 2018 as detailed, be received and any recommendations therein approved.

e) POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 24 SEPTEMBER 2018

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

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee of 24 September 2018 as detailed, be received and any recommendations therein approved.

511 CIVIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

512 VANDALISM REPORT

The Council received and considered an updated list of vandalism circulated prior to the meeting. Unfortunately the vinyl wrap on the bus shelter at Newland had been vandalised and there was graffiti on the inside. The cost would be around £100 to repair.

A member reported that the Perspex on the bus shelter outside the new construction site on Corn Street had been smashed – presumably by the builders.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

513 WEST WITNEY SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB – REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Members received and considered the report of the Town Clerk concerning the West Witney Sports and Social Club's request for financial assistance towards the fire escape staircase already installed.

A member said that the Club were working really hard to turn things around and he was in favour of giving them some financial assistance.

A discussion followed about the safety of the stair case and the proposed improvements to the patio. The Operations and Estates Officer was aware of the situation. Members were in favour of funding the staircase.

A member questioned where the money would come from and the Town Clerk explained that it would come from the capital improvement budget.

Cllr Bartington said that in her role as County Councillor she would welcome an application for funding from her Councillor Priority Fund for any additional funding required.

RESOLVED: that West Witney Sports and Social Club be funded £2,000 from the Capital Improvement Budget for the new staircase. The Club was welcome to come back if it needed further assistance with the patio.

514 CONCLUSION OF AUDIT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

The Councillors received and considered the Conclusion of Audit for the year ended 31 March 2018.

RESOLVED: to note that the Council's External Auditor has completed the review of Section 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for year ended 31 March 2018 and in their opinion the information was in accordance with the Proper Practices.

515 **TO ELECT A TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE TOWN CHARITY**

Further to the resignation of Cllr Holliday from the Town Charity, the Council was asked to elect a new representative. Members proposed and agreed Cllr Andy McMahon.

RESOLVED: that Cllr McMahon be elected as the Town Council's representative for the Town Charity.

516 **COMMUNICATION FROM THE LEADER**

The Leader advised that he had attended a conference that week and had heard the Home Secretary asking local Councils to adopt the official IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance) definition of anti-semitism. He therefore asked if Witney Town Council would adopt it.

Whilst members were happy with the proposal in principle, there were concerns about adopting something that not all members had had the opportunity to read. It was also felt that any adoption should be minuted in full so that it was clear what the Council had adopted.

The Leader said that the full definition would be circulated to all members and it could therefore be considered at the next Full Council meeting.

RESOLVED: that the full IHRA definition of anti-semitism be circulated to all members and that the adoption be considered at the next Full Council meeting.

517 **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence to be considered.

518 **QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

There were no questions to the Leader of the Council.

519 **SEALING OF DOCUMENTS**

There were no documents to be sealed.

The meeting closed at 8.38pm.

Chairman