

MEETING OF THE WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Monday 8 April 2018

At 7pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall

Present:

Councillor B J Churchill (Chairman)

Councillors: A K Beames D S T Enright
C Brown A D Harvey
H W Chirgwin D Temple
H B Eaglestone C K Woodward

Officers: Mrs Sharon Groth - Town Clerk
Mrs Nicky Cayley - Democratic Services Officer
Mr Adam Clapton – Office Manager

Others: 1 member of the public (from 7.05pm)

146 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for their absence were received from Cllrs Bartington, Dorward, Doughty, King, McMahon, Morris and Price.

147 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Woodward declared an interest in the Policy and Resources minute no. F136 – Grant Funding for LibFest as he was the Event Organiser for the group.

148 **MINUTES**

The Council received and considered the minutes of the Council meeting held on 11 February 2019.

a) **RESOLVED:** to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2019 for signature by the Chairman.

b) **MATTERS ARISING:** there were no matters arising to be discussed at the meeting.

149 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public present at this point in the meeting.

150 **WITNEY COMMUNITY POLICING ISSUES**

Whilst the police had been invited to attend, unfortunately they were not present to provide an update on community policing

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

1 member of the public arrived at 7.05pm.

Cllr Enright

Cllr Enright reported that OCC and WODC were working together on a possible reduction in Council Tax for Care Leavers.

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

Cllr Howard Chirgwin

Cllr Chirgwin had attended a meeting of the Town Charity and everything was going well. Volunteer Link up was still struggling for funding although it was grateful to WODC for the recent grant. It would be grateful to receive any help that the Town Council could provide.

Cllr Chris Woodward

Cllr Woodward had been unable to attend the last meeting of the Town Charity. However, he reported that he was working with The Henry Box School on the Henry Box Collection.

153 **MINUTES OF COMMITTEES AND SUB COMMITTEES**

a) **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 26 FEBRUARY & 19 MARCH 2019**

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

Cllr Temple declared an interest in P087-4 and P087-5 as he was an employee.

The Chairman drew members' attention to minute P090 concerning street naming for the West Witney development. New names included Mary Eilis, Alice Batt and Liberty Lane. He was very pleased to see this and hoped that the new Council's Planning Committee would continue to make suitable suggestions.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Planning and Development Committee of 26 February and 19 March 2019 as detailed, be received and any recommendations therein approved.

b) **ESTATES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 4 MARCH 2019**

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

The Chairman referred to minute E096 and asked how much progress had been made with lighting and sound in the Corn Exchange. The Town Clerk replied that the Public Halls officer was obtaining more quotes.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Estates Management Committee of 4 March 2019 as detailed, be received and any recommendations therein approved.

c) **SPORTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE – 11 MARCH 2019**

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

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Sports and Recreation Committee of 11 March 2019 as detailed, be received and any recommendations therein be approved.

d) COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 18 MARCH 2019

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

He asked how what the timescale was for the replacement of the damaged bus shelter. The Town Clerk replied that a cheque had been received from the insurers but a revised quote was required as there would only be one new bus shelter installed rather than two.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Community Services Committee of 18 March 2019 as detailed, be received and any recommendations therein approved.

e) POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 25 MARCH 2019

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

A member referred to minute F136 and asked that the title be changed to “Grant Application from Libfest” as a matter of accuracy.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee of 25 March 2019 as detailed, be received and any recommendations therein approved with the correction of “Music festival” to LibFest in minute F136.

154 **CIVIC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Council received and considered the Mayor’s report of engagements undertaken as circulated with the agenda. She added that in addition to the list, the Deputy Mayor had also attended the Annual Town Meeting, the Flag Raising Ceremony on Commonwealth Day and the Citizen of the Year Awards.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

155 **AGREEMENT OF MAYOR ELECT**

The Leader felt that it would be inappropriate to agree a Mayor Elect as no one knew what might happen at the forthcoming elections. This should wait until the Annual Council in May. All agreed.

RESOLVED: that the Mayor be elected at the first meeting in May.

156 **YOUTH FORUM**

The Council received and considered notes from the Youth Forum held on 22 February 2019.

The Town Clerk advised that the next meeting would be held on 24 April 2019. The forum was chaired by Rod Walker and he was working on getting all stakeholders involved – this included speaking to the two secondary schools. A member asked for thanks to be given to all involved.

RESOLVED: that the notes be noted.

157 **FLYING THE RAINBOW FLAG**

This had been referred to the Council by the Community Services Committee. A member reported that he had been investigating what happened in other parts of the Country and the County and it seemed that generally the flag was flown in February for the LGBTQ+ History month. It wasn't necessarily flown to coincide with local Pride events. However, he felt that a date should be reserved in May to fly it.

Members asked that it be minuted the Mr. Hicks had purchased the flag for the Council.

All members agreed that the flag should be flown on one day in May in line with the Council's flag flying policy to coincide with an event marking Witney Pride, with one member abstaining.

RESOLVED: that the Rainbow Flag be flown for one day in May to coincide with an event marking Witney Pride.

158 **COMMUNICATION FROM THE LEADER**

The Leader informed the Council that he had visited the bus stop in Newland which a resident had complained about at the Annual Town meeting and had agreed that it was impossible to sit on. The perch seat had been removed and a replacement bench had been installed. The resident in question had since used the stop and was now happy with the new seating arrangement.

The Leader thanked his fellow councillors for all of their hard work over the past four-year term and in some cases a longer period. He also thanked the Officers for their work and tenacity. He would like to see re-elected members "buddying up" with newly elected members to show them how the Council worked.

Another member echoed this and thanked in particular those members who would not be seeking re-election.

RESOLVED: that the communication be noted.

159 **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence to be considered.

160 **QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER**

There were no questions to the leader.

161 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED: that in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, and as extended by Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972,

the public, including the press, be excluded from the meeting because of the confidential nature of the following business to be transacted.

162 **URGENT PROPERTY MATTERS**

The Council received and considered confidential advice from the Council's Property Advisor and Solicitor which had been circulated prior to the meeting. A member stated that he felt that advice had been given to protect the Council and it should be taken.

There was a full discussion on the situation and the professional advice given.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk writes to the tenant setting out the Council's concerns detailed in the confidential appendix attached.

163 **SEALING OF DOCUMENTS**

There were no documents to be sealed.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm.

Chairman