

RWBTC/8/2017-2018

22nd February 2018

ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council held on Thursday 22nd February 2018 at 7.30pm at Manor House, Lime Kiln, Royal Wootton Bassett.

PRESENT: Councillors: Robert Anstee, David Bowler, Steve Bucknell (late), Mary Champion, Mike Farrow, Janet Georgiou, Paul Heaphy, Rebecca Hearne, Nic Hughes, Sue Hughes, Caroline Redmond (late), Jenny Stratton, Marion Sweet, Steve Walls and Steve Watts.

Also in Attendance: Wiltshire Councillor Chris Hurst.

Officers in Attendance: Johnathan Bourne, Town Clerk, Michelle Temple, Administrative Services Manager, and Kelly Warren, Administrative Officer and Committee Clerk.

77. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Mike Leighfield.

78. 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 of Interest were received.

79. WRITTEN REPORTS

Written reports were received and circulated at the meeting from the following: -

- James Gray, MP
- Area Board Representatives – Councillors Nic Hughes and Steve Walls.

Councillor Mary Champion spoke and asked that residents be urged to contact their local Wiltshire Councillor with queries rather than going into the Town Council office to report any problems with Wiltshire Council.

80. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED to confirm and sign minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Thursday 14th December 2017 [RWBTC/7/2017-2018]. Copy previously circulated.

81. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

Communications from the Deputy Mayor who was in the Chair –

Councillor Mike Farrow advised that he had been to Bowman House the previous week where they unveiled the new defibrillator and that he was attending the Showmen's Guild Annual Luncheon the following day.

82. TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS

There were no questions received either with or without notice received under Standing Orders.

83. PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED to note the report on a meeting of the Planning Committee held on Thursday 11th January 2018 (P/7/2017-2018) and Thursday 8th February 2018 (P/8/2017-2018) copies previously circulated.

84. AMENITIES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED to note the report on a meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 11th January 2018 (A/5/2017-2018), copy previously circulated.

85. REVENUE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED to note the report on a meeting of the Revenue and Resources Committee held on Thursday 25th January 2018 (R&R/5/2017-2018), copy previously circulated.

86. NOTICES OF MOTION

Three Notices of Motion were discussed in the order that they were received.

a) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Rob Anstee:

Car Parking Fees

We the Council deplore the actions of Wiltshire Council with regards to the car parking fees here in Royal Wootton Bassett most notably the Borough fields car park.

This car park is the main car park for the Market Town which is used by the parishioners for the New Court Doctors Surgery, Cohens Chemists, Sainsburys and local market town shops.

The fees which our Town has to pay to use these facilities is absurd. In effect you're making the elderly, young and infirm pay to be able to go and see a doctor, dentist or chemist. This Market Town is also now going to have to pay for the faithful to attend Church on a Sunday!

Obviously; this Town also uses this car park to be able to spend their hard earned cash within the local Market Town shops. This Council tries exceedingly hard to maintain our ethos as a Market Town. However; the levies which Wiltshire Council force upon our parishioners is ridiculous.

Recently, an application has been submitted for an Aldi off Coped Hall Roundabout which is on the outskirts of the Town. I have no doubt that when this opens they wouldn't impose such a tariff upon is clientele and our Market Town will be the worse for it. This will also reduce the highwayman's tax you currently impose upon us.

You might argue the free 2 hours parking available on the main street. However; I wouldn't wish to risk the dangers of trying to get parked here due to the volume of traffic that descends upon this road as it's a case of "take your life in your own hands" as all traffic coming through this Town has to proceed along this single road. We no longer have the use of the temporary road linking between the 2 railway bridges which could have alleviated the pressure along this main road.

It is formally requested that a vote is taken on the night of the Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council Meeting and if in agreement a formal letter sent to Wiltshire Council".

Councillor Steve Bucknell arrived at 7.46pm.

Councillor Rob Anstee accepted the following as amendments and requested a recorded vote:

- Send a formal letter to Wiltshire Council but for the Town Clerk to re-draft the notice with softened language.
- Emphasise the Sunday parking issues and seek to relaxed enforcement in smaller market towns like Royal Wootton Bassett.

Those for the Motion: - Councillors Rob Anstee, David Bowler, Steve Bucknell, Mike Farrow, Janet Georgiou, Paul Heaphy, Rebecca Hearne, Nic Hughes, Sue Hughes, Caroline Redmond, Jenny Stratton, Marion Sweet, Steve Walls and Steve Watts.

Those against the Motion: - None

Those abstaining from the vote: - Councillor Mary Champion.

b) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Steve Walls:

“Leaving rubbish bags for collection next to the War Memorial is not only unsightly, it creates a bad impression of the town. To stop this continuing, we propose the Town Council contact shops/businesses in the High Street to request that they do not place waste bags next to the War Memorial. Also, strongly request Wiltshire Council to liaise with the contractors to if necessary change the collection point for the relevant waste bags.”

It was RESOLVED to: -

- Check CCTV to see who is leaving the waste bags.
- As landlords of Merchants House; make it clear to tenants and instruct them not to leave the waste bags by the War Memorial.
- Contact Wiltshire Council to see if there is another place where the rubbish can be put before being collected which would be compliant.

c) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Steve Walls:

“The cost of an annual parking permit is currently £240. Subsequent to the recent parking review, Wiltshire Council proposed revised rates of £540 for the Wood Street Car Park and £624 for the Boroughfields car park. Residents of the Wood Street area have submitted a petition concerning this to the Area Board and this was forwarded to the Cabinet member for Highways, Cllr Wayman. These are substantial and unreasonable increases and do not take into account ability to pay.

However, the Cabinet have approved these large increase, though Cllr Wayman has intimated that she could look at ways to help residents.

We propose that the Town Council request Wiltshire Council to look at ways to help residents.”

It was RESOLVED to: -

- Draft a letter to send to Wiltshire Council regarding the residents parking permits and ask if there is anything they can do to soften the increase in costs.

- The Town Clerk to work with Councillor Steve Walls on the drafting of the letter.

87. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

Councillor Caroline Redmond arrived at 8.20pm

The Council was asked to adopt the calendar of meetings for the 2018/2019 Civic year, copy previously circulated.

RESOLVED to adopt all dates with the exception of 25th October 2018 and 1st November 2018 due to it being half term. A revised calendar is to be issued to Members.

88. 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 Mayo 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 Mike Farrow as Mayor Elect for the forthcoming civic year. Proposed by Councillor Steve Bucknell and seconded by Councillor Sue Hughes.

It was RESOLVED that Councillor Mike Farrow be nominated as Mayor Elect for the forthcoming civic year.

89. NOMINATION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

The Council was asked to nominate a Deputy Mayor Elect for the forthcoming civic year.

Councillor Rob Anstee proposed Councillor Steve Watts which was seconded by Councillor Paul Heaphy.

The Council was asked for any other nominations; Councillor Steve Walls proposed Councillor Marion Sweet, seconded by Councillor David Bowler.

After a vote it was RESOLVED to nominate Councillor Steve Watts as Deputy Mayor Elect for the forthcoming civic year.

90. CHILD PROTECTION AND ADULT SAFEGUARDING AND ACCESS AUDIT POLICIES

The Town Council had a request for the above to policies from the Museum Group so they could use the documents as part of a grant application they wish to submit.

The Town Council took the opportunity to review the policies and the Council was asked to adopt these.

It was RESOLVED to: -

- Amend the Child Protection and Adult Safeguarding Policy to include that the Town Council is one of the “safe places”.
- Amend the Access Audit Policy to refer to the Museum Group and not Museum Trust.
- Once the amendments have been made, refer back to the Revenue and Resources committee for approval.
- Review escalation in case of disclosure.
- Review the policies every two years unless where new legislation has come in.

91. LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME

The local council award scheme (LCAS) is a national benchmarking scheme with three levels of benchmarking; foundation, quality and gold. The fee for making the application is £200 and the Council was

asked to authorise submission under the scheme.

If successful, the Town Council will have an understanding how the local authority is performing against other local Councils in the country and if unsuccessful, it will identify areas of improvement.

RESOLVED to authorise the submission.

92. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

On Friday 9th February 2018 Wiltshire Council published the independent examiners report on the Royal Wootton Bassett Neighbourhood Plan together with its own decision notice. Copies previously circulated.

The Council was asked to consider the decision notice and decide whether it wished to adopt the proposed modifications so it can proceed to referendum with an intended date of Thursday 19th April 2018.

RESOLVED to accept the modifications.

The Council also requested that a letter of thanks be sent to Nigel Bailey for his hard work in respect of the Neighbourhood Plan.

93. CIVIC AWARD

At the Revenue and Resources meeting held on Thursday 25th January 2018 it was resolved to make five nominations for Civic Awards. Each of the five people nominated have been approached and acceptances

RESOLVED to confirm the nominations and authorise the Town Clerk to make arrangements for a suitable presentation ceremony in April 2018.

94. COMMUNICATIONS

The Council was asked whether it wishes to issue any Press Releases or other Communications in respect of the Agenda items.

RESOLVED to issue the following communications: -

- The Neighbourhood Plan will proceed to referendum
- Councillor Mike Farrow has been nominated as Mayor – Elect
- Advise the residents that the Town Council is looking into everything to do with the car park charges and are very keen to take on the opportunity of taking over the running of Borough Fields car park.

95. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Council 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.

