

9th July 2024

Minutes of the proceedings of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Main Hall, Town Hall, Market Place, Wokingham on 25th July 2024 from 7.30pm to 8.09pm.

PRESENT:

Chairman: Cllr R Comber (Mayor)
Cllrs: B Alvi, A Betteridge, R Bishop-Firth, B Callender, S Cornish, P Cunnington, A Domingue, A Fraser (from 7.35pm), M Fumagalli, M Gee, S Gurney, C Jamthe, A Jones, T Lack, K Malvern, M Malvern, A Mather, A Medhurst, N Nagella, H Richards and I Shepherd-Dubey.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Katy Hughes – Town Clerk
David Dunham – Mayor's Attendant

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr W Dixon and Cllr L Timlin.

MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMEBRS OF THE COUNCIL OR PUBLIC (Agenda item 3)

There were no questions raised.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (Agenda Item 4)

It was proposed by Cllr T Lack and seconded by Cllr A Domingue and the following was

**RESOLVED
30874**

that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Council Meetings held on 12th and 15th May 2024 (pages 16968 to 16983) be accepted as a true and correct record and that they be signed by the Chair.

A vote was taken, 22 members voted in favour, one member abstained.

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS (Agenda Item 5)

- a) The Mayor presented Cllr S Gurney with a gift of a photobook containing photographs and memories of her mayoral year.

The Mayor noted that all members have received a laminated card with instructions for supporting the council's social media posts. He encouraged members to make use of it.

The Mayor highlighted a number of his recent visits and activities:

- The opening of Monkey Day Nursery
- Langborough Fun Day
- 50th Anniversary event for Wokingham Flower Club
- 50th Anniversary event for Wokingham Lions. The Mayor commended the Lions on what they achieve with a relatively small membership.

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- An event in Windsor Great Park hosted by the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire.
- The Classic Car Show run by Wokingham Lions
- A Wokingham Horticulture Association event
- Mini-Mayors afternoon tea

b) The Mayor's list of engagements since the last council meeting was received.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 6)

Cllr T Lack reported on the meeting of the committee held on 20th May 2024. He reported on the discussion regarding a proposal for a bench in Woosehill which the committee will not progress further based on feedback received from a consultation.

He thanked Cllr A Croy for the work carried out to clean graffiti in the town area.

Cllr T Lack reported that the committee approved plans to develop a community orchard in Viking Field.

He reported on the request from Wokingham Borough Council to fund the resurfacing of the playground on Barkham Recreation Ground, off Latimer Road.

It was proposed by Cllr N Nagella and seconded by Cllr S Cornish and the following was

**RESOLVED
30875**

that the approved Minutes of the proceedings of the Amenities Committee Meetings held on 12th March 2024 (pages 16926 to 16928) and on 20th May (pages 16984 to 16988) be adopted.

A vote was taken and was unanimous.

Cllr M Malvern gave a brief verbal report on the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 2nd July, where the committee discussed items for budget proposals for 2025-26. Minutes for this meeting will be circulated with the next council agenda.

ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 7)

Cllr B Callender reported on the meeting of the committee held on 10th June. He noted that the committee had discussed the shape of the committee events over the next year, and noted that a number of the council's flagship events had taken place recently, including Langborough Fun Day and Party in the Park.

He reported on a request to the next Finance and Personnel Committee for additional funding for the Human Library project and for Lunar New Year 2025.

It was proposed by Cllr A Domingue and seconded by Cllr B Callender and the following was

**RESOLVED
30876**

that the approved minutes of the proceedings of the Arts & Culture Committee held on 11th March 2024 (pages 16923 to 16925) be adopted.

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A vote was taken and was unanimous

CIVIC COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 8)

It was proposed by Cllr A Jones and seconded by Cllr A Betteridge and the following was

**RESOLVED
30877**

that the minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 18th March 2024 (pages 16933 to 16941) be adopted.

A vote was taken and was unanimous.

Cllr K Malvern reported on the meeting of the committee held on 17th June 2024. He reported that the committee had progressed on a number of matters, including the discussions over wreath laying for Remembrance Day. He noted that the wreath laying working party had proposed a suggestion which the committee had been supportive of.

FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 9)

It was proposed by Cllr H Richards and seconded by Cllr B Alvi and the following was

**RESOLVED
30878**

That the approved minutes of the meetings of the committee held on 23rd January 2024 (pages 16902 to 16910) and 30th April 2024 (pages 16958 to 16967) be adopted.

A vote was taken and was unanimous.

Cllr M Gee reported on the meeting of the committee held on 18th June 2024. She reported that the committee had discussed the council's investment of long-term funds, and that the Town Clerk and RFO have been tasked with bringing forward options for the committee to consider.

Cllr M Gee reported on the committee's discussion on the borough council's request for the town council to fund the resurfacing of the park at Barkham Recreation Ground using CIL reserves.

It was proposed by Cllr H Richards and seconded by Cllr S Gurney and the following was

**RESOLVED
30879**

That the town council make a 50% contribution towards the cost of a comprehensive resurfacing, subject to evidence from the borough council of the due diligence in obtaining multiple quotes.

Cllr M Gee reported on the committee's request for a change to the Terms of Reference for the committee, giving it delegated authority to approve CIL funding requests up to £25,000 (£30,000 including VAT).

It was proposed by Cllr H Richards and seconded by Cllr S Gurney and the following was

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**RESOLVED
30880**

that the committee's Terms of Reference be updated.

PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 10)

It was proposed by Cllr C Jamthe and seconded by Cllr N Nagella and the following was

**RESOLVED
30881**

That the approved minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 23rd April (pages 16954 to 16957) be adopted.

A vote was taken and was unanimous.

Cllr I Shepherd Dubey gave a verbal report on the meeting of the committee held on 4th June.

STRATEGY WORKING PARTY (Agenda Item 11)

Cllr A Domingue gave a verbal report on the notes of the recent Strategy Working Party meeting. She reported that the working party were reviewing updates to the council's Standing Orders, with further work to be completed at the next meeting on 11 July.

She reported that the proposed changes will be laid before council, proposed and seconded but without discussion, at the October meeting, for voting on in December.

Cllr S Gurney asked that the section on committees be re-ordered into alphabetical order, in line with the ordering in the council agendas and minutes.

It was proposed by Cllr A Domingue and seconded by Cllr S Gurney and the following was

**RESOLVED
30882**

that the Terms of Reference for the working party be approved and adopted.

MONTAGUE PARK ALLOTMENT SITE TRANSFER (Agenda Item 12)

The Mayor reported on the impending transfer of the Montague Park Allotment site (known as Ifould Crescent allotments) to the town council.

It was proposed by Cllr T Lack and seconded by Cllr I Shepherd-Dubey and the following was

**RESOLVED
30883**

That the council seal be used on the official transfer documentation for the allotment site.

EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION (Agenda Item 13)

It was proposed by Cllr K Malvern and seconded by Cllr M Malvern and the following was

**RESOLVED
30834**

To appoint Cllr B Callender as a representative to the Emmbrook Village Hall Management Committee, there being no other nominations.

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Cllr S Cornish gave a brief report on her recent attendance at the AGM of the Wokingham Job Support Centre. She noted the growth in their service use and reiterated how welcome town councillors would be as volunteer advisers / supporters.

Cllr K Malvern drew members attention to the written report on his attendance at a recent meeting of the Emmbrook Village Hall Management Committee.

Cllr S Gurney reported on her recent attendance of a meeting and the AGM for Keep Mobile. She updated councillors on the organisations circumstances and noted that a copy of their annual report is available for councillors to read, please ask the Town Clerk.

The Mayor thanked everyone and closed the meeting.

CHAIR

CHAIR INITIALS _____

