

# 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Minutes of the proceedings of the **CIVIC COMMITTEE** meeting held on this day in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Wokingham** from 10.02am to 11.05am.

## **PRESENT**

Chair: Cllr A Mather (Chair)

Councillors: A Betteridge and A Jones (Vice-Chair)

## **IN ATTENDANCE**

Mrs Lucy Zeal (High Steward of Wokingham)

Rev Catherine Bowstead (Churches Together in Wokingham)

## **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Roger Ilett (Former District Scout Chairman), Mr Phil Creighton (Wokingham Today) and Supt Andrew Cranidge (The LPA Commander)

## **MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda Item 2)**

A member advised that they knew a certain individual, leaving the meeting when this individual was discussed, and did not participate in this vote.

## **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC (Agenda Item 3)**

It was proposed by Cllr Mather and seconded by Cllr Jones, and it was

**RESOLVED  
30763**

that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and instructed to withdraw.

## **PART TWO**

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (Agenda Item 4)**

It was proposed by Cllr Mather and seconded by Lucy Zeal, and it was

**RESOLVED  
30764**

that the Minutes of the Civic Committee meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022 (pages 16661 to 16662), be received as a true and correct record and that they be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

## **CIVIC AWARD NOMINATIONS (Agenda Item 5)**

a) The nominations for Civic Awards were received and scrutinised by the Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr Mather and seconded by Cllr Betteridge, and it was

**RESOLVED  
30765**

that seven individual nominees should receive a Civic Award, and the Civic Officer should notify everyone accordingly.

CHAIR'S INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_



b) The following feedback was received about the process, from committee members and representatives:

- To consider a change of wording on the nomination form, collecting greater information about the relationship of the nominator and the nominee, which in some cases provides greater weight to the nomination. Therefore, the question “what connection do you have with this person?”, should end with “on a personal basis, and in relation to this nomination”.
- A question was raised, whether asking for a nominee and a seconder complicates the process? Changing this to just the number of nominations should be considered.
- A question was raised, regarding the restriction whereby a resident can only receive an award once. It was discussed that it should be possible for a previous winner to be reconsidered after a five-year period. Alternatively, they should be reconsidered, if the nomination is for a substantially different reason than for the original award, for example, individual acts of humanity.
- The number of nominations was noted as being low.
- A suggestion was made to expand the reach of the awards. Encouraging nominations at visits undertaken (by the Mayor, Councillors, and other representatives) to organisations with suitable staff and/or volunteers.
- These organisations could be collated on a central list, and prompted by the Civic Officer, if necessary, as the closing date for nominations approaches.

**ACTION: Civic Officer**

**CHAIR'S SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_

CHAIR'S INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_

