

7th January 2025

Minutes of the proceedings at the extraordinary meeting of the FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE meeting held on this day in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Wokingham from 7:30pm to 8:40pm.

PRESENT

Chair: Cllr M Gee

Councillors: Cllrs B Alvi, B Callender, R Comber, S Gurney, T Lack, K Malvern, H Richards, I Shepherd-Dubey

IN ATTENDANCE

Four residents (until 8pm)

Cllr Warren Dixon

Town Clerk: Katy Hughes

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

None

MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda Item 2)

Cllr S Gurney declared an interest as a member of the Evendons Area Residents' Association (EARA).

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OR THE PUBLIC (Agenda Item 3)

Members received a presentation from the residents in attendance regarding a request for financial support for employing planning experts to attend and support documentation in defence of a planning appeal for land off Blagrove Lane, due to be heard in March 2025.

Following the presentation, members were given an opportunity to ask questions of the residents.

**RESOLVED
30976**

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (Agenda Item 4)

It was proposed by Cllr M Gee, seconded by Cllr B Callender and it was

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

A vote was taken and it was unanimous.

SAVE BLAGROVE RESIDENTS' GROUP – FUNDING REQUEST (Agenda item 5)

CHAIR INITIALS _____



**RESOLVED
30977**

Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr M Gee and seconded by Cllr I Shepherd-Dubey and it was

to offer practical support to the residents' group, by means of support with printing and copying and volunteers for role such as delivering leaflets, but not to offer financial support.

Members noted that the residents group could be put in touch with residents who successfully fought the appeal for Woodcra Manor proposed development and can also seek advice and support from the borough council planning officers.

A vote was taken. 7 members voted for the above proposal, one voted against one members was recused from voting due to a conflict of interest.

TOWN HALL LEASE (Agenda Item 6)

**RESOLVED
30978**

Members received a verbal report from the Town Clerk in relation to one lease in the town hall, including legal advice obtained in relation to the issue. Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr M Gee and seconded by Cllr B Callender and members

To instruct the Town Clerk to issue notice to the tenant giving a deadline for the payment of outstanding debt. The Town Clerk was further authorised to issue notice of forfeiture of the lease if the outstanding debt is not settled in full within a maximum of 14 days .

A vote was taken and it was unanimous.

The meeting ended at 8.40pm

CHAIR INITIALS _____

