

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council held at the Oakwood Centre on
Tuesday 7 February 2017 at 8 pm**

Present: Councillors J. Cheng (Chairman); K. Baker; T. Barker; A. Chadwick; R. Dolinski; P. Etherington; D. Fradley; K. Gilder; J. MacNaught; D. Mills; S. Rahmouni; D. Smith; W. Soane; D. Stares; J. Trick; M. Walker

Officers present: D. Mander, Town Clerk; K. Murray, Deputy Town Clerk; L. Matthews, Committee Officer

Also present: Angus Ross, Wokingham Borough Council Executive Member for the Environment
1 member of the public

Before the start of the meeting:

- Angus Ross, Wokingham Borough Council Executive Member for the Environment, spoke to Members about the Borough Council's Environment portfolio, as reported in **Appendix A**.
- A maximum of 30 minutes was set aside for members of the public to pose questions to the Council in the Town Forum. As there were no members of the public wishing to address the Council the Town Forum did not take place.

57. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors S. Brindley, C. Dixon, B. Franklin, M. Green and P. Wicks.

58. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Soane	Agenda item 4.4, Charges 2017/18, in relation to proposed charges for the Memorial Ground and hire of halls and meeting rooms.	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest: Councillor Soane is a member of the Carnival Committee, which hires the Memorial Ground and meeting rooms in several Council-run locations.
Councillor Walker	Agenda Item 4.4, Charges 2017/18, in relation to proposed charges for the hire of halls and meeting rooms.	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest: Councillor Walker is chairman of Woodley Women's Club, which hires meeting rooms at the Oakwood Centre.

Councillors Soane and Walker took no part in the voting on agenda item 4.4, Charges 2017/18.

59. **MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6 DECEMBER 2016**

The Town Mayor presented the minutes of the Council meeting held on 6 December 2016.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 6 December 2016 and that they be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

60. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

60.1 **Minutes of the Planning Committee: 13 December 2016**

Councillor Dolinski presented the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 13 December 2016.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To receive the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 13 December 2016.

60.2 **Minutes of the Planning Committee: 10 January 2017**

Councillor Barker presented the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 10 January 2017.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To receive the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 10 January 2017.

60.3 **Minutes of the Leisure Services Committee: 17 January 2017**

Councillor Soane presented the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee meeting held on 17 January 2017.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To receive the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee meeting held on 17 January 2017.

60.4 **Minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee: 24 January 2017**

Councillor Baker presented the minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting held on 24 January 2017.

Minute No. 69b: PR/Marketing Working Group

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To adopt the colour palette for the Council logo, as attached at **Appendix B**.

Minute No. 71: Investments Working Party

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To allocate £80,000 to the investment fund in 2017, 2018 and 2019.
- ◆ To approve the Treasury Management Strategy 2017/18.

Minute No. 72: Charges 2017/18

a) Oakwood Centre charges

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To approve the 2017/18 charges at the Oakwood Centre, as set out in the Proposed Charges 2017/18 Appendix.

b) Leisure Services charges

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To increase the 2017/18 charges for Healthy Habits cards to £12 for adults and £6 for children.
- ◆ To approve all other charges for Leisure Services in 2017/18, as set out in the Proposed Charges 2017/18 Appendix.

Minute No. 74: Budget Estimates 2017/18

d) Budget and precept 2017/18

Councillor Baker presented the 2017/18 budget and the recommended precept level for 2017/18 to the Council.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To approve the budget for 2017/18, as presented in the Budget Appendix.
- ◆ To approve a precept level of £1,081,303 for the 2017/18 financial year, as set out in the Budget Appendix.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To receive the minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting held on 24 January 2017.

60.5 Minutes of the Planning Committee: 31 January 2017

Councillor Barker presented the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 31 January 2017.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To receive the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 31 January 2017.

61. MINUTES OF THE URGENCY COMMITTEE – 9 JANUARY 2017

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To receive the minutes of the Urgency Committee meeting held on 9 January 2017 and that they be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

62. LEADER'S STATEMENT

The Leader of the Council made the following statement:

"Here we are again at the meeting which sets the budget for the coming year 2017/18. Once again our town clerk Deborah has worked wonders and allowed us to set a budget which is appropriate for the coming year.

We could have had zero increase again this year but this council has ambitious plans. Those plans are becoming reality. We now have one of the best 3rd generation artificial grass football pitches in the Borough, have opened a very successful new fitness gym at Woodford Park Leisure Centre, the regeneration of the north end of the town centre (partly funded by the Town Council) has started and the planning application for the new public toilet has been submitted. We are not stopping there - with work to improve Woodford Park's lake area underway and potential projects to replace the play areas in the town centre and Woodford Park.

Those plans will require significant funding to fully implement. Whilst we do have good reserves they can be used up quicker than you expect. Therefore, it is proposed to add 1% on the council tax bill which is the equivalent of £1.06 per year for a band D property. The extra income raised by this will be ring fenced for large capital projects so will go straight into the reserves and not be used for operational costs.

The other point that is underway is a complete marketing refresh. With all the exciting things happening it was felt that the time had come to start a focus on marketing. The first of these actions has been a new main logo with sub logos for other facilities. Allied to this will be a major revamp of the website to reflect the town council as it is now.

These are exciting times and it is great to be part of them.”

63. **REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Members noted the following written report:

- Poor's Land Charity report from Councillor Cheng.

Councillor Rahmouni gave a verbal report on matters at the Robert Palmer Almshouses and informed the Council of the recent decision by the Court of Appeal that almshouse residents were legally classified as licensed residents and not tenants and therefore did not have the legal protection afforded to tenants. Councillor Rahmouni also reported that several of the residents were becoming unable to look after themselves and might have to move to a care home.

Councillor Mills reported that he had attended the Borough/Parish Liaison Forum on 23 January 2017 and drew Members' attention to the press release from Wokingham Borough Council regarding the introduction of civil parking enforcement, which was available at the meeting. Councillor Baker informed Members that when responsibility for parking enforcement was transferred to the borough council later in the year, town and parish councils would be given the opportunity to fund a part-time traffic warden to cover their area.

Councillor Gilder reported that the wardens covering the Highwood area were giving a very good service and reacted quickly when incidents were reported.

The Committee Officer read out the ARC report from Mrs Shelagh Flower, which had been received after the agenda was issued.

64. **TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS**

The Town Mayor reported on the four engagements she had attended since the last meeting and had been very pleased to be able to officially open the gym at Woodford Park Leisure Centre in January.

The Deputy Mayor had carried out one engagement since the last meeting and had very much enjoyed the Wokingham Borough schools' carol concert.

65. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

No suggestions were made for future agenda items.

Meeting closed at 9:00pm

Meeting of the Town Council on 7 February 2017

The Mayor welcomed Angus Ross, Wokingham Borough Council Executive Member for the Environment, to speak to Members about the Borough Council's Environment portfolio.

Angus Ross explained that he intended to visit all the town and parish councils within the borough to inform the councils of the responsibilities covered by the Environment portfolio and to briefly describe the work that was being undertaken. He informed Members of the Borough Council's obligations and how these were being met for each of the following categories:

- Drainage and flood prevention
- Waste collection
- Open spaces/country parks/play areas
- Sport and leisure
- Public rights of way
- Trees
- Minerals and waste
- Energy saving

Angus Ross answered Members' questions on a variety of subjects, including volunteer tree wardens, the protection of bees, disposal of clinical waste, management of grass cutting, recycling of household waste and how to encourage the use of cycle paths.

The Mayor thanked Angus Ross for coming to the meeting and for his very informative talk.

