

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council held at the Oakwood Centre on
Tuesday 9 February 2016 at 8 pm**

Present: Councillors D. Mills (Chairman); K. Baker; T. Barker; J. Cheng;
R. Dolinski; P. Etherington; M. Forrer; D. Fradley; B. Franklin;
K. Gilder; R. Horskins, R. Lay; J. MacNaught; S. Rahmouni;
D. Smith; W. Soane; D. Stares; J. Trick; P. Wicks; M. Willson

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

Also present: 2 members of the public
1 member of the press

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.

56. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors S. Brindley, A. Chadwick, C. Dixon, M. Green and M. Walker.

57. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Soane	Agenda item 4.5, Charges 2016/17, in relation to proposed charges for the Memorial Ground and hire of halls and meeting rooms.	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest: Councillor Soane is vice chairman of the Carnival Committee, which hires the Memorial Ground and meeting rooms in several Council-run locations.
Councillor Baker	Agenda Item 9, The Oakwood Centre Theatre.	Councillor Baker declared that he was a member of Starmaker, although he had no prejudicial interest in the naming of the Oakwood Centre theatre.

Councillor Soane took no part in the voting on agenda item 4.5, Charges 2016/17.

58. **MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8 DECEMBER 2015**

The Town Mayor presented the minutes of the Council meeting held on 8 December 2015.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 8 December 2015 and that they be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

59. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

59.1 **Minutes of the Plans Committee: 15 December 2015**

Councillor Barker presented the minutes of the Plans Committee meeting held on 15 December 2015.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To receive the minutes of the Plans Committee meeting held on 15 December 2015.

59.2 **Minutes of the Leisure Services Committee: 5 January 2016**

Councillor Soane presented the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee meeting held on 5 January 2016.

Minute 43: Publicity and Website

Councillor Baker informed Members that he understood that Mr Provins had had some response to his call for volunteers willing to help in Woodford Park and was hoping to arrange a meeting of volunteers shortly. He thanked Mr Provins for the work he was doing and said that the Town Council gave him their wholehearted support.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To receive the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee meeting held on 5 January 2016.

59.3 **Minutes of the Plans Committee: 12 January 2016**

Councillor Barker presented the minutes of the Plans Committee meeting held on 12 January 2016 and reported that this had been the first meeting at which plans and documents had been viewed electronically via the Wokingham Borough Council website. Councillor Baker thanked the Committee Officer for her help in preparing for the new way of viewing plans.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To receive the minutes of the Plans Committee meeting held on 12 January 2016.

59.4 **Minutes of the Community Services Committee: 19 January 2016**

Councillor Smith presented the minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on 19 January 2016.

Minute No. 77: Verge Parking In Campbell Road

Councillor Baker reported that members of the borough Highways Department and borough councillors had met with Campbell Road residents and agreed a set of proposals to try to improve matters. The support of Southlake School was currently being sought. Councillor Baker thanked Councillor MacNaught for visiting Campbell Road to witness the problems and for meeting with the residents.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To receive the minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on 19 January 2016.

- 59.5 **Minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee: 26 January 2016**
Councillor Baker presented the minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting held on 26 January 2016.

Minute No. 62: Investments Working Party

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To approve the Treasury Management Strategy 2016/17.

Minute 63: Charges 2016/17

a) Oakwood Centre charges

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To approve the 2016/17 charges at the Oakwood Centre, as set out in the Proposed Charges 2016/17 Appendix.

b) Leisure Services charges

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To approve the 2016/17 charges for Leisure Services, as set out in the Proposed Charges 2016/17 Appendix.

Minute 65: Budget Estimates 2016/17

c) Budget and precept 2016/17

Councillor Baker presented the 2016/17 budget and the recommended precept level for 2016/17 to the Council.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To approve the budget for 2016/17, as presented in the Budget Appendix.
- ◆ To approve a precept level of £1,039,607 for the 2016/17 financial year, as set out in the Budget Appendix.

Minute 69: Council Meeting Dates 2016/17

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To approve the schedule of meetings for the 2016/17 municipal year, as attached at **Appendix A**.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To receive the minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting held on 26 January 2016.

60. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

a) Members noted that Councillor Chadwick had resigned as Deputy Leader of the Council.

b) The Town Mayor called for nominations for the vacant position of Deputy Leader of the Council. Councillor Dolinski was proposed by Councillor Baker and seconded by Councillor Franklin.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To appoint Councillor Dolinski as Deputy Leader of the Council.

61. **LEADER'S STATEMENT**

The Leader of the Council made the following statement:

"This has been a very busy period following our last Full Council with a major concentration on setting the budget.

I will talk about that later but first I would like to pay tribute to the contribution Anne has made as Deputy Leader over the years. Anne has been deputy to me for many years and has always been extremely supportive. She brought to the role a degree of challenge which reflected her strong scientific background. I thank her for all her efforts both personally and on behalf of the council.

Every council should occasionally review how they actually carry out business. Sometimes this is forced on you as with the changes to the Plans Committee but other times it is simply good custom and practice. We all have extreme pressures on our time and therefore we do need to ask the question of whether the current setup makes best use of that time. Deborah and her team have completed such a task which we will discuss later which was approved by all of the Committee Chairman.

It is good to see a greater level of co-operation between the Borough and Town Councils as witnessed by the terms of reference for joint working. Currently the joint working party for the North end of the Town Centre regeneration is working well and an architect is just about to be provided with the brief for the development. The output of that will be some plans which we expect to be able to exhibit in the foyer in the future as part of an engagement with residents.

Now let me turn to the budget. For the last two years we have managed to reduce the Town Council Tax rate but unfortunately due to strong financial pressures we have not been able to continue that process this year. Those pressures include a reduction in the loss of the Inn on the Park; the 1% pay rises; mandatory pensions for all and a reduction in the precept support grant amongst many others. On behalf of the council can I thank Deborah and her team who have completed an excellent piece of work on the budget to get us into this zero rise position. Hopefully the following year will have a much better settled outlook and we can get back to reducing the Council Tax position as we have done in the previous two years."

62. **COMMITTEE STRUCTURE**

The Deputy Town Clerk presented Report No. FC 1/16.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To approve the proposal to review the committee structure as set out in Report No. FC 1/16, subject to the agreement of the Plans Committee on the practicality and capacity to include additional duties and responsibilities within its remit.

63. **TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR JOINT WORKING OVER THE MANAGEMENT OF THE WOKINGHAM COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL)**

RESOLVED

- ◆ To ratify the "Terms of Reference for Joint Working over the Management of the Wokingham Community Infrastructure Levy" document received from Wokingham Borough Council.

The "Terms of Reference for Joint Working over the Management of the Wokingham Community Infrastructure Levy" document was duly signed by the Town Mayor.

64. **THE OAKWOOD CENTRE THEATRE**

Members considered a proposal, suggested by local residents, to name the Oakwood Centre Theatre after Alan Cornish, who died last year. Alan Cornish was a Woodley resident and businessman, who was part of the growth of amateur dramatics in the town and a founder member of Starmaker, a children's theatre company.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To approve the proposal to name the Oakwood Centre Theatre in memory of Alan Conish to mark his contribution to local theatre.

65. **REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

a) Members noted that the position of Town Council appointed governor to The Bulmershe School was currently vacant. There were no nominations for this position.

b) Members noted the following written reports:

- ARC report from Mrs Shelagh Flower
- Citizen's Advice board meeting report from Councillor Brindley
- Robert Palmer Almshouses Charity report from Councillor Rahmouni
- Highwood Management Conference report from Councillor Gilder
- Minutes of the Woodley Volunteer Centre meeting held on 20 January 2016, submitted by Councillor MacNaught

Councillor Gilder gave a verbal report on the Wokingham Borough Sports Council AGM, which she had attended the previous evening. Attendees at the AGM had been asked to encourage nominations for the sports awards that would be given out at the annual awards ceremony in November and Councillor Gilder passed on this request. She also reported that the Sports Council had money available to award as bursaries to people who needed help for items such as club fees and sports kit.

Members were very sad to read in the report of the Highwood Management Conference that Wokingham Borough Council had prevented Mary Holmes from attending as the representative for Woodley Town Council as she was no longer a councillor. Councillor Gilder reported that the Highwood committee had unanimously agreed that Mary Holmes should remain on the committee. Following discussion Members unanimously agreed that a request should be made to Wokingham Borough Council for a non-councillor to be permitted to be the Town Council representative to the Highwood Conference and that the rule should be changed before the next appointments were made at the Annual Meeting on 9 May 2016. Members hoped that Mary Holmes could be persuaded to remain on the Highwood committee.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To write to Wokingham Borough Council requesting that a non-councillor be permitted to be the Town Council representative to the Highwood Conference.

66. **WOODLEY POST OFFICE, 141 CROCKHAMWELL ROAD**

Members were pleased to note the forthcoming modernisation of Woodley Post Office in Crockhamwell Road, which would be closed for refurbishment from 5:30pm on 8 March until 1:00pm on 17 March 2016.

67. **TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS**

The Town Mayor reported on the four engagements he had carried out since the last meeting and said that the Wokingham Borough school's carol concert had been very spectacular with twenty-two schools taking part with a full orchestra. The Mayor noted that he had been unable to attend the carol concert hosted by the Borough Mayor due to illness.

The Deputy Mayor had carried out one engagement since the last meeting and reported that Cinderella on Ice at Bracknell Ice Rink had been delightful.

68. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

No suggestions were made for future agenda items.

Meeting closed at 8:52pm

TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS - 2016/17
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All Council and Committee meetings are held on Tuesdays. Plans Committee meetings start at 7:45pm. All other Council and Committee meetings start at 8:00pm (unless otherwise notified). Members of the public are welcome to attend all meetings.

PLANS COMMITTEE	COMMUNITY SERVICES	LEISURE SERVICES	STRATEGY & RESOURCES	FULL COUNCIL
<u>2016</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2016</u>
17 May 7 June	24 May	31 May (SH)	14 June	Annual Meeting: 10 May 28 June
5 July 26 July (SH) 23 August (SH) 20 September	30 August (SH)	6 September	13 September	27 September
18 October 15 November	1 November	8 November	22 November	6 December
<u>2017</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2017</u>
13 December 10 January 31 January	3 January (SH)	17 January	24 January	7 February
28 February 28 March 25 April	4 April (SH)	11 April (SH)	18 April	Town Electors: 7 March Annual Meeting: 9 May

(SH = School Holidays)

SCHOOL TERM DATES

2016 Monday 11 April to Wednesday 20 July
Monday 5 September to Tuesday 20 December
(NOTE: Training days - to be agreed)

Half Term: 30 May - 3 June
Half Term: 24- 28 October

Good Friday: 25 March 2016
WBC Elections: 5 May 2016

2017 Wednesday 4 January to Friday 31 March
Tuesday 18 April to Tuesday 25 July
(NOTE: Training days - to be agreed)

Half Term: 13 - 17 February
Half Term: 29 May - 2 June

Good Friday: 14 April 2017
WBC Elections: None in 2017