

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council held at the Oakwood Centre on
Tuesday 2 October 2018 at 8 pm**

Present: Councillors S. Rahmouni (Chairman); K. Baker; D. Bragg; S. Brindley; A. Chadwick; J. Cheng; JJ. Ellis; M. Forrer; D. Fradley; B. Franklin; K. Gilder; J. MacNaught; D. Mills; D. Smith; B. Soane; D. Stares; M. Walker

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

Also present: 1 member of the public

Before the start of the meeting 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.

37. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors T. Barker, C. Dixon, R. Dolinski, M. Green, J. Trick and P. Wicks.

38. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

39. **MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26 JUNE 2018**

The Town Mayor presented the minutes of the Council meeting held on 26 June 2018.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 26 June 2018 and that they be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

40. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

40.1 **Minutes of the Planning Committee: 17 July 2018**

Councillor Cheng presented the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 17 July 2018.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To receive the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 17 July 2018.

40.2 **Minutes of the Planning Committee: 14 August 2018**

Councillor Cheng presented the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 14 August 2018.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To receive the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 14 August 2018.

- 40.3 **Minutes of the Leisure Services Committee: 4 September 2018**
Councillor Soane presented the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee meeting held on 4 September 2018.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To receive the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee meeting held on 4 September 2018.

- 40.4 **Minutes of the Planning Committee: 11 September 2018**
Councillor Cheng presented the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 11 September 2018.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To receive the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 11 September 2018.

- 40.5 **Minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee: 18 September 2018**
Councillor Smith presented the minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting held on 18 September 2018.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To receive the minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting held on 18 September 2018.

41. **AUDIT 2017/18**

The Town Clerk presented the audited Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2017/18.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To receive the external auditor's opinion on the audit of the 2017/18 Annual Governance and Accountability Return.
- ◆ To adopt the audited Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2017/18.
- ◆ To note that the Notice of Conclusion of Audit had been displayed on public noticeboards at the Oakwood Centre and on the Council's website from 24 September 2017.

42. **LEADER'S STATEMENT**

The Leader of the Council made the following statement:

"We all have experienced an amazing summer and I hope you all managed to enjoy it without too much sunburn. As we approach winter and we look forward to shorter days and colder nights, there is going to be a lot of activity on several projects for the benefit of our residents.

We took control in May 2013, some 5 years ago, after what I understand was 40 years of a Liberal Democrat administration. In May 2015 we consolidated control, which allowed us to push forward with many more projects. It is interesting to note that since we took control we have pegged the town council tax to 2007/8 levels; we have invested in excess of £500K in capital projects and more to come and built the general reserves to nearly £500K. I think everyone, both councillors and officers, can be proud of their achievements in those 5 years.

We continue to create more ideas to benefit our residents, many of which are well on their way to becoming "live" projects. I will just concentrate on three projects that are in various stages of fruition.

First, we now have a great Communications Manager in Anuszka who has settled in well and is already providing a valuable contribution. If you are on social media please repost to other pages or retweet what she posts to help her spread "the word" further. This Saturday morning, she is running an "open house" for the Oakwood Centre and she would welcome as many Councillors as possible turning up to show support.

Next Speedwatch is moving forward apace with experiments with the equipment being carried out together with suitable lamp post identification for some of the roads for checking speed. My thanks to Tom Barker and John MacNaught for their sterling efforts on this. If you have not yet volunteered to be one of the team and are interested, please register with Linda.

Finally, we are working closely with the Borough Council to refurbish and improve the safety around the trees in the town centre. This will cover the provision of new seating and hopefully, provide restriction for the roots to stop the "lifting" of the paving slabs which has caused many problems in the past."

43. **GROUNDS MAINTENANCE – UTILITY VEHICLE**

The Town Clerk presented Report No. FC 4/18, which proposed that funds be allocated from the General Reserve to purchase a utility vehicle for the primary use of the Grounds Maintenance team.

The Town Clerk explained that having a second vehicle would enable the Grounds Maintenance team to split up more easily to carry out work in different areas concurrently and therefore be more productive. In reply to a question about the security of the vehicle, the Town Clerk informed Members how it would be stored when not in use and confirmed that it would be added to the Council's insurance policy. Members asked whether an electric vehicle had been considered, but it was not thought that such a vehicle was available. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Council's logo would be displayed on the new vehicle.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To purchase a Kabota RTV-X900 utility vehicle at the quoted cost of £12,170 and allocate funds of £12,170 for this purchase from the General Reserve.

44. **COUNCIL SEAL**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To approve the use of the Council's seal on a Licence to Occupy, to permit Wokingham Borough Council to install a bike hub on land to the east of Western Avenue, Woodley.
- ◆ To approve the use of the Council's seal on a lease with Optalis for the use of premises at Woodford Park Leisure Centre.

45. **WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Members noted correspondence received from Charlotte Haitham Taylor, Leader of Wokingham Borough Council, regarding the Council's priorities for the borough.

46. **OUTSIDE BODIES**

Members noted the following written report:

- Citizens Advice Wokingham report from Councillor Bragg.

Under this item Councillor Gilder reminded Members that nominations were required for the Wokingham Borough Sports Council Awards. The Town Clerk informed Members that the Town Council had been asked to contribute £75 towards the running of this year's Awards ceremony and had agreed to pay this from the budget allocated for Mayoral expenses and costs.

Councillor Stares gave a verbal update on matters at the Woodley Bowling Club.

Councillor Smith reported that he had attended a meeting of the Sonning and District Welfare and Educational Trust that evening. He informed Members of the grants that had been awarded and asked all Members to bear in mind that the Trust was able give grants to help local residents with welfare or educational needs.

Councillor Bragg gave a verbal report on the AGM of Citizens Advice Wokingham, which had taken place after the agenda was issued. He also reported on a visit he had made to the Woodley office of Citizens Advice and informed Members that the office sometimes had to close in the summer as the portacabin became too hot to use. The Office Manager had asked Councillor Bragg whether there was any funding available from the Town Council to allow air conditioning to be installed.

Councillor Baker gave a verbal report on matters relating to the Woodley and North Earley Community Forum.

Councillor Rahmouni gave a verbal update on matters at the Robert Palmer Almshouses and reported that the Chairman of the charity had retired and a new Chairman had been appointed.

47. **TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS**

The Town Mayor reported on the ten engagements he had attended since the last meeting and said that he had been very honoured to be presented to the Countess of Wessex at the Me2 Club Tea Party, and the students at Addington School had produced some fantastic cakes for the event.

The Deputy Town Mayor reported on the five engagements he had carried out since the last meeting and had particularly enjoyed the concerts he had attended at Addington School.

48. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Under this item Councillor Baker requested a verbal update on the arrangements for the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War on 11 November, and this was provided by the Town Clerk and the Deputy Town Clerk. It was suggested that the Museum of Berkshire Aviation be contacted to see if any display material may be available for the event.

Meeting closed at 9:10 pm