

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council held at the Oakwood Centre on
Tuesday 6 December 2022 at 8 pm**

Present: *Councillors J. Sartorel (Chairman); N. Al-Sanjari; J. Anderson;
S. Brindley; J. Cheng; K. Gilder; A. Heap; R. Horskins; C. Jewell;
B. Rowland; A. Swaddle; P. Wicks*

Officers present: *K. Murray, Deputy Town Clerk; M. Filmore, Committee Officer;*

Also present: *6 members of the public*

51. *Before the meeting commenced, the Town Mayor invited representatives from the following organisations, who were awarded a Community Grant at the Strategy & Resources Committee meeting held on 22 November 2022, to address the Council and provide details of the projects the grants will go towards funding:*

- *Woodley United Football Club*
- *Berkshire Vision*
- *Woodley Adopt A Street (WASP)*
- *Three C's Café @ Emmanuel Church*
- *Woodley Schools Cluster (written representation)*

The Town Mayor adjourned the meeting to enable photos to be taken of the grant recipients.

52. *A maximum of 30 minutes was set aside before the start of the meeting 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.*

53. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors K. Baker, D. Bragg, A. Chadwick, M. Doyle, V. Lewis, M. Nagra, R. Skegg, D. Smith and B. Soane.

54. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest raised by Members.

55. Following a request from Councillor Swaddle, the Town Mayor led Members in a one-minute silence in memory of Councillor Sam Rahmouni.

56. **MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11 OCTOBER 2022**

The Town Mayor presented the minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held on 11 October 2022.

RESOLVED

- ◆ To approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 11 October 2022 and that they be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

Voting: For: 7 Against: 0 Abstentions: 5 No Vote Recorded: 0

57. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

57.1 **Minutes of the Planning and Community Committee: 1 November 2022**

Councillor Wicks presented the minutes of the Planning and Community Committee meeting held on 1 November 2022.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note the minutes of the Planning and Community Committee meeting held on 1 November 2022.

57.2 **Minutes of the Leisure Services Committee: 15 November 2022**

Councillor Swaddle presented the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee meeting held on 15 November 2022, specifically highlighting the hard work undertaken by Councillor Heap regarding benches and seating provision within Woodley.

Following a query as to when revised estimates would be provided, the Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that they were still being worked on and would be provided to Members when ready. However, he confirmed that, at present, the figures looked favourable.

The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that preparation work is being undertaken to enable information to be posted on the website which invites members of the public to submit suggestions for potential seating locations in Woodley.

It was noted that the Deputy Town Clerk has yet to arrange a meeting of the Allotments Working Party but this would hopefully take place soon.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee meeting held on 15 November 2022.

57.3 **Minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee: 22 November 2022**

Councillor Brindley presented the minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting held on 22 November 2022.

Minute 46: Standing Orders & Financial Regulations Sub Committee

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To adopt the updated Standing Orders, as set out in the agenda.

Voting: For: 9 Against: 0 Abstentions: 2 No Vote Registered: 1

- ◆ To adopt the updated Financial Regulations, as set out in the agenda.

Voting: For: 10 Against: 0 Abstentions: 1 No Vote Registered: 1

Minute 53: Council Meeting Dates 2023/24

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To approve the schedule of meetings for the 2023/24 municipal year, as attached at **Appendix A**.

Voting: For: 11 Against: 0 Abstentions: 1 No Vote Registered: 1

Minute 48: Youth Service Working Party

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that a date for a meeting of the Youth Service Working Party has yet to be set. He confirmed that initial contact had been made with Earley Town Council with regards to gathering information about their youth service provision.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note the minutes of the Strategy & Resources Committee meeting held on 22 November 2022.

57.4 **Minutes of the Planning and Community Committee: 29 November 2022**

Councillor Wicks presented the minutes of the Planning and Community Committee meeting held on 29 November 2022.

In addition, Councillor Wicks provided an update on the Community Speedwatch Scheme from Councillor Bragg, advising that no further activity has taken place since August. Councillor Bragg was currently awaiting contact from PC Turnball, Thames Valley Police Speedwatch Lead, in order to arrange for an additional co-ordinator.

Councillor Wicks also advised that Wokingham Borough Council had been contacted regarding the potential replacement of the Earley Station Footbridge, and they had confirmed that a final decision has yet to be made.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note the minutes of the Planning and Community Committee meeting held on 29 November 2022.

58. **COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note that Councillor McCann has resigned from the Town Council.
- ◆ To note that, following the death of Councillor Rahmouni and the resignation of Councillor McCann, the composition of the Council is now:
 - Conservative group – 16 places
 - Liberal Democrat group – 4 places
 - Labour & Independent group – 3 places
- ◆ To note that the new composition of the Council does not change the current division of places between political parties on standing committees. Changes to the division of places on sub committees and working parties have been resolved at meetings of the Strategy & Resources and Leisure Services Committees.

59. **REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Members considered the request for a leave of absence from Councillor Bragg until the end of the current municipal year and:

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To approve Councillor Bragg's request for a leave of absence until the end of the 2022/23 municipal year.

Voting: For: 11 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 No Vote Registered: 1

The Town Mayor wished Councillor Bragg and his family well.

60. **LEADER'S STATEMENT**

As Councillor Baker was not in attendance, no Leader's statement was provided.

Councillor Brindley, as Deputy Leader, spoke to thank everyone for their hard work over the last year, including Councillors, as well as staff and officers at the Town Council and Woodford Park Leisure Centre.

61. **WOODLEY MEMORIAL RECREATION GROUND CHARITY**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note that the Annual Return of the Woodley Memorial Recreation Ground Charity was submitted on 10 November 2022.

62. **OUTSIDE BODIES**

62.1 Councillor Swaddle proposed, seconded by Councillor Gilder, and following a vote it was:

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To appoint Councillor Smith as the Town Council's representative to the Poor's Land Charity, to serve until 2026.

Voting: For: 11 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 No Vote Registered: 1

62.2 Councillor Jewell proposed, seconded by Councillor Heap, and following a vote it was:

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To appoint Councillor Rowland as the Town Council's deputy representative to the Wokingham Borough Council Parish Liaison Forum.

Voting: For: 11 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 No Vote Registered: 0

62.3 **RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note the following written reports which were included with the agenda:
 - ARC – Mrs S Flower
 - Poor's Land Charity – Mrs S Flower
 - Readibus – Cllr Heap

63. **TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS**

Members noted the details of the events which both the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor had attended since the last Full Council meeting, as provided in the agenda.

64. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no suggestions for future agenda items.

65. **PUBLICITY AND WEBSITE**

There were no suggestions for publicity or website items.

Councillor Jewell wished everyone a merry Christmas on behalf of the Liberal Democrat group, and especially thanked the Town Mayor for her hard work chairing Council meeting over the last year.

Meeting closed at 8:43 pm

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS - 2023/24

All Council and Committee meetings are held on Tuesdays. Planning 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.

PLANNING & COMMUNITY	LEISURE SERVICES	STRATEGY & RESOURCES	FULL COUNCIL
<u>2023</u> 23 May 20 June	<u>2023</u> 6 June	<u>2023</u> 13 June	<u>2023</u> 16 May (Annual Meeting) 25 May (Town Electors) 27 June
25 July 29 August (SH) 19 September	5 September	12 September	26 September
17 October 14 November 12 December	7 November	21 November	5 December
<u>2024</u> 9 January 30 January	<u>2024</u> 16 January	<u>2024</u> 23 January	<u>2024</u> 6 February
27 February 26 March 23 April	12 April (SH)	16 April	7 May (Annual Meeting)

(SH = School Holidays)

SCHOOL TERM DATES

2023 Monday 17 April to Friday 21 July
Friday 1 September to Friday 15 December

Half Term: 29 May - 2 June
Half Term: 23 October - 27 October

Elections: 4 May 2023

2024 Tuesday 2 January to Thursday 28 March
Monday 15 April to Tuesday 23 July

Half Term: 12 - 16 February
Half Term: 27 May - 31 May

Good Friday: 29 March 2023
Elections: 2 May 2024