

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council held at the Oakwood Centre on
Tuesday 10 December 2019 at 8 pm**

Present: Councillors K. Gilder (Chairman); N. Al-Sanjari; K. Baker; D. Bragg; S. Brindley; A. Chadwick; J. Cheng; M. Doyle; M. Forrer; C. Jewell; J. MacNaught T. McCann; D. Mills; S. Rahmouni; B. Rowland; R. Skegg; B. Soane; P. Wicks

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

Also present: 21 members of the public

Before the start of the meeting:

- The Town Mayor presented grants to representatives of local community groups and other organisations and to two individuals, 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 reported in **Appendix B**.

Before opening the meeting, the Town Mayor asked for a minute's silence in memory of Councillor David Stares and former Councillor Denis Thair.

Councillor Jewell said that she had heard of Denis Thair's death with great sadness. Denis Thair had served five consecutive terms on Woodley Town Council and had been a very hard working councillor. He had been chairman of the Council in 1994 and had previously been Mayor of Thatcham.

Councillor Baker said that David Stares had been a very good friend and had been driven by a wish to serve the community. He was a committee member of Woodley Bowling Club and a keen allotment holder, selling produce to raise money for Reading Roadrunners. David Stares had served as Deputy Mayor of Woodley and very sadly lost his life before having the opportunity to serve as Mayor.

51. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors J. Anderson, M. Green, A. Heap and M. Nagra.

52. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

53. **MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1 OCTOBER 2019**

The Town Mayor presented the minutes of the Council meeting held on 1 October 2019.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 1 October 2019 and that they be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

54. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

54.1 **Minutes of the Planning and Community Committee: 8 October 2019**

Councillor Cheng presented the minutes of the Planning and Community Committee meeting held on 8 October 2019.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To receive the minutes of the Planning and Community Committee meeting held on 8 October 2019.

54.2 **Minutes of the Planning and Community Committee: 5 November 2019**

Councillor Cheng presented the minutes of the Planning and Community Committee meeting held on 5 November 2019.

Minute No. 116: Cycling in Woodley Working Party

Councillor Baker informed Members that a Facebook page had been set up to provide a single point of contact where cycles that had been lost, stolen or found could be reported.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To receive the minutes of the Planning and Community Committee meeting held on 5 November 2019

54.3 **Minutes of the Leisure Services Committee: 19 November 2019**

Councillor Bragg presented the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee meeting held on 19 November 2019.

Minute No. 33: Parks and Buildings

Members considered the recommendation from the Leisure Services Committee that a representative be appointed to the Friends of Woodford Park Committee.

Minute No. 34: Accessible play equipment in Woodley

In reply to a question, the Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that the results of the assessment of the Council's play areas would be reported to the next meeting of the Leisure Services Committee.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To receive the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee meeting held on 19 November 2019.
- ◆ To appoint a representative to the Friends of Woodford Park Committee.
- ◆ That Councillor Bragg be appointed as the Council's representative on the Friends of Woodford Park Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.

54.4 **Minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee: 26 November 2019**

Councillor Baker presented the minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting held on 26 November 2019.

Minute No. 46: Investments Working Party

Members considered the recommendation from the Strategy and Resources Committee that the draft Treasury Management Strategy be adopted. In reply to members of the Strategy and Resources Committee who had not been present at the meeting on 26 November, Councillor Baker confirmed that the draft Treasury Management Strategy had been considered at the meeting. Following a question on the possibility of arranging training for Members who did not understand the Treasury Management Strategy document, the Town Clerk was asked to investigate this. Councillor Baker confirmed that the members of the

Investments Working Party did have the necessary skills to scrutinise the Treasury Management Strategy recommended by Rathbone Investment Management.

Minute No. 47: Community Grants

Members noted that the Strategy and Resources Committee would review the criteria for awarding community grants, as the requests for grants had exceeded the available budget. The Committee Officer was asked to circulate the criteria to all Members.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To receive the minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting held on 26 November 2019.
- ◆ To adopt the Treasury Management Strategy 2020/21.
- ◆ To approve the schedule of meetings for the 2020/21 municipal year, as attached at **Appendix C**.

54.5 **Minutes of the Planning and Community Committee: 3 December 2019**

Councillor Cheng presented the minutes of the Planning and Community Committee meeting held on 3 December 2019.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To receive the minutes of the Planning and Community Committee meeting held on 3 December 2019.

55. **LEADER'S STATEMENT**

The Leader of the Council made a brief statement reminding Members that although they were permitted to attend any committee or working party meeting, permission for non-committee members to sit at the committee table was at the discretion of the chairman. Members could only speak at the invitation of the chairman and comments should be restricted to agenda items.

56 **COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) ALLOCATION.**

The Deputy Town Clerk presented Report No. FC 6/19, which asked Members to consider allocating £22,433 from the available CIL funds of £47,804 to fund the following capital projects:

- The work required to complete the Woodford Park lake project.
- Reupholstering of the audience seating in the Alan Cornish Theatre.
- Replacement and installation of the audio-visual equipment in the Alan Cornish Theatre.

The Town Clerk informed Members that these would be the first projects to be funded from CIL funds.

In reply to a question, the Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that the Council did not have a project list specifically to be funded from CIL funds, but agreed that this could be added to the project list for capital funding, which is reported to each meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee. It was noted that CIL funds could only be used for projects that benefitted the community.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note Report No. FC 6/19.
- ◆ That £22,433 be allocated from the available CIL funds to fund the capital expenditure identified in the report.

57. **OUTSIDE BODIES**

- a) Following the death of Councillor David Stares, Members considered the appointment of a representative to the Woodley Bowling Club Management Committee.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To appoint Councillor Rahmouni as the Council's representative on the Woodley Bowling Club Management Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.

- b) Following the resignation of Mr Laurie Day, Members considered the appointment of a representative to the Poor's Land Charity, to serve until 2022.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To appoint Councillor Rowland as one of the Council's representatives to the Poor's Land Charity, serving until 2022.
- ◆ To send a letter of thanks to Mr Laurie Day for the work he has undertaken for the Poor's Land Charity on behalf of the Council.

- c) Members considered the appointment of a representative to the newly formed Wokingham Borough Council Climate Emergency Working Group.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To appoint Councillor Baker as the Council's representative to the Wokingham Borough Council Climate Emergency Working Group for the remainder of the municipal year.
- ◆ To enquire whether it would be possible to appoint a deputy representative.

- d) Members noted the following written report, which had been included with the agenda:

- Campaign for Place report by Councillor Wicks

The following reports were tabled at the meeting:

- Berkshire Association of Local Councils (BALC) AGM report by Councillor Bragg
- Citizens Advice Wokingham report by Councillor Bragg

Members discussed the services provided to the Council by BALC and it was agreed that a review of the services provided should be undertaken so that a decision could be taken on whether the Council should continue to be a member of BALC.

58. **TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS**

The Town Mayor reported on the thirteen engagements she had attended since the last meeting, including the switching on of the Christmas lights in the town centre and the opening of the Woodley Christmas Extravaganza.

59. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no suggestions for future agenda items.

60. It was proposed by the Chairman and

RESOLVED:

- ◆ That as the business was unlikely to be completed by 10pm, the meeting continue until 10:30pm in order to complete the business set out in the agenda.

61. **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted in relation to legal matters, it was advisable in the public interest that the public and press were temporarily excluded and asked to withdraw for the following agenda items.

62. **WOODLEY AIRFIELD YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE AND MALONE PARK**

The Town Clerk presented Report No. FC 7/19.

Following a wide-ranging discussion, it was

RESOLVED:

- ◆ That the 1992 agreement between Woodley Town Council and Wokingham Borough Council regarding the Woodley Airfield Youth and Community Centre be dissolved and that the Town Council agree to accept the proposed payment from Wokingham Borough Council, under the terms of the dissolution agreement.
- ◆ That the transfer of the freehold interest in the land at Malone Park from Wokingham Borough Council to Woodley Town Council be approved and that the consideration of payment along with the overage clause, as set out in the report, also be approved.

Meeting closed at 10:15 pm

Meeting of the Town Council on 10 December 2019

Before the start of the meeting the mayor presented grants to representatives of the following local community groups and other organisations:

Berkshire Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre
Kick Twist Cheerleading
The Link Visiting Scheme
Ward and Wickham Ensemble
Wokingham District Veteran Tree Association
Wokingham Job Support Centre
Wokingham Volunteer Centre
Woodley Adopt a Street Project (WASP)
Woodley Photographic Club

Individuals:

William Cowen
Chelsea Allong
Amber Burman
Ellena Burman
Summer Close

TOWN FORUM**10 December 2019**

Mrs Mary Holmes, chairman of the Woodley Town Centre Management Initiative (WTCMI) raised the problem of cyclists in the town centre and asked what could be done to prevent this, as cycling was prohibited in the town centre. Mary Holmes said that the problem of cyclists in the town centre was brought up by members of the public at every meeting of the WTCMI and at the Woodley and North Earley Community Forum meetings.

Councillor Baker responded by saying that unfortunately neither the Town Council nor the Borough Council had the legal right to stop cyclists – that could only be done by the police. Councillor Baker said that the police did sporadically attend the town centre to clamp down on cyclists, but this was low on their list of priorities. He suggested that the only thing to do was to constantly lobby the police about the problem. Mary Holmes replied that the police did not attend the WTCMI meetings and did not seem interested in discussing the matter of cyclists at the Community Forum meetings. Councillor Baker suggested that a letter, signed by Mary Holmes (chairman of WTCMI), Councillor Baker (Leader of Woodley Town Council) and the Mayor of Woodley, could be sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner notifying him of the problem and asking for his help. Councillor Doyle pointed out that the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner would be attending a future meeting of the Council to talk to Members.

Mary Holmes then raised the problem of people being knocked down by cyclists at the front of the Oakwood Centre and also speeding around the corner of the Oakwood Centre, on their way to and from Woodford Park. The Town Clerk said that this matter had been discussed at a Friends of Woodford Park committee meeting that she had attended. The Town Council and the Friends of Woodford Park were looking at ways of solving the problem, but if barriers were put in place to stop cyclists, then people in mobility scooters and those with pushchairs would also be prevented from using the path. Councillor Jewell suggested that this problem could be investigated by the newly formed Cycling in Woodley Working Party.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS - 2020/21

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>2020</u> 19 May 16 June	<u>2020</u> 2 June	<u>2020</u> 9 June	<u>2020</u> Annual Meeting: 12 May 23 June
14 July 11 August (SH) 8 September	1 September	15 September	29 September
6 October 3 November 1 December	17 November	24 November	8 December
<u>2021</u> 5 January 26 January	<u>2021</u> 12 January	<u>2021</u> 19 January	<u>2021</u> 9 February
23 February 23 March 20 April	13 April (SH)	27 April	Town Electors: 2 March Annual Meeting: 11 May

(SH = School Holidays)

SCHOOL TERM DATES

2020 Monday 20 April to Tuesday 21 July
Tuesday 1 September to Friday 18 December
(NOTE: Training days - to be agreed)

Half Term: 25 May - 29 May
Half Term: 26 October - 30 October

Good Friday: 10 April 2020
WBC Elections: 7 May 2020

2021 Monday 4 January to Thursday 1 April
Monday 19 April to Wednesday 21 July
(NOTE: Training days - to be agreed)

Half Term: 15 - 19 February
Half Term: 31 May - 4 June

Good Friday: 2 April 2021
No WBC Elections in 2021