

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council held at the Oakwood Centre on  
Tuesday 11 December 2018 at 8 pm**

**Present:** Councillors S. Rahmouni (Chairman); K. Baker; T. Barker; D. Bragg;  
S. Brindley; A. Chadwick; J. Cheng; R. Dolinski; M. Forrer; D. Fradley;  
B. Franklin; K. Gilder; M. Green; J. MacNaught; D. Mills; D. Smith;  
B. Soane; D. Stares; M. Walker

**Officers present:** D. Mander, Town Clerk; K. Murray, Deputy Town Clerk;

**Also present:** 2 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**.

49. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C. Dixon, JJ. Ellis, M. Green, R. Horskins, D. Mills, J. Trick and P. Wicks and from Cllr B. Soane for lateness.

50. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

51. **MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2 OCTOBER 2018**

The Town Mayor presented the minutes of the Council meeting held on 2 October 2018.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 2 October 2018 and that they be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

52. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

52.1 **Minutes of the Planning Committee: 9 October 2018**

Councillor Barker presented the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 9 October 2018.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To receive the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 9 October 2018.

52.2 **Minutes of the Planning Committee: 6 November 2018**

Councillor Barker presented the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 6 November 2018.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To receive the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 6 November 2018.

- 52.3 **Minutes of the Leisure Services Committee: 20 November 2018**  
Councillor Barker presented the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee meeting held on 20 November 2018.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To receive the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee meeting held on 20 November 2018.

- 52.4 **Minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee: 27 November 2018**  
Councillor Baker presented the minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting held on 27 November 2018.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To receive the minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting held on 27 November 2018.
- ◆ To adopt the Treasury Management Strategy 2019/20.
- ◆ To approve the schedule of meetings for the 2019/20 municipal year, as attached at **Appendix C**.

- 52.5 **Minutes of the Planning Committee: 4 December 2018**  
Councillor Barker presented the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 4 December 2018.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To receive the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 4 December 2018.

53. **COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note that Councillor Dolinski had resigned from the Conservative Group and was now an independent councillor.
- ◆ To note the composition of the Council:  
Conservative: 23                      Independent: 2

54. **POLITICAL GROUP LEADERS**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note that Councillor Brindley had been appointed Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group.

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

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note that Councillor Dolinski had resigned as Deputy Leader of the Council.
- ◆ To elect Councillor Brindley as Deputy Leader of the Council.

56. **REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Members considered the request for a five months' leave of absence due to ill health from Councillor Dixon and

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To approve a leave of absence of five months to Councillor Dixon due to ill health.

57. **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note that Councillor Dolinski had resigned from the Strategy and Resources Committee and the Planning Committee.
- ◆ To suspend Standing Order 4f.
- ◆ To appoint Councillor Gilder to the Strategy and Resources Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.
- ◆ To make no appointment to the vacant place on the Planning Committee.

58. **LEADER'S STATEMENT**

The Leader of the Council made the following statement:

"As this is the last Full Council Meeting of 2018 I will try and keep this brief.

We have already covered in previous agenda items the procedural impact of Cllr Dolinski's resignation from the Conservative Group to become an Independent on this council.

I tried to get Cllr Dolinski to remain on all the committees and working groups etc. as I strongly believe this Town Council is less about political titles and more about what we as individuals and collectively can do for Woodley residents. We have demonstrated this time and time again most recently earlier on agenda item 9a where we have elected Cllr Gilder to the Strategy & Resources Committee to replace Cllr Dolinski.

Unfortunately, he felt this was not possible given his strong feelings following recent events on the Borough Council and we have to collectively respect his decision.

Cllr Dolinski has been a fantastic asset to this council and his ward residents and he will be a great loss. He has also been a great Deputy Leader to me. As the individual who introduced Cllr Dolinski to local politics, I am personally very saddened by his resignation. On behalf of this council and on a personal basis I want to put on record our thanks for all the work he has undertaken on behalf of both the council and residents.

He was already standing down in May 2019 and I believe he wishes to relocate to a location outside of Berkshire. I am sure I speak for all of us when I wish him all the best for the future in whatever he does."

59. **MAYORAL INSIGNIA**

The Town Clerk presented Report No. FC 5/18 and explained the background to the proposal to change the Mayoral insignia from the 1974 design to one similar to that on the Council's logo. The change in design meant that there would be an additional cost to provide new badges for the Mayoress/consort/ escort and the Deputy Mayoress/consort/escort, as well as new past mayor badges. In all it was estimated that a further £1,850 would need to be added to the existing earmarked reserve of £4,700 to cover these additional costs. Members considered the report and

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To adopt a new Mayoral insignia design, as presented, and to approve the allocation of £1,850 from the general reserve to the Mayoral insignia reserve to fund the replacement regalia.

60. **LAKE REGENERATION PROJECT**

The Deputy Town Clerk reported on the two tenders that had been received from contractors for the work to be undertaken on the lake in Woodford Park. He explained that where less than three tenders were received the Council or the Strategy and Resources Committee may make such arrangements as it thinks fit for executing the works. Members were asked to approve the appointment of Ebsford Environmental and Councillor Baker reported that he had been present at the opening of the tenders and supported the proposal based on the information that company had provided.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To approve the appointment of Ebsford Environmental to carry out the silt redistribution, stump removal, bank repairs, membrane installation, creation of wildlife area and construction of boardwalk works as per the tender submission.

61. **OUTSIDE BODIES**

No written reports had been received. Members noted the following verbal reports:

Councillor Bragg reported on the Board meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> December of the Citizens Advice Bureau in Wokingham:

This was officially the last meeting for John Ferguson who had now retired although it was his intention to continue volunteering for a short while. The new CEO, Jake Morrison therefore chaired the meeting. Jake had arrived from Liverpool having been working with the CAB in Southport and was already establishing his mark on operations. Two new Trustees had also been added to the Board, Michael Drake who had taken on the role of Treasurer, and Jeremy Best.

The new contract with WBC dictated that they could now only assist people who worked or lived within Wokingham Borough and it had therefore been necessary to turn away 3 or 4 people on this basis and redirect them to other areas. This was particularly noticeable at the Court Desk where, under emergency procedures, Citizens Advice still needed to help people from outside the area at very short notice, largely from Reading Borough.

Between August and November a total of 17 clients were represented at court hearings for repossession and warrants and once again positive outcomes had been received on all.

Woodley continued to carry out 6 to 8 assessments per day and 3 to 4 appointments. The significant areas remained those of Benefits and Debt and they now held a Food Parcel in the office from the Food Bank so they could assist people if needed.

While budgets remained tight and further fundraising was being considered it was pleasing to see that over the first 6 months of this current year the Bureau was operating within budget

Councillor Gilder reported that she had attended the Wokingham Sports Council Sports Awards ceremony at Bulmershe School where there had been a lot of spectacular achievements from youngsters that older people should be noting. Woodley was well represented in the awards. The Sports Council was looking at other venues for this event in future years. Councillor Gilder also reported that it had been suggested that there were not enough nominations – the nominations are invited in September with an October deadline. She felt it would be helpful if nominations could be made when we see someone achieving in sport, rather than wait for the nominations to be open.

Councillor Barker reported on the AGM of the Berkshire Association of Local Councils (BALC) that he and the Town Clerk had attended on Wednesday 14th November at Shinfield Village Hall:

Chris Graham, BALC Vice Chairman, provided a progress report on the new arrangements with the Hampshire Association (HALC) whereby HALC would provide services on behalf of BALC. This followed the resignation of the former CEO and main service provider in mid 2018.

There was a presentation by Cllr. Evans from HALC to describe the services that his association could provide for BALC.

Jonathan Owen, the National Association (NALC) CEO, provided a national update which included the following:

- NALC partners with 43 county associations
- There are over 10,000 councils in England and 85% are in NALC
- Covers 120,000 councillors
- 6.73p elector association fee goes to NALC
- NALC provides:
  - Councillor Guides covering Employment, Planning, Social Media and Finance
  - Toolkits for GDPR
  - Councillor Training
- In future, NALC want the focus will be on:
  - Local parish/town councils to be the focus of community efforts
  - Vibrant, dynamic and effective local councils help communities help themselves
  - Put communities back in control including:
    - Funding
    - Devolution and engagement
    - Build capacity & support councillors
    - Empower communities
- Increase BALC subscription rate from 21.11p to 21.8p per elector up to an electorate of 5000 then reducing for the remainder to 3.27p per elector (up from 3.17).

Councillor Rahmouni gave a verbal update on matters at the Robert Palmer Almshouses. A new Chairman, Mr Hart, had been appointed. He had been sorting out the correct terms of office of the trustees and a new secretary was being sought, following the resignation of the former secretary.

Councillor Cheng reported that matters were much the same at the Poores Land charity. A Christmas party was being held that evening.

During the verbal reports made at the meeting Councillor Fradley asked if the Council could receive written reports so that these could be in the minutes.

62. **TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS**

The Town Mayor reported on the fourteen engagements he 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.

The Deputy Town Mayor reported on the nine engagements he had carried out since the last meeting.

63. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Under this item Councillor Baker suggested that some thought be given to flags that could be flown on the new flagpoles for particular events.

Meeting closed at 9:20 pm

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**Meeting of the Town Council on 11 December 2018**

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  
Home-Start Wokingham District  
Sue Ryder Duchess of Kent Hospice  
Wokingham Job Support Centre  
Wokingham Volunteer Centre  
Woodley Adopt a Street Project (WASP)  
Woodley and North Earley Community Forum

Individuals:  
William Cowen  
Rosie Cowen

**TOWN FORUM**

**11 December 2018**

Mrs Mary Holmes asked if the November copy of the newsletter that had not been delivered to all households would be reprinted and delivered and said that she hoped that the Council would not be paying the company that had not carried out the delivery to all households in the town.

The Town Clerk explained that unfortunately the company that had been engaged, and that had not delivered the newsletters and postcards inviting residents to the Remembrance commemoration at the Memorial Ground, guaranteed only a target delivery of between 40 and 60 percent. They claimed to have met that target through the tracking they had carried out. The Council was very disappointed at the outcome and had done its best to publicise the commemoration in other ways and to publicise that residents could view the newsletter online or on the Council noticeboards. The Town Clerk confirmed that the company's terms were payment upfront and that the Council had paid for the delivery upfront.



<b>SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS - 2019/20</b>
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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 COMMITTEE	LEISURE SERVICES	STRATEGY & RESOURCES	FULL COUNCIL
<u>2019</u>  21 May 18 June	<u>2019</u>  4 June	<u>2019</u>  11 June	<u>2019</u> <b>Annual Meeting:</b> 14 May  25 June
16 July 13 August (SH) 10 September	3 September	17 September	1 October
8 October 5 November 3 December	19 November	26 November	10 December
<u>2020</u> 7 January 28 January	<u>2020</u>  14 January	<u>2020</u>  21 January	<u>2020</u>  4 February
25 February 24 March 21 April	14 April (SH)	28 April	<b>Town Electors:</b> 3 March <b>Annual Meeting:</b> 12 May

(SH = School Holidays)

#### SCHOOL TERM DATES

**2019** Tuesday 23 April to Tuesday 23 July  
Tuesday 3 September to Friday 20 December  
(NOTE: Training days - to be agreed)

Half Term: 27 May - 31 May  
Half Term: 28 October - 1 November

Good Friday: 19 April 2019  
WBC & WTC Elections: 2 May 2019

**2020** Monday 6 January to Friday 3 April  
Monday 20 April to Tuesday 21 July  
(NOTE: Training days - to be agreed)

Half Term: 17 - 21 February  
Half Term: 25 - 29 May

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