

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council held at the Oakwood Centre on  
Tuesday 5 February 2019 at 8 pm**

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**Present:** Councillors S. Rahmouni (Chairman); K. Baker; T. Barker; D. Bragg;  
A. Chadwick; R. Dolinski; D. Fradley; M. Green; R. Horskins;  
J. MacNaught; D. Mills; D. Smith; J. Trick; M. Walker

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

**Also present:** Borough Councillor A. Loyes  
2 members 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.*

64. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors S. Brindley, J. Cheng, C. Dixon, M. Forrer, B. Franklin, K. Gilder, B. Soane, D. Stares and P. Wicks.

65. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

66. **MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11 DECEMBER 2018**

The Town Mayor presented the minutes of the Council meeting held on 11 December 2018.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 11 December 2018 and that they be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

67. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

67.1 **Minutes of the Planning Committee: 8 January 2019**

Councillor Barker presented the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 8 January 2019.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To receive the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 8 January 2019.

67.2 **Minutes of the Leisure Services Committee: 15 January 2019**

Councillor Barker presented the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee meeting held on 15 January 2019.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To receive the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee meeting held on 15 January 2019.

- 67.3 **Minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee: 22 January 2019**  
Councillor Baker presented the minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting held on 22 January 2019.

**Minute No. 73: Charges 2019/20**

**a) Oakwood Centre charges**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To approve the 2019/20 charges at the Oakwood Centre, as set out in the Proposed Charges 2019/20 Appendix.

**b) Leisure Services charges**

In reply to a question, the Town Clerk informed Members that she was currently seeking comparison charges from other venues, as requested, and that this information would be circulated to Members when available.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To approve the charges for Leisure Services in 2019/20, as set out in the Proposed Charges 2019/20 Appendix.

**Minute No. 75: Budget Estimates 2019/20**

**d) Budget and precept 2019/20**

Councillor Baker presented the 2019/20 budget and the recommended precept level for 2019/20 to the Council.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To approve the budget for 2019/20, as presented in the Budget Appendix.
- ◆ To approve a precept level of £1,123,528 for the 2019/20 financial year, as set out in the Budget Appendix.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To receive the minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting held on 22 January 2019.

67.4 **Minutes of the Planning Committee: 29 January 2019**

Councillor Barker presented the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 29 January 2019.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To receive the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 29 January 2019.

68. **LEADER'S STATEMENT**

The Leader of the Council made the following statement:

"This is effectively the final Full Council Meeting of this group of Councillors as we head into Town Council elections in May of this year. I know several of you will be stepping down and as with any election some of you may not return.

So I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for the amazing commitment you have given to the residents of Woodley. Unlike the Borough, you get absolutely no remuneration for your work - you do it because you want to put something back into this wonderful town of ours.

For those who will not be here after May can I wish you good luck for the future in whatever you do.

For one Councillor, unfortunately, this has come sooner than they expected. Following a recent conviction J.J. Ellis has resigned from the council. Following legal advice, there does not have to be a by-election because the May elections are just over 2 months away.

As we reach the end of this 4-year cycle, I thought I would look back at some of the highlights that you, as councillors, have overseen.

- Following the freeze on the precept, voted on earlier, the Council Tax levels remain the lowest since 2007/08
- General reserves have been built up to over £400,000 whilst Earmarked reserves have been built up to £550,000
- We have spent in excess of £500,000 on capital projects in delivering great facilities like the 3G pitch, the new Gym, Centre Stage, new children's play area in the town centre and so on
- We will continue to spend on new capital projects, some of which are already underway, including the Lake renovation, new maintenance accommodation, new inclusive children's play area in Woodford Park and further developments at the Leisure Centre
- Constantly given nearly £75,000 in grants or service level agreements to organisations like JAC, Readibus, Keep Mobile, ARC, CAB and so on when other authorities have been cutting back their grants
- We have set up our own SpeedWatch operation to assist the police in controlling speeding on our roads
- We had one of the most successful events in the borough with over 2,000 residents attending the anniversary of the end of World War 1
- We continue to sponsor the fireworks at the Carnival

I think that is why Woodley is the premier town within Wokingham Borough and we must note that all these achievements have been made possible by the hard work of a wonderful team of Council officers.

And there is more to come.

In the 4 years we have been in place there has been an increase in the "buzz" about the town and residents appear to be very happy with what we have been doing."

69. **MALONE PARK**

The Town Clerk presented Report No. FC 1/19. She explained that at the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting held on 29 April 2008 (minute number 68) the Town Council had considered an offer from Wokingham Borough Council of a further 10 year lease of Malone Park and had agreed to request that the Borough Council consider transferring the land to the Town Council. Despite correspondence by letter and email, there had been no progress on this matter and the Town Council had continued to manage, maintain and add to the play equipment in the park.

At the Leisure Services Committee meeting on 15 January 2019 (minute number 44) Members had agreed to continue to seek the transfer of ownership of Malone Park from Wokingham Borough Council to the Town Council. As all matters relating to Council land and land acquisition required the approval of Council, Members were asked to consider this matter.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note Report No. FC 1/19.
- ◆ To confirm the proposal to seek the transfer of ownership of the land at Malone Park from Wokingham Borough Council to the Town Council.

70. **BULMERSHE SULV JOINT WORKING PARTY**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note Report No. FC 2/19 of the Bulmershe SULV Joint Working Party meeting held on 24 January 2019.

71. **WOKINGHAM BOROUGH PLAN**

Members noted correspondence received from Wokingham Borough Council requesting feedback on the issues outlined in the Wokingham Borough Engagement Summary and the Public Engagement Results Summary, which had been circulated with the agenda.

The Town Clerk tabled a proposed response indicating how the Town Council was helping to meet the identified challenges and agreed to add the Town Council's provision of a new public toilet in the town centre.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To send a response to the request for feedback on the issues outlined in the Wokingham Borough Engagement Summary and the Public Engagement Results Summary, as attached at **Appendix A**.

72. **OUTSIDE BODIES**

Members noted the following written reports:

- Campaign for Place report from Councillor Walker, which had been included with the agenda.
- ARC report from Shelagh Flower, which had been tabled at the meeting.

Councillor Mills had attended the Borough/Parish Liaison meeting the previous evening and gave a verbal report on the meeting. The minutes of this meeting would be included in a future agenda, following receipt.

Councillor Dolinski informed Members of matters discussed at a recent meeting of the Sandford Farm and Loddon Park Liaison Group meeting, although this was not a group that had Town Council representation. Councillor Dolinski reported that Taylor Wimpey proposed to issue fines for construction vehicles driving above 10 miles per hour in the area while construction was underway and was seeking suggestions of charities to which any fines could be donated.

73. **TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS**

The Town Mayor reported on the two engagements he had attended since the last meeting. He noted that he had been unable to attend the Mayor of Earley's Christmas Reception due to ill health.

74. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

No suggestions were made for future agenda items.

The following two additional items were added after the agenda had been published.

75. **COUNCILLOR RESIGNATION**

Members noted that Councillor Ellis had resigned from the Council on 4 February 2019. The Council was not required to hold a by-election as the date of resignation was within 6 months of scheduled Town Council elections.

76. **BULMERSHE SULV JOINT WORKING PARTY**

Following the resignation of Councillor Ellis, Members considered appointing a replacement named substitute to the Bulmershe SULV Joint Working Party.

After being duly nominated it was

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To appoint Councillor Bragg as the named substitute to the Bulmershe SULV Joint Working Party.

Meeting closed at 8:50 pm

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## **Wokingham Borough Council Plan**

### **Submission to Wokingham Borough Council on work Woodley Town Council is undertaking in Woodley to tackle the identified challenges facing the Borough**

#### **Clean, green and enjoyable spaces**

Woodley Town Council maintains and manages Woodford Park, Malone Park, Wheble Park, and other open spaces at Rivermead Road, Loddon Mead. Earley Town Council and Woodley Town Council jointly maintain and manage Bulmershe Park. The Town Council has improved play areas at some of these sites and makes weekly Health and Safety checks of play equipment.

In 2018 Woodford Park gained Green Flag status, the first park in the Borough to receive this award.

This year the council is investing around £150,000 to improve the lake in Woodford Park. The project includes desilting the lake, reforming the banks, creating a wildlife area, building a boardwalk with dipping platforms, relaying paths around the lake and improving the habitat and ecosystem of the lake.

Woodley and Earley Town Councils have established a Site of Urban Landscape Value (SULV) Joint Working Party to work together to ensure that the land providing a 'green lung' between Woodley and Earley is preserved as SULV land.

Woodley Town Council has improved its leisure facilities over the past three years by installing a new 3G pitch, refurbishing tennis courts and opening a new gym. The centre runs classes through the year and courses and activities for children in the holidays.

#### **Health and wellbeing**

Woodley Town Council:

- grant funds ARC's counselling services at the Oakwood Centre
- has a Service Level Agreement with Readibus to support residents' use of the service
- grant funds Keep Mobile to support residents' use of the service for day outings to help tackle loneliness
- has a Service Level Agreement with the Just Around the Corner (JAC) charity for outreach work with young people in Woodley to encourage and help them make positive choices.

Woodley Town Council has also established a Community Youth Partnership made up of town councillors and representatives working with young people in the voluntary sector. Last year the partnership held a conference on young people's health and wellbeing which was attended by parents and professionals working with young people.

The Partnership has also run further workshops for parents on dealing with anxiety in the family and from that is planning to launch a parents self help group shortly which will be facilitated by trained volunteers.

The Partnership is also currently exploring a possible art project at Loddon Mead and under the A3290 where we hope to attract young people to take part and to develop a Parkour area.

When the public toilets in Woodley town centre were demolished Woodley Town Council agreed to take part in the Local Loo scheme and will also shortly be installing a public toilet unit in the town centre, in response to public demand.

The Town Council (along with Wokingham BC) also supports the Woodley Adopt a Street Project (WASP) where residents volunteer to litter pick particular areas on a regular basis - we have around 190 volunteers, some of them children.

### **Community safety**

Woodley Town Council has purchased equipment to monitor speeds on roads in Woodley over a period of time, as well as an automated camera that will be used by a team to record speeds and report any excessive speeding to the police who will follow this up.

JAC's work with young people has also played a part in addressing concerns residents may have about anti social behaviour in the town.

### **Sustainable towns and parishes**

Woodley Town Council's waste contract at its sites includes recyclable bins.

The Town Council is working with Reading Community Energy Society to install solar panels on three of its buildings. The partnership includes no-cost installation of the panels and lower cost daytime electricity at a fixed rate for the 20 year contract. The Council will make savings every year as prices in the energy market rise, whilst also generating 'green energy'.

### **Services for adults**

Woodley Town Council provides space for Optalis in offices at Woodford Park Leisure Centre and we hope to continue this arrangement into the future. Optalis clients benefit from a using their rooms in a community friendly building, within Woodford Park.

### **Economic prosperity**

The Town Council is a founding member of the Woodley Town Centre Management Initiative which was established in 1995. The initiative is a partnership of traders along with the Borough and Town Councils. The Town Council makes an annual grant to the initiative, with the Borough Council providing funds via an SLA.

Since the inception of the WTCMI several income generating activities have been successful including the Saturday Market, the Farmers Market and business advertising in the centre. The annual Christmas Extravaganza is a very popular event.

Woodley Town Council  
5 February 2019