



MINUTES OF WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 15th AUGUST 2016 AT 7:00PM IN THE CIVIC CENTRE

Present: Cllrs P Smith (Mayor), P Barton, N Clement, N Pinnegar, C Young, John Cordwell, June Cordwell, A Kendall, L Farmer (7:03)

In attendance: Town Clerk Ms S Bailey, District Cllr G Butcher

T.5092 Apologies for Absence. Cllr R Claydon, A Wilkinson, T Luker, A Proctor

T.5093 Declarations of Interest. Cllrs P Smith (Wotton DIY employer payments), Cllr P Barton –personal member of SCAG (ref; Full Moon)

T.5094 Public Forum – none

T.5095 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 18th July 2016. It was proposed by Cllr John Cordwell and seconded by Cllr P Barton and agreed all in favour to approve these Minutes after a minor amendment.

T.5096 Chairman's Announcements - The Mayor noted that only 5 volunteers had offered to take part in the forthcoming car parking survey. With 9 volunteers, a three hour slot for each count would suffice. Councillors urged to offer time in early September. Council asked that a card of condolence be sent to Cllr R Claydon after the passing away of his father, so shortly after his mother.

T.5097 Accounts

a) To approve payment of £250 plus VAT to Active Electrical for installing emergency lights in the Heritage Centre (please note that work already carried out due to no emergency lighting at Heritage Centre, thus urgent, & invoice is also £90 less than estimate). Proposed to approve by Cllr John Cordwell, seconded Cllr N Pinnegar and agreed by all.

b) To consider quotation for digitalising cemetery records. Background information pack provided. An evening presentation by Pear Technology is requested to show possibilities.

c) To approve attendance at October 6th GAPTC training 'Planning Applications – Increasing the effectiveness of your response' cost £95 per person, held at Agric Univ, Cirencester. Proposed to approve attendance of Deputy Clerk and one Councillor by L Farmer, seconded Cllr P Barton and agreed by all

d) To approve 6% increase in cleaning costs from 1/9/16 for Civic Centre - £25/month; and Town Hall - £21/month due to additional costs to contractor regarding introduction of living wage. Costs have not increase for 6 years and a good/reliable service is provided with all local staff used. Proposed to approve by Cllr P Barton, seconded Cllr A Kendall and agreed by all to approve this increase.

e) Budget 2016/17. To note report of expenditure against budget. Noted as healthy.

f) To approve the accounts for payment. After clarification of the Marchesi conifer removal costs, it was proposed to approve the payments schedule by Cllr A Kendall, seconded Cllr L Farmer, and agreed by all

T.5098 Period of Grant for Exclusive Rights of Burial – to consider request & whether to extend this period for two graves in the cemetery and, if approved, to consider appropriate fees for extension and future policy implications. After due consideration of the possible difficulties this might impose on future councils in their land management of the cemetery, and the fact that surrounding graves all had the same granted period, it was

proposed to refuse an extension to this granted period, since it still had 67 years left on the grant, by Cllr P Smith, seconded Cllr A Kendall, and agreed by all

T.5099 Youth Provision – To approve Service Level Agreement with the Door for Friday afternoon youth sessions for 1 year. Proposed to approve document as presented by Cllr N Pinnegar, seconded Cllr June Cordwell and agreed by all

T.5100 Wotton Swimming Pool – To consider revisions to Swimming Pool Service Level Agreement. Draft documentation was supplied in advance and this also followed two meetings with the Pool Management Committee. After much discussion of the budgetary pressures and constraints on the Town Council, Councillors agreed that a commitment to make future grant applications was necessary in order that yearly provision of £28,000 can continue to be provided to support a summer outdoor pool facility in Wotton. Every organisation this Council grants funds to receives a high level of scrutiny in order to safeguard Wotton taxpayers' money. It was proposed by Cllr P Smith and seconded by Cllr C Young that, subject to the three extra clauses inserted of a volunteer grant facilitator in place within 12 months, NPLQ qualifications 'or similar' be acquired, and a break clause of 12 months be inserted to safeguard each party, this SLA be approved for a 5 year period from March 2017, agreed by all.

Cllr C Young reported that the Pool meeting he had recently attended as the Council representative was very informative. The planning application would be dealt with in two parts, with the main extension and refurbishment first, and the solar panels a little later due to technicalities with roofing. Many ideas were discussed to increase swimmer attendance. This year so far income is up slightly over last year.

T.5101 Committee Vacancies – To appoint Councillors to vacancies on the Town Regeneration Partnership Committee (1 vacancy); and to Youth Liaison Group (1 vacancy). Due to absences it was agreed to defer this item until September meeting.

T.5102 GAPTC Executive Committee – To consider nominating a representative to fill a vacancy on the GAPTC Executive Committee. No volunteers forthcoming, however the Clerk can report back on any necessary items as the GAPTC Glos Clerks' Rep.

T.5103 Road outside of Culverhay Surgery - to discuss costings outcome of Highways build out and consider whether to pursue. TRO report still awaited from Glos Highways. The Highways Manager reports that a build out opposite the surgery would cost minimum £15,000 in addition to likely statutory undertaker costs. The Clerk is asked to clarify if Glos County Council will pay for this work. If response is affirmative then this Council supports the build out, but if not, then it is not supported financially by this Council; proposed by Cllr P Smith, seconded Cllr L Farmer, agreed by all.

T.5104 Cemetery Maintenance – to consider quote for removal of spoil heaps at bottom of cemetery built up by gravediggers over many years and also tree works to enable this to happen. Undertakers have all been contacted regarding any future spoil dumping around perimeter of cemetery. Contractor was met on site and the removal of estimated 120m cubed spoil and various trees to gain access was discussed in detail. Both of these works need to happen in tandem. The quote supplied is very competitive due to elimination of need to access landfill, since spoil will be screened & mixed with organic matter for re-use by contractor thus saving about £4000. It was proposed by Cllr June Cordwell and seconded by Cllr A Kendall to approve the quotation of £996 for trees/growth removal and £3420 for spoil removal, both plus vat. It was proposed by Cllr June Cordwell and seconded by Cllr P Barton that accounts reserves be used for this

expenditure since it is not budgeted for and was not known about at that time, however it is considered urgent to be carried out.

T.5105 Good Deeds Section – cards of thanks are suggested to be sent to the volunteers at the Baptist Church organised by K Dover & Rev T Wharin for providing such a popular entertainment & play programme for children during this summer holiday.

T.5106 Clerk's Report A detailed report provided of administration and buildings activity. A question was clarified about the Under the Edge Arts Building lease – an extension request will appear soon since extra investment is likely to be applied to the building and the Management wish to guarantee its longer term future use. Many staff at WTC are taking summer holidays, however services are coping well. We are pleased to see the Buildings Manager return to good health.

T.5107 Correspondence to note or request action: none
Brochures/Newsletters for information only: Young Glos Annual Review 2015/16; Caring Matters Summer 2016; Cotswolds Conservation Board Annual Review 2015/16, CPRE

T.5108 Reports from Councillors & meetings attended
County Council – County Cllr John Cordwell provided a written report and also highlighted the delays countywide in getting deaths registered during the statutory period, due to continued venue closures over the years and restricted opening hours at those still existing. A motion has requested the improvement of this service. A motion has also requested that Amey improve customer relations after very low satisfaction levels.

District Council – Cllr G Butcher spoke in addition to providing a detailed written report. A motion was successful in denouncing racist xenophobia. Cllr Braun has been working with Bearlands Play Area volunteers to procure new equipment. The Neighbourhood Warden is working on eliminating antisocial behaviour. Meetings with Dryleaze Court residents continue before facility closure. Publicity regarding Full Moon planning application was undertaken. D Hagg is looking at rewriting proposals regarding the Glos Devolution bid. Questions were asked regarding SDC plans to scrap the useful tenants housing forum in the district and inadequately replace it with just 2 tenant representatives, and about how the inevitable increase in fly tipping will be dealt with when the new refuse system overhaul commences shortly.

PROW & Amenities Committee – not met.

Finance & Special Purposes Committee – not met.

Allotments Committee – not met.

Youth Liaison Group – no report. Funds for camera grant still awaited.

Town Regeneration Partnership – not met.

WC Sports Foundation – Cross country will commence soon with 'the Parc' to become a major site for SW meetings. The site will be a halfway point in the Cotswold Challenge with publicity starting shortly. The safe path still needs £16,000 and two grant results are awaited. New BMX track is shortly going out to tender. A seated shelter near the skatepark will be installed after receiving £4000 in grants. Plans for sensory garden and walks around the jogging trail continue. July 2017 will see a 'Party in the Parc' and many plans are in place with help from the Lions. The entrance at New Rd will be tidied up with signage and flags sorted out. Bookings at the Sports Centre are holding up well & also for August youth sessions. Hockey & rugby training starting now for next season.

Wotton Pool – see T.5100

Walking Festival – a new treasurer has been appointed, and bank account opened. More walks of different lengths & difficulty are being investigated to have a suitable range for all. Next meeting in September.

Police Community Mtg Stroud – low crime levels since April. No burglaries in Wotton but increases in other areas. General crime has decreased but violent crime has increased. Last year 34 abandoned vehicles, but this year 169 due to collapse of scrap market price. Fly tipping is also increasing. Wotton is the most problematic area in the district for drug usage.

T.5109 Town Affairs

Cllr C Young – highlighted dangerous parking around Mitre Pitch – Police can only intervene if likely to cause harm or an accident and proof needed. Problem reporting it as so few police around to attend.

T.5110 Planning (time sensitive before next Planning Committee) – to consider **revised plans for Full Moon S14/2430/FUL** & consider representation at SDC 16th August Dev Control Committee. Cllr T Luker agreed before this meeting to attend on behalf of this Council. After due consideration of the revised plans and much discussion, it was proposed by Cllr John Cordwell and seconded by Cllr A Kendall and agreed by all to continue this Council's objection to the plans as follows:

The Town Council backs the community group's bid for the site and understands and agrees that if a sound Business Plan is received, SDC Officers will recommend refusal on grounds of the application being contrary to Local Plan Policy E16 and NPPF Paragraph 70. We continue to object to the application as follows:

- The site is overbearing, overdeveloped and appears cramped with too high a density of housing and a lack of amenity space. When compared to the density of recent Wotton developments of Potters Pond and Water Lane, this is the most dense proposal with 11 (lately revised to 10) houses on the 0.2 hectare site (compared to 0.9 /46 homes, 0.6/24 homes). The houses lack amenity space and the sizes of the plots are out of keeping with the sizes of plots of surrounding properties – this latter comment was also made by District Councillors at the previous SDC Development Control Committee.*
- The Silver Birch on site, which has a Tree Preservation Order, is showing an inadequate root protection zone around it, as the roots are in two gardens and there is nothing to stop new house owners damaging the tree roots with any ancillary building foundations. The proposed garden walls of 7 & 8 are indeed showing as being built on the TPO tree roots. We continue to request that the Town Council owned tree on the Green adjacent is protected, and that all TPO trees are furthermore adequately protected around their roots, and that a root protection scheme and a construction working method statement for TPO trees are approved before any works commence.*
- The site proposal has no affordable housing and this Town Council continues to question why not?*
- The houses continue to have no chimneys and this is out of keeping with the local vernacular and the streetscene.*
- The proposed house no 10 overlooks property no 1 Synwell Green thus invading existing privacy.*
- The proposed houses have almost no front gardens and this is not keeping with the local vernacular and is not consistent with the nearby streetscene.*
- Inadequate turning space has been provided for safe parking or turning – particularly for the spaces at the far end of the site. Furthermore since the front doors of the properties are so close to the roads on the outside of the site, there is much concern that this will lead to parking on the already severely congested surrounding roads, thus exacerbating existing local parking problems.*
- If permission is granted, safeguards must be made to the potential damage during construction to the already very poor roads in the area around this site. Conditions should be attached which require all parking during construction to be on the site and not on adjacent roads, and that the adjacent parking area at The Green is kept clear at all times to enable local residents to continue to enjoy their amenity space and for access to the Oliver Memorial Chapel*
- If the District Council is minded to approve the application, then we request that any S106 contributions payable are to be for the benefit of Synwell Playing Fields and community recreational use.*

*It was proposed by Cllr N Pinnegar and seconded by Cllr L Farmer to enter closed session due to following business pertaining to Town Trust (separate charity) agreed all in favour.
The public left the meeting.*

T.5111 Town Trust Matters

To approve the Minutes of the Town Trust items discussed at Town Council meetings during the period December 2015 to June 2016. A document was provided extracting all relevant Town Trust items for approval – proposed by Cllr John Cordwell and second by Cllr A Kendal to approve, agreed all in favour.

This completed the business of the Town Council at 9pm

Signed: Dated:

Chairman of Wotton-under-Edge Town Council