

MINUTES OF WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 7PM IN THE CIVIC CENTRE



Present: Cllrs P Smith (Chairman) T Luker, P Barton, N Pinnegar, June Cordwell, R Claydon, N Clement, C Young, J Turner, L Farmer, John Cordwell, R Hale
In attendance: Town Clerk Ms S Bailey, District Cllrs Braun & Butcher, and 3 members of public

T.5361 Apologies for Absence Cllr A Wilkinson

T.5362 Declarations of Interest Cllrs June & John Cordwell (county parking matters) although a previously granted Dispensation applies, Cllr R Claydon ref: payment to DB Refrigeration as a former neighbour.

T.5363 Public Forum Cllr R Claydon commented (since he would leave the room for the payments item) that the Minutes should record specifically that the cost of the recent by-election called to replace two town councillors has cost the Wotton taxpayer £6500. Furthermore, he is concerned that the wifi installation costs at the civic centre appear to have escalated due to various installation problems by the IT contractor.

Mr Kitchen from a Long St business, read out a prepared statement in which he expressed dissatisfaction that those councillors found to have breached the Code of Conduct had also participated fully in the meeting which had granted them a dispensation from declaring their interests. They also remained members of the Special Purposes Committee which looks at Council procedures. Mr Kitchen was thanked for his comments and a transcript handed to the Clerk.

T.5364 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 21st August 2017. It was proposed by Cllr L Farmer and seconded by Cllr C Young to approve these Minutes, agreed all in favour.

T.5365 Chairman's Announcements – none

T.5366 Accounts

Cllr R Claydon left the room

a) To note vandalism to Rope Walk noticeboard and to ratify payment of £116 plus Vat for replacement parts, plus payment (£60) to handyman for repairs. The Mayor explained how this door was vandalised and missed by the CCTV since it was behind the telegraph pole. It was proposed by Cllr P Barton and seconded by Cllr T Luker, to approve these payments, agreed by all.

Cllr R Claydon returned to the room

- b) To approve quote for £100 plus VAT to fit new letterbox and draught excluder to Heritage Centre. It was proposed by Cllr T Luker and seconded by Cllr P Barton, to approve this payment, agreed by all.
- c) To note additional payment of £377.88 for Pensions Ill-Health Liability Insurance following assessment of current payroll details. After clarification of the difference between payments for ill health via Zurich insurance and for pensions, this was noted.
- d) To approve YCS invoice of £3298 for June-Aug Qtr & accompanying youth report. It was proposed by Cllr R Claydon and seconded by Cllr L Farmer, to approve this payment, agreed by all, also noting that the report appeared more upbeat about applying for grants and concerning youth attendance.

- e) To approve Clerk attendance at SLCC Regional Training Seminar in Bristol on 22/11/2017 at a cost of £69 plus VAT. It was proposed by Cllr R Claydon and seconded by Cllr N Pinnegar, to approve this attendance, agreed by all
- f) Budget 2017/18. Report of expenditure against budget noted as healthy.
Cllr R Claydon left the room
- g) To approve the accounts for payment. After the Clerk highlighted the few extra payments, it was proposed by Cllr June Cordwell and seconded by Cllr T Luker, to approve these payments, agreed by all. The Clerk also highlighted that A&E Security had quoted £278 for extra zone plan works to the Heritage Centre when fire alarm inspections were carried out last week. However, the Buildings Manager was working on the zone plan before being taken ill, and will resume with this upon his return.
Cllr R Claydon returned to the room

T.5367 Car Parking Enforcement – to decide whether to proceed with enforcement of Civic Centre car park rules using Glos CC assistance via APCOA. The Clerk produced a detailed backing document explaining matters relating to the complicated process of establishing an off-street parking order and legislation needed to pursue enforcement. It was also highlighted that SDC is considering introducing charges at car parks districtwide, although Wotton’s Chipping Car Park is leased to them by the Town Trust and they would need WTC permission to charge there. After consideration of many and various implications, it was proposed by Cllr R Claydon and seconded by Cllr P Barton, that:

1. WTC agrees to the principle of doing this:
2. that a WTC working group looks at the detail of the whole system eg charges & rules:
2. that the offer of the free ticket machine is taken up from county council:
3. that a permit system is investigated for residents/council spaces/disabled:
3. that the community is engaged as appropriate relating to this introduction:
4. that a height barrier is not installed at the entrance until the effects of such car parking measures have been assessed. Agreed 11 in favour with 1 abstention. The working group will consist of Cllrs Claydon, Barton, Luker, Turner, Young, Smith, & June Cordwell.

T.5368 New Road Allotments – To decide response to letter requesting permission to create new private access-way onto New Road allotments; complaining of weeds on bank; and requesting sight of Council’s public liability cover. The Clerk produced a draft response which was considered in detail by the Council. It was proposed by Cllr John Cordwell and seconded by Cllr P Barton and agreed unanimously, that the Clerk responds as suggested, and that a new access from any garden, from any of the new houses below the Chipping Surgery, onto the allotment site is definitely not given permission.

T.5369 13-15 Bradley St, social housing properties due for demolition by SDC – to encourage SDC to accurately respond to information requests and provide the factual data/reports requested. WTC may reconsider its previous support decision due to contradictory information received. The Mayor updated Council on a meeting held at residents’ request to highlight anomalies in the data supplied by SDC officers to its housing committee regarding the exact state of repair of the properties when condemning them.

It was proposed by Cllr C Young and seconded by Cllr T Luker to suspend Standing Orders to allow the district cllrs to speak about the decision, agreed all in favour.

District Cllr C Braun explained the SDC process which triggered surveys for two of the houses needing significant works, and whereby other adjacent vacant properties were then taken into consideration to make most use of the large plot, which could accommodate 8 houses instead of 4. The tenants would be rehomed in the new houses, also the districtwide waiting list of 2000 people for homes needs to be tackled.

It was proposed by Cllr T Luker and seconded by Cllr C Young to reinstate Standing Orders, all agreed.

Although Wotton Town Council cannot become involved in a landlord/tenant dispute, this Council is concerned that incorrect factual information was supplied by SDC for our June council meeting leading this Council to offer no objection to the proposed demolition. It is thus proposed by Cllr R Claydon and seconded by Cllr P Smith and agreed, 11 in favour 1 abstention, that WTC requests from SDC:

- Information relating to the costs of repair at each of the 4 properties individually
- Assurance that the Housing Committee at SDC has the correct information to hand to make decisions
- Assurance that the SDC Housing Committee reconsiders its decision regarding these properties, given that it did not appear to have had have factually correct information available when it made the previous decision.

T.5370 Committees and Representatives

Town Regeneration Partnership – To confirm Cllr R Hale as member of the Town Regeneration Partnership, proposed by Cllr T Luker, seconded by Cllr June Cordwell, agreed by all.

CAB – noted Cllr C Young's resignation as CAB representative. Post to remain vacant as no representative came forward.

T.5371 'Fleur de lys' stone replacement work on Chipping Hall roof - to note the excellent works undertaken and to consider what to do with old stonework remnant. Thank you card will be sent to builder Mr A Bullingham for an excellent job. It was proposed by Cllr June Cordwell and seconded by Cllr P Barton and agreed, 11 in favour 1 abstention, that the old stone fleur is auctioned to the highest bidder and the funds go to Wotton Town Trust for charitable/recreational use for the whole town, agreed all in favour. The fleur stone remnant would make a lovely garden ornament, has good provenance, and is a piece of Wotton's history.

T.5372 Good Deeds Section: Thanks to Volunteers – To acknowledge recent volunteer work for the benefit of the town/community. In Addition to Mr A Bullingham, cards to be sent to Mr Mrs N Ford of Court Orchard for 20 years of successfully organising youth football teams in the town, and to the Synwell Playing Fields Committee for the successful organisation of a weekend of festive events on the playing fields two weeks ago.

T.5373 Clerk's Report – a comprehensive report covering August was supplied and noted.

T.5374 Correspondence to note or request action:

- a) To note response from Police and Crime Commissioner, Martin Surl, to Town Council's letter regarding policing in Wotton-under-Edge. Also responses from MP G Clifton Brown, & Insp Clifford. Council requests that Insp Clifford attends a future council meeting to discuss police changes as offered.

- b) To note Post Office Local Public Consultation Decision regarding the move of the Wotton branch to new premises within the Co-Op Store. Cllr J Turner explained that the installation at the Co Op would temporarily happen at the rear of store from 30th October where the milk and frozen items are.
- c) To receive query regarding council van purchase from member of public. The Clerk's detailed suggested response (of reasons relating to recent decision to purchase the Council van) was circulated and discussed by Council who unanimously supported its content. Clerk asked to respond as suggested.

Brochures/Newsletters for information only: Cotswold Conservation Board – Annual Review

T.5375 Reports from Councillors & meetings attended

County Council – County Cllr John Cordwell provided a written report and highlighted path resurfacing works along Synwell Lane, and filibustering by political groups at recent county council meeting to avoid decision-making.

District Council – Written report was circulated. District Cllr Braun said that the Holywell Inquiry would be held at Stroud and not Bristol in early December (Cllr P Smith attending from WTC).

PROW & Amenities Committee – not met

Finance & Special Purposes Committee – to meet end of September

Allotments Committee – postponed until October.

Wotton Youth Partnership – written report provided by Cllr June Cordwell.

Town Regeneration Partnership – not met

WC Sports Foundation – written report provided by Cllr R Hale.

Wotton Pool – not met

Heritage Centre – to meet the following day

Walking Festival – met, however meeting not attended by rep due to holiday.

T.5376 Town Affairs

Cllr L Farmer - It is unsettling to hear about a female raped in this town last week.

Cllr T Luker – pleased to see Cotswold Gardens grass finally cut by district council.

This completed the business of the Town Council at 8.45pm

Signed:Dated: