



MINUTES OF WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 16th FEBRUARY 2015 AT 7PM IN THE CIVIC CENTRE

Present: Councillors R Claydon (Mayor), June Cordwell, John Cordwell, N Clement, Clair Galbraith, K Collins, Chris Galbraith, M Zimmer, T Luker, A Wilkinson (from 7:05), P Barton. **In Attendance:** Town Clerk Ms S Bailey. Public 5

T.4665 **Apologies** received & accepted from Cllrs L Harris & P Smith

T.4666 **Public Forum** Ms K Elliott introduced 4 youths who spoke about their enthusiasm for getting involved with projects in the town. Out of a survey of 220 youths in the town, 80% wanted a voice for the youth. A hospitality fundraising event at the weekend by youths raised £600. A youth café will operate once a month on Friday afternoons at the Town Hall. All were very pleased with the new skatepark which will open shortly. When asked what they would like to see in the town, they promised to forward their ideas to future meetings. They were welcomed to attend meetings to listen to democracy in action.

T.4667 **Declarations of Interest** Cllr John Cordwell re: Glos CC weedspraying

T.4668 **Tolsey Clock** – Mr M Woolfrey was unfortunately detained this evening repairing the Tolsey Clock!

T.4669 **Chairman's Announcements** The Mayor circulated a report explaining meetings with the Chipping Club Room Trustees, Beaumont le Roger Society, Drive For Life Event at KLB School, and entering Community Plan questionnaire responses into a spreadsheet format for analysis. It appears from initial perusal that high on the ratings are the library, the Swimming Pool and local shops. The highest concern area appears to be possible introduction of car parking charges and lack of parking. Full explanations will be available for the Annual Parish Assembly in March.

T.4670 **To approve the Minutes** of the Meeting held on 19th January 2015. It was proposed by Cllr John Cordwell and seconded by Cllr Clair Galbraith and agreed all in favour to approve the Minutes.

T.4671 **To note Minutes of Other Committees:** Minutes of Planning Committee 22nd December 2014; the Footpaths meeting of 30th October 2014; the Town Regeneration Partnership Committee meeting of 10th November 2014: all duly noted.

T.4672 **Accounts**

- a) To note completion of internal audit for October-December 2014 carried out by Cllr K Collins. A good audit with no issues found; the burial procedures were interesting.
- b) To agree the following transfers between the Town Council and the Town Trust:
 - (i) £4700 Town Council support to Town Trust;
 - (ii) £2000 from Town Council to Town Trust to rebuild the permanent endowment as required by the Charity Commission;
 - (iii) £5000 from Town Trust to Town Council for administration contributionProposed by Cllr June Cordwell and seconded by Cllr Chris Galbraith and agreed by all to agree the transfers (b) above.
- c) To approve quotation for scaffolding hire for repair works to Tolsey Clock, costs to be shared with building owner to enable simultaneous works to cupola. Proposed by Cllr M Zimmer and seconded by Cllr June Cordwell and agreed by all to employ scaffolding for one month at £2100 and share costs with owner of building.

- d) To consider contributing to cost of electricity for the CCTV camera to be sited on the Parish Room. The support of the Church Council regarding siting of camera and responder unit is much appreciated. However a precedent would be set if the Town Council were to pay an extra fee using the location since no other camera location in the town is managed this way. It is a safety facility for the community and no benefit accrues to the Town Council. However we are happy to pay for the camera itself, installation of the camera and relay unit, its future maintenance, and any electricity costs of its usage. The Clerk spoke to Archdeacon of Gloucester who appeared to support the camera after various questions were answered regarding its usage.
- e) Budget 2014/15. To note report of expenditure against budget (backing papers). Budget appears healthy and was noted.
- f) To approve the accounts for payment (backing papers). Proposed by Cllr K Collins and seconded by Cllr M Zimmer and agreed by all to pay these accounts, after the Clerk had explained a few extra new invoices.

T.4673 Grants and Donations

- a) To consider grant application from Wotton-under-Edge Arts Association for £150 towards the Arts Festival 2015, to be funded from the In Our Towns grant. Councillors queried the narrow benefit if only a limited number of young people can attend this dragon workshop. Clerk requested to respond that we are prepared to underwrite the workshop to this amount but only if a minimum of 10 youths from Wotton attend, proposed by Cllr John Cordwell and seconded by Cllr Chris Galbraith and agreed 9 in favour, 2 abstentions.
- b) To consider grant application from Insight Gloucestershire (formerly Gloucestershire County Association for the Blind). Although their letter indicates 50 people are helped in this area, it is unclear how much is requested and what the funds are to be used for. Clerk asked to investigate. Also investigate if Wotton Blind Club is still active.

T.4674 Weed Spraying. To consider how best to manage weed spraying in the town from April onwards – options include County Council Community Top-up scheme, using contractors, or Town Council operative (backing papers). After much discussion of the various advantages and disadvantage of using each method, it was proposed by Cllr T Luker, seconded by Cllr June Cordwell that the buildings manager undertakes training to enable weeds to be sprayed efficiently around town on an ad hoc basis as and when necessary, as this will give the Council greater control when responding to problem areas.

T.4675 Youth Service. To consider how to progress future youth commissioning. The mayor prepared a table outlining the 5 different options of forming a new charity ourselves, continuing with SOSYP, partnering another council, contracting with a service provider directly, or employing a youth worker directly. After much discussion of the benefits of each option and the relative drawbacks, and also hearing about the views of Wotton's Youth Liaison Group, it was proposed by Cllr June Cordwell seconded by Chris Galbraith and agreed 9 in favour with 2 abstentions, to discontinue with the SOSYP arrangement, in favour of placing our own contract with a youth service provider in order to enable a greater level of control. A working group would be formed shortly (comprising Cllrs R Claydon, June Cordwell, T Luker & P Barton) to write the tender specification documents using the previous ones as the starting basis.

T.4676 Community Plan Funding. To consider a possible grant application to Stroud District Council for funding towards the Community Plan. (backing papers) 50% of costs are available to a maximum of £500 and must be used within one year with full cost

breakdown to be provided with the applications. It is agreed that Cllrs K Collins and T Luker will obtain two cost estimates for printing & artwork of 2000/3000 Community Plan booklets based on same format as previously, with the Town Council providing text & photos. A grant application will then be submitted to SDC.

T.4677 Emergency Accommodation. To consider request from the British School for provision of accommodation at the Civic Centre/Town Hall in an emergency. The measures are necessary for the school's Business Continuity Plan and would involve providing rooms for part-time education for pupils on a temporary basis. It was proposed by Cllr June Cordwell and seconded by Cllr M Zimmer and agreed by all to approve this request in principle on a short term basis with details to be sorted at a later date if necessary.

T.4678 Open Spaces Report. To note report from Clerk (backing papers). This report detailing flowerbeds, tree works, grass cutting contract and tree works carried out was submitted to the Regeneration Committee, who were very pleased to see a lot of work happening in the town.

T.4679 Clerk's Report (*backing paper*) The report was noted, with the Council still very busy. A report outlining Council 2014 achievements and 2015 goals is available for the Annual Town Assembly.

T.4680 Correspondence to note or request action:

- a) To note email from Sports Foundation regarding non-sporting events to be held at the site. Council confirms its approval for a hockey festival, a bonfire event and a circus visit. Risk assessments and insurance for all events will as usual be covered by WCSF.
- b) To note letter regarding allotment measurements and legislation with a view to confirming legal status in the face of an activist's campaign targeting local councils. Noted
- c) To note email complaint regarding services of Gloucestershire County Council ref litter /highways. Noted. Complaints have been filed by Glos CC and County Cllr John Cordwell regarding Amey's performance in general.
- d) To note copy complaint letter sent to Gloucestershire County Highways regarding various highways issues in the town. As above complaints sent to Amey. Some road repairs are due to be carried out at the end of February.
- e) To note email complaint about litter being deposited from the bus stop into the garden of 10 Westfields. A new bin is due to be placed outside the youth club but logo problems has led to supplier delays. The spare bin may then be placed by the bus stop and SDC have agreed to empty it.

Brochures/Newsletters for information only: *none*

T.4681 Reports from Councillors on meetings attended

County Council – detailed report circulated in advance by Cllr John Cordwell. The County Council incinerator meeting this week will discuss the high cancellation charges.

District Council – report circulated in advance by Cllr P Smith and highlighted Boundary Commission proposals (next week's Planning agenda)

Footpaths Committee – the footpaths survey has been reallocated for surveying. A Cotswold Warden in Hillesley is trying to establish a disabled access footpath to Wotton from Hillesley, although in early stages.

Special Purposes Committee – meets next week

Youth Liaison Group /SOSYP – Cllr June Cordwell reported that Youth Liaison Group needs new members & input & help to raise future funds if we wish to sustain the level of youth sessions as at present. Another £5k bid has been applied for. GMTF – next visit is to Chepstow to learn about how they have encouraged tourism; Cllr June Cordwell to attend, possibly with Cllr A Wilkinson. LAG European grant has gone to appeal; Wotton Farm Shop is hoping for match funding grant to expand the shop.

Town Regeneration Partnership – Discussed items were the Community Plan, open spaces report, Mediaeval market plans, the arts grant, & Heritage Centre old photos Sports Foundation – skatepark completed today but muddy still. A solicitor is being used for access path plans. Grand opening Saturday 21st March, along with Sports Hall takeover & new booking system. Another 400 trees now planted. May fundraising event with Dursley Male Voice Choir at St Mary's.

Swimming Pool – Cllr K Collins noted that the development meetings (which we are allowed to attend) are only held on Mondays when Council is held. The March Council meeting will discuss the final tranche of the Pool grant for this FY.

Countess of Warwick meeting was attended to distribute a small amount of funds

T.4682 Town Affairs

Cllr A Wilkinson – Chamber of Trade news: the film is very successful with a high number of viewings, a shorter version will be shown in the cinema, the town map/leaflet will be reprinted and distributed, the developer wants to hold a community information event regarding the proposed car park behind the fire station in partnership with the Chamber. Plans will be submitted shortly.

Cllr K Collins – the road bollard outside the coffee shop is missing – advised to report it to Glos CC Highways. The War Memorial roundabout is dangerous (recent near misses) and desperately needs re-lining of road markings. County Cllr Cordwell to chase. Chipping Surgery temporary access road is very dangerous with a number of near misses witnessed reversing onto the main road and crossing the children's school footpath. Allotment trees pruning very severe by developer.

Cllr June Cordwell – use the no.82 bus or lose it. This service goes from Wotton to Bristol Parkway, Cribbs and the Hospital in Bristol; it is very useful and direct.

Cllr John Cordwell – the SDC tree officer approached him about the Silver Birch at the Full Moon requesting information, as the developer wants to fell it.

Meeting concluded at 8.55pm

Signed Date

Chairman & Town Mayor