

MINUTES OF WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING, MONDAY 20th AUGUST 2018 AT 7PM IN THE CIVIC CENTRE



Present: Cllrs P Smith (Chairman), R Claydon, T Luker, N Pinnegar, June Cordwell, John Cordwell, J Turner, P Barton, A Wilkinson, L Farmer

In attendance: Clerk Ms S Bailey, District Cllrs K Tucker, G Butcher, PCSO Hazel Walkley, 18 members of public

T.5585 Apologies for Absence – Cllrs M Short, R Hale accepted.

T.5586 Declarations of Interest or Dispensations – Cllr A Wilkinson (personal-Screwfix employer on payment schedule)

T.5587 Presentation of prizes for Best Kept Allotments. The Mayor presented various prizes to allotment holders.

New Rd

1st Place	Plot 11	£10 garden Gift Voucher
2nd Place	Plot 35	£5 Garden Gift Voucher
3rd Place	Plot 5	£5 Garden Gift Voucher
Highly Commended	Plots 37 and 38	
Best newcomer	Plot 27A	£10 garden Gift Voucher

Knapp Rd

1st Place	Plot 11	£10 garden Gift Voucher
2nd Place	Plot 27A	£5 Garden Gift Voucher
3rd Place	Plot 18	£5 Garden Gift Voucher
Best newcomer	Plot 28	£10 garden Gift Voucher

T.5588 To receive Police Report – the new PCSO for this area introduced herself and explained that she had been working the Stroud area for the past 11 years. She will endeavour to provide a quarterly report outlining any major issues; none at the moment.

T.5589 Public Forum Mrs J Walshe expressed interest in the town councillor vacancy, and also asked that Old Town toilets are kept open and refurbished. Positive feedback is now received from Heritage Centre visitors after the Rope Walk toilet and area refurbishment. Mrs J Tebb also supported the idea of Old Town toilet refurbishment. Mr C Young spoke of regret in resigning too soon and thanked councillors for support comments. He also questioned the extra costs to the Wotton taxpayer of running and taking over a new car park. Finally, he wished to apologise to District Cllr Braun for behaviour at a meeting and would contact her later.

T.5590 To receive reports from County Councillor and District Councillor
County – County Cllr John Cordwell provided a written report. The office was surprised to see 20mph signs delivered after they were ordered by a parishioner, with no knowledge by town or county council.

District – District Cllr K Tucker answered questions on the written report. The replacement Chief Executive is now appointed & starts 1st November with previous experience at Tanbridge District Council. SDC car parking charges consultation has been withdrawn (although parishes still not notified officially). SDC will look at other ways to encourage town centre growth across the district, although timeframe for starting this is unknown.

T.5591 To approve the Minutes of the council meeting of 16th July 2018. It was proposed by Cllr J Turner and seconded by Cllr R Claydon to approve the Minutes as presented, agreed 7 in favour, 3 abstentions.

T.5592 Chairman's Announcements – Cllr P Smith attended the defibrillator awareness & fundraising event at the Royal Oak, opening of BMX track at the Community Parc, and also a fete at Pennwood Lodge Nursing Home.

T.5593 Resignation of Councillor – The resignation of Chris Young was noted. SDC will be notified and notices placed to advise the public of the procedure for filling the vacancy. Mr Young was thanked for his work whilst on the Council.

T.5594 Accounts

a) To consider quotes for works to Town Hall ground floor blower radiators. Problems were highlighted by the Clerk with previous boiler installer/contractor Glevum not interested in pursuing repairs after much chasing. The wiring is very old and has had many attempts at improvement over the past 10 years. The upper floor system is working adequately. It was proposed by Cllr P Smith and seconded by Cllr L Farmer that the net quote of £5884 for 4 new radiators including wiring by West Country Plumbing is approved, subject to a visit by the Clerk and Mayor/Deputy Mayor to understand better the ground floor radiator system and wiring involved, agreed 9 in favour, 1 against.

b) YCS final quarterly report was received. It was proposed by Cllr P Barton and seconded by Cllr R Claydon to approve final two invoices for £3,298 each for the periods March-May 2018 and June-August 2018, agreed by all.

c) To approve quotes for clearance work to stream banks at Marchesi Walk. The contractor has cleared this section of the stream twice before and he was asked to continue to pay attention to crayfish and wader sterilisation. Proposed to accept quote of £620 from contractor D Howse by Cllr L Farmer seconded by Cllr T Luker agreed by all.

d) To approve Clerk attendance at 1 day SLCC 2018 Regional Training Seminar in Worcester on 24/10/18 at a cost of £75 plus mileage; proposed by Cllr N Pinnegar seconded by Cllr A Wilkinson to approve attendance, agreed by all.

e) To approve purchase of replacement computer at Youth Centre. It was proposed by Cllr P Smith and seconded by Cllr P Barton to use the remainder of the private donation for CCR/Youth Centre building and replace the broken third computer costing up to £450 ahead of the new youth contract commencing in September, agreed by all. All of the computers are nearly 6 years old and are used for a variety of purposes by youths.

f) Budget 2018/19. Report of expenditure against budget noted. £27 teapots purchase was questioned (*post meeting note: for the elderly day centre*).

g) To approve the accounts for payment. After noting one extra invoice, it was proposed by Cllr T Luker and seconded by Cllr R Claydon to approve net payments of £30,671 for Town Council and £663 for Town Trust, agreed by all.

T.5595 Defibrillators

To consider request from Lions Club and Wotton Defibrillator Awareness Group for WTC support for the initiative and fundraising to provide extra defibrillator units to

improve coverage throughout the town. There will be an item on the September agenda to agree specific purchase details and the letter from Wotton Lions confirming future support was noted. Cllr Farmer as representative provided an update on the meeting with WDAG. Active fundraising has secured funds for at least another 5 units around Wotton, and 3 more units have already been ordered by WDAG with private donations. Informative location maps, frequent education on usage and consistent checking of appliances & registering with SW Ambulance will be needed. It was proposed by Cllr L Farmer and seconded by Cllr J Turner to continue support for this project, agreed by all.

T.5596 S106 Funding Priorities

a) To consider allocation of £1438, S106 funding from S.16/0321/COU Workshop, Webb's Yard in accordance with Town Council's S106 funding priorities list – the latter needs to be re-assessed and updated. After discussions concerning the payment status of Synwell Playing Field's new gym equipment, it was proposed by Cllr June Cordwell and seconded by Cllr John Cordwell that £1438 is earmarked to be used for Symn Lane play area since some of the play items are nearing the end of their useful life as identified in the recent ROSPA report, agreed 8 in favour, 2 abstentions.

b) To note new project wish list from Synwell Playing Field (SPFC) and also the proposed revamp of outdoor play facilities at the British School – both requesting funds. SPFC already appear to have cut down the trees at the bottom of the sports pitches for which funds were requested. Clerk is asked to contact the primary schools giving details of WTC grant process with consideration at December's budget meeting.

T.5597 Strategies for the Future of Wotton-under-Edge

a) To consider Wotton's future car parking provision in the light of SDC's recent planning decisions and charging proposals. The Clerk prepared a document outlining the recent decision at SDC to approve the Symn Lane car park application and the implications for other major car parks in Wotton. Although SDC charging proposals have been dropped for the moment, the future is uncertain regarding their re-introduction. Wotton Town Council is not in favour of large-scale car park charging in Wotton and would prefer to be in charge of its own destiny regarding such plans in future. Much debate followed, concerning the fact that many of the management details and cost implications of the new car park at Symn Lane are not yet known, as the SDC decision document is yet to be finalised.

It was proposed by Cllr R Claydon and seconded by Cllr L Farmer and agreed 5 in favour and 5 against, with the Chairman using his casting vote to vote in favour of the proposal, that Wotton Town Council enters into negotiation to take on the management/ownership of the new Symn Lane car park, subject to clarification of the S106 agreement clauses. The final decision would then be brought back to Wotton Town Council for agreement when all the information and variables are known. The negotiation team will consist of the Clerk and four Councillors (from P Smith, R Claydon, R Hale, L Farmer, P Barton) who will meet with SDC Planning Authority to ascertain details of the venture.

b) Stroud District Council's Market Town Centres Initiative Fund – To review priorities for this funding (previously: coach parking at Parklands, Old Town toilets, Greenway Feasibility II). Since the approved planning application at Symn Lane included two coach bays it is felt unnecessary to currently pursue Parklands as a coach parking facility. Therefore it is proposed that the priorities for this Fund are now 1) Old Town toilets refurb/rebuild 2) new Symn Lane car park items (eg. electric car charge facility) 3) Greenway Group Phase II Feasibility Study; proposed by Cllr R Claydon seconded by

Cllr A Wilkinson and agreed by all with 1 abstention.

T.5598 Old Town Toilets – To agree specification for options to either refurbish or replace the toilets; such specifications to be used to obtain costs for architect services. The Clerk has contacted a specialist toilet installation company called Healthmatic and a meeting is envisaged shortly with a presentation to be made as soon as possible to Council on the options and costings.

T.5599 Fairtrade Towns

a) To consider request from Fairtrade Towns group to introduce a policy in Town Council/Town Trust buildings that all users must use Fairtrade products for refreshments. It is felt that a policy specifying such usage was unworkable, however, it is suggested that a recommendation to users on the invoices/hire agreement states that using Fair Trade Products is requested where possible.

b) Noted that the Fair Trade Town group has successfully renewed the town's Fair Trade status for another 2 years.

T.5600 Stroud District Council Environment Strategy Consultation – To consider response, deadline 30/9/2018. The online questions are very quick and simple and councillors are advised to complete it themselves.

T.5601 Good Deeds Section: Thanks to Volunteers – to acknowledge recent volunteer work for the benefit of the town/community. Suggestions are:

Mr S Bishops for assisting a local heart attack victim and looking after the family

Royal Oak for defibrillator awareness and fundraising

Bowls Club for defibrillator awareness and purchase

Mr Thomas for defibrillator purchase donation

Mr & Mrs Loughnane for defibrillator purchase donation

The Falcon, and The Star both for successful defibrillator awareness videos in the Press as well as the Indian restaurant for its defibrillator awareness and donations

T.5602 Clerk's Report written report provided and noted.

T.5603 Correspondence to note or request action:

a) Noted letter of thanks from Wotton branch of the Royal British Legion for Council support, enabling them to represent the town at the international GP90 Commemoration in Belgium. Cllr N Pinnegar was also thanked for representing the Council and Wotton at this event, which he described as "a very humbling experience".

b) Noted letter of thanks from Cobalt for donation plus project update and summer newsletter.

c) Noted letter of thanks for support from Cotswold Tyndale Rotary Club.

Brochures/Newsletters for information only: Countryside Voice Summer 2018

T.5604 Reports from Councillors & meetings attended

PROW – issues from the footpaths survey have been checked again and priorities for work forwarded to County. The footpaths survey is being carried out again. We are still awaiting information about the stages for the Cotswold Gateway Towns Project

ALLOTMENTS – half plots have been let at Knapp and New Rd. Plans are being considered for improvements to Knapp Rd site.

WOTTON YOUTH PARTNERSHIP – not met

TOWN REGENERATION – not met

WCSF – meeting this evening elsewhere.

RECREATIONAL TRUST - £2600 is now left in the cinema windfall legacy thus almost depleted. More information has been requested from the British School playground application for funding. New applications also from Dramatic Society and Community Parc. GDPR policies and documents were discussed in detail.

HERITAGE CENTRE – not met

WOTTON POOL – no representative

T.5605 Town Affairs

Cllr A Wilkinson complained about poor behaviour from some members at the recent SDC planning meeting. He advised that an election will likely be requested due to the councillor vacancy and asked that all councillors resign and stand again to be re-elected, thus using council resources wisely since elections cost £6500 each time.

Cllr P Barton complained about the new eyesight buildings for bin storage at Bearlands and requested clarification from district councillors (who are pursuing this issue).

Cllr P Smith asked that County Council cut back foliage on the exit from Court Orchard as growth is hindering visibility.

Cllr R Claydon took the chair

T.5606 Planning Applications –to consider in view of SDC ‘respond by’ dates:

a) **S.18/1578/HHOLD – 87 Bearlands**, Wotton-under-Edge GL12 7SB. A first floor side extension and single storey rear extension. It was proposed by Cllr P Smith and seconded by Cllr P Barton to support this application subject to the Planning Authority checking the amount of light available to the neighbouring conservatory at no.85 which abutts the proposed development, agreed 9 in favour 1 abstention.

b) **S.18/1600/MINAM – Site of Former 24, Tabernacle Road**, Wotton-under-Edge. Minor amendment to Application S.18/0425/FUL – additional solar panels. It was proposed by Cllr John Cordwell and seconded by Cllr N Pinnegar to support this application, agreed by all.

This completed the business of the Town Council at 9.20pm

Signed:Dated: