

MINUTES OF WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING, MONDAY 17th JUNE 2019 AT 7.00PM IN THE CIVIC CENTRE



Present: Cllrs R Claydon (Chairman), N Pinnegar, T Luker, J Turner, D Thomas, John Cordwell, A Wilkinson, P Barton,

In attendance: Town Clerk Ms S Bailey. District Cllrs K Tucker, G Butcher, C Braun & 6 members of public.

T.5804 Apologies for absence accepted from Cllrs June Cordwell, M Short, R Hale

T.5805 To receive Declarations of Interest/Dispensations now or as soon as known. Personal interest declared by Cllr A Wilkinson (Screwfix).

T.5806 To comment on Police statistics for Wotton. In Cllr Short's absence, Cllr R Claydon downloaded monthly statistics, although these incident figures may appear slightly higher than previously, since they include North Nibley and Kingswood. Antisocial behaviour features as the most common problem.

T.5807 Public Forum – Mr G Kitchen highlighted the fact that an election is called to fill the town council vacancies. Regarding parking matters in the town and the new car park at Symn Lane, he asked if Town Council support & consideration could be given to Wotton's traders in the main shopping streets when car parking proposals are re-considered for changing the length of times cars are allowed to park on the streets and in town's car parks (after the new car park is built).

Four members of the public spoke about climate change concerns and expressed their support for the current Town Council agenda item looking at decisions/policies, which would help save the environment. The new Extinction Rebellion group in Wotton is gathering momentum in popularity and would be pleased to work with the Town Council on any measures. Although there is a difference in the official Govt target of 2050, Stroud District Council target of 2030, and other group aims of 2025, and it is clear that the Govt needs to introduce significant national policies to tackle measures such as power generation, planning policy & building efficiency, vehicle emissions, etc, Wotton's public are keen to see local councils taking a greener leadership initiative and putting into place things which can be done at a local grassroots level, such as making council properties more efficient, providing guidance to the public and giving support for local initiatives.

Council agreed to bring forward the following agenda item due to public interest.

T.5808 Climate change emergency - to consider request (Cllr D Thomas / District Cllr C Braun) that WTC declares a climate change emergency and considers setting up a working group to consider becoming a carbon neutral parish by 2030. A detailed document (authored by Dr Simon Pickering) regarding measures which could be undertaken by parishes was circulated in advance. A discussion centred on the fact that local councils should be working with local people, promoting this ethos and doing all we could at Town Council level to put measures in place, although we should also be mindful not to create unrealistic expectations amongst the public, since there are a great number of issues which can only be tackled by central govt.

Councillors are in agreement that this Council establishes a working group to ascertain what this Council can feasibly and practically do regarding climate change, proposed by Cllr D Thomas, seconded by Cllr A Wilkinson, agreed by all. Cllrs R Claydon, T Luker, J Turner, D Thomas, John Cordwell, A Wilkinson, & P Barton agreed to be on this working group, which will look at all aspects of the Town Council and make recommendations back to Council, since there will undoubtedly be cost implications.

T.5809 To receive reports from County Councillor and District Councillor.

County Cllr Dr JE Cordwell provided a written report and also highlighted the fact that the new incinerator is in the commissioning stage. Regarding the entrance road at the Horsley Tip site, no satisfactory answer has been received regarding dangerous access. A written District Council report was circulated. The SDC draft corporate delivery plan is now ready and SDC is keen to hold a new meeting with parishes in the district in the autumn to discuss various issues and work closer together. Long debates have been held at Environment Committee about achieving district carbon neutrality by 2030 with funding for EV charging points in parishes being considered.

T.5810 Minutes of the Council Meeting of May 2019. Proposed by Cllr J Turner, seconded Cllr P Barton, agreed all in favour to approve these Minutes

T.5811 Chairman's Announcements A written report provided in advance:

- a local Community Governance review meeting will take place on 25th June together with SDC and Kingswood PC.
- invitations have been sent to architects for Old Town Toilets rebuild project and assessments will take place on 1st July by the working group.
- a Greenway Group meeting will take place next week with senior councils, highways and Sustrans.

T.5812 Accounts

- a) To approve telephone and broadband contracts (current contracts expire 27/6/2019). The Clerk circulated a detailed document in advance with analysis of quotes for comparison, which took much staff resources/time to produce. It was proposed by Cllr John Cordwell, seconded by Cllr J Turner, and agreed by all, to renew contract with BT for all phones, internet/systems for 24 months, but on a fibre contract providing 61-80 Mbps. In 2 years, VOIP systems can be considered for next renewal if appropriate.
- b) To approve Tolsey Clock honorarium of £400. Proposed by Cllr N Pinnegar, seconded by Cllr P Barton to approve, agreed by all.
- c) To approve Town Crier honorarium of £100 (paid from Town Trust). Proposed by Cllr T Luker, seconded by Cllr P Barton to approve, agreed by all.
- d) To approve earmarking of funds. After extensive discussion of earmarked funds line by line, it was proposed by Cllr D Thomas, seconded by Cllr J Turner to approve the earmarked funds spreadsheet as discussed, agreed by all, 1 abstention.
- e) Budget 2019/20, to note report. New Scribe budgeting format noted but still not totally as expected, however it could not be tailored to individual specifications unless data was exported to Excel and reformatted.
- f) Accounts for payment. After noting the few additional items to the payment schedule provided, it was proposed by Cllr T Luker, seconded by Cllr John Cordwell to approve, agreed by all: £28,832 Town Council & £1,626 for Town Trust net.

T.5813 Appointments to Organisations

To confirm Cllr R Hale appointments as Town Council representative to the following organisations: Wotton & District Recreational Trust; Wotton Youth Partnership; Wotton Swimming Pool; Greenway Group. Also to confirm his membership of the Town Regeneration Partnership. Defer this item due to Cllr Hale's absence.

T.5814 Good Deeds Section: Thanks to Volunteers – To acknowledge recent volunteer work for the benefit of the town/community. The organisers of the Party in the Parc (Wotton Community Sports Foundation) put in an outstanding amount of work and are to be congratulated in their efforts for the event - a card will be sent.

T.5815 Clerk's Report - circulated in advance and noted. It is very pleasing to note that staffing levels will shortly be back to normal levels with the deputy clerk's return.

T.5816 Correspondence to note or request action:

a) letter received from Mr Kitchen (Cookability) regarding parking proposals in Wotton. Mayor will speak directly to Mr Kitchen on the issues. The current council 'new car park' working group is dealing with mostly construction and installation matters. A future group (with different and maybe public representation) would deal with usage and times of car parking throughout the town, and the formulation of a new parking policy for the town council moving forward).

Brochures/Newsletters for information only; none – mostly electronic now.

T.5817 Brief reports from Councillors

Footpaths Committee, Special Purposes Committee, Allotments Committee, Wotton Youth Partnership, Town Regeneration, Sports Foundation, Wotton Pool, Heritage Centre and any other meetings attended.

FOOTPATHS & PROW – not met

SPECIAL PURPOSES – not met

ALLOTMENTS – not met

WOTTON YOUTH PARTNERSHIP – no report, but some interesting individual interviews held as part of the local heritage recording project.

REGENERATION – a useful meeting held which discussed many matters such as market establishment, town maps & leaflets, and town tidying areas.

WCSF – no report

HERITAGE CENTRE – no report

WOTTON IN BLOOM – no report

T.5818 Town Affairs – very brief comments from Members or items for future agendas:

Cllr D Thomas – sadly reflected on the traffic accident on Rushmire Hill recently in spite of adequate speed warning signs on the dangerous bends.

Cllr T Luker – has compiled a list of areas around the town which need attention or tidying. He was thanked and asked to ascertain the landowners of each area in order that we can assess who is responsible for the maintenance of those sites.

Cllr A Wilkinson – 160 hanging baskets have been installed by Wotton in Bloom.

Cllr P Barton – asked that Council chases Glos CC regarding the verges at Mt Pleasant (following site meeting) in order that the item is not forgotten. Although he is happy to garner resident views on parking /verges/ what is required - it is important not to give unrealistic expectations to residents, since Glos CC are responsible and this work which is unbudgeted and unlikely to achieve very much funding. SDC may contribute a small amount due to the significant amount of social housing.

This completed the business of the Town Council & Town Trust at 8.35 pm

Signed:Dated: