



**MINUTES OF WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING,
MONDAY 15th JULY 2019 AT 7PM IN THE CIVIC CENTRE**

Present: Cllrs R Claydon (Chairman), N Pinnegar, T Luker, J Turner, D Thomas, John Cordwell, June Cordwell, M Short (7:05), R Hale, M Tucker, S Wood

In attendance: Town Clerk Ms S Bailey. District Cllrs K Tucker, C Braun & 3 members of public.

T.5819 Apologies for absence accepted from Cllrs P Barton, A Wilkinson

T.5820 Welcome to two new Town Cllrs and to note signed Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Cllrs Martin Tucker and Steve Wood were welcomed and their signatures noted. Cllr M Tucker noted that although he was also still President of the Wotton Chamber of Trade, he hoped that there would be no friction between these two roles and that both could work in harmony, with no problems arising.

T.5821 To receive Declarations of Interest/Dispensations now or as soon as known. Personal interests declared by Cllrs Cordwell (item recipient on payments schedule), R Claydon (expenses payment schedule), M Short (Walking Festival), N Pinnegar (Walking Festival & Bear St garage employer payment schedule), M Tucker (Chamber of Trade president; street trading response to SDC & Walking Festival support).

T.5822 To comment on Police statistics for Wotton. Cllr R Claydon downloaded monthly statistics, although these incident figures may rise in July due to recent notifications of thefts. PoliceUK website has more information for those interested.

T.5823 Public Forum – Mr G Kitchen asked if, in the interests of clarity, the monthly reports from District Councillors could be displayed on Wotton Town Council's website. This would be helpful to be able to follow the logic of the boundary and governance review discussions. Clerk will await confirmation from District Cllrs as to agreement. County Cllr agrees to posting his report on WTC website.

Cllr M Short entered the meeting

Mr G York from the Royal British Legion highlighted the problems of the ageing membership of RBL and how this will impact future facilitation of the annual Remembrance Parade in Wotton. Although the November 2019 Parade will continue, he has concerns for the future organisation and will be returning to the Town Council shortly to ask for assistance & whether the Council wishes to organise future events. The Chairman asked Mr York to provide more concrete details on what needs to be done.

Ms Isaac attended with a 6 week old baby to highlight the importance of speeding car issues directly outside her front door in Coombe Rd, where a 30mph limit is in place. Many vehicles speed on this stretch and the blind spot before the bend causes problems. She worries about safety of pedestrians and young children on the narrow pavement outside her house, and asks if solutions can be sought such as cameras, speedwatch, flashing signs, etc.

T.5824 To receive reports from County Councillor and District Councillor. County Cllr Dr JE Cordwell provided a written report and also highlighted the fact that a Re-Use shop is under consideration for Pyke Quarry/Horsley tip site.

A written District Council report was circulated. There is no update yet on the 8 x SDC house application for adjacent Gloucester St/Bradley St site, although County Highways are unhappy with the current proposals.

T.5825 Minutes of the Council Meeting of June 2019. Proposed by Cllr M Short, seconded Cllr M Tucker, agreed 8 in favour, 3 abstentions to approve these Minutes.

T.5826 Chairman's Announcements A written report provided in advance:

- Greenway Group meeting to discuss feasibility study & route possibilities and likely sources of funding.
- Community Governance review discussions held and document submitted to SDC ahead of their drastic parish boundary alteration proposals for Wotton
- SDC Cluster Group meeting - name change to 'Working Together in Stroud District'.
- Youth Work meeting update with the Door held.
- Very informative Old Town Toilets architects meeting
- Beaumont le Roger meeting after successful exchange visit. New committee members are needed.
- Recreational Trust meeting report provided.

T.5827 Accounts

a) 5 yearly electrical inspection. It was proposed by Cllr R Hale, seconded by Cllr N Pinnegar and agreed by all to ratify Clerk decision to select TMRS as contractor to carry out the 5yr electrical safety testing on all council properties (x5) for price of £809. Three quotes were obtained and this was most competitive, we have used them before (others were 900 and 1330). Testing became overdue and thus instruction given.

b) To approve insurance renewals for Town Council and Town Trust at a cost of £5833 and £3165 respectively, the second year of a three year fixed agreement; and to decide whether to continue with the key personnel cover option at a cost of £60.48 p.a. It was proposed by Cllr J Turner, seconded by Cllr N Pinnegar and agreed by all to renew insurance cover including key personnel amounts.

c) To decide utility contracts for all Council and Trust buildings' gas and electricity supplies for the next 2 years, November renewal. After much discussion of rates/costs for the different buildings, it was proposed by Cllr T Luker and seconded by Cllr R Hale to defer decision until October Council as rates cannot be fixed this far in advance, and also consider normal rate rather than night rate for CCR, agreed by all.

d) To consider quotes for works to Marchesi Walk Poplar T23 in light of Mr Unwin's revised tree survey. It was proposed by Cllr R Claydon, seconded by Cllr John Cordwell and agreed by all to use the thinning method proposed by the arboricultural report, rather than fell this fine specimen of a tree, appreciating that it will need such thinning work every 4 years or thereabouts, agreed by all, selecting contractor IP for £798.

e) To consider request to waive charges for Town Hall usage on weekend of 2nd May 2020 to celebrate 50th Wotton Arts Festival, run by Wotton Arts Assoc. & UTEA, who are also merging that year. It is pleasing to see the merger of the two arts entities, and the Town Hall usage is donated for that weekend; proposed by Cllr J Turner, seconded Cllr R Hale, agreed by all.

Cllrs N Pinnegar, M Tucker, M Short left the room

f) To consider funding the Wotton Walking Festival's first year subscription of £60 for 'Walkers Are Welcome' membership to evidence WTC support. Although Council is sympathetic in supporting such a subscription, Council has a grants policy which must be adhered to - thus applications are invited in November for payment the following April. This Council supports the Wotton Walking Festival, and is happy to evidence this with a statement as such, and councillor representation on the Festival committee

already demonstrates commitment. We have also provided financial support recently for the group's initial establishment. Council would be pleased to receive a grant application for such subscription costs in November in line with our grants policy, proposed by Cllr R Claydon, seconded by Cllr J Turner, 6 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention.

Cllrs N Pinnegar, M Tucker, M Short returned to the room

g) Budget 2019/20, to note report. Explanation sheet of variances also provided, mostly due to anomalies of budget comparison by month. Overall budget is healthy.

It was agreed to by all to elect Cllr J Turner to chair the next item (h).

Cllrs N Pinnegar, R Claydon left the room

h) To approve the accounts for payment. It was proposed by Cllr J Turner and seconded by Cllr R Hale and agreed to by all to approve the payments schedule after the Clerk explained the additional payments, mostly of buildings and window works for the civic centre renovations; £58,543 Town Council net and £4,180 Town Trust net.

Cllrs N Pinnegar, R Claydon returned to the room

T.5828 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; membership of Town Regeneration Partnership. Also new Cllrs S Wood to become a member of Footpaths & PROW Partnership, & Cllr M Tucker a member of Regeneration Partnership. The above is proposed by Cllr N Pinnegar, seconded by Cllr John Cordwell, and agreed by all. This still leaves a vacancy on General Charities and Recreational Trust. Cllr M Short at this point announced his intention to resign mid August due to family reasons, thus some more positions may become vacant. The Clerk is asked to circulate a list of all working groups and their membership, and also any other vacant positions, by email ahead of the next meeting so that members can consider putting themselves forward.

Cllr M Tucker left the room

T.5829 Consultation on Stroud District Council's Street Trading Policy – to consider whether Council wishes to submit comments by 2nd August. Document was circulated in advance - no comments were offered.

Cllr M Tucker returned to the room

T.5830 SDC Community Governance Review – to comment to SDC on preferred option for their realignment of warding/Wotton Town Boundary arrangements and the unsatisfactory proposals to remove the Community Sports Foundation site and KLB School from the Parish of Wotton-under-Edge. SDC will consider this at Full Council on 18th July & WTC representation is needed. Copies of WTC's 3 official questions submitted (by noon today deadline) to SDC were circulated and the possible supplementary questions were discussed. The background to this review, and its drastic revised proposals a week ago, was explained by the Chairman for the benefit of new cllrs and the public. Two amendment options, proposed today, by the district cllrs were also discussed for consideration, with Option 2, which splits the WCSF site and KLB School, being firmly rejected by Wotton Town Councillors. Option 1 which retains the land triangle incorporating WCSF site and KLB School in Wotton Parish, keeps Wortley as one entity in Wotton Parish and gives remaining areas to Kingswood Parish including the road from the OK path traffic lights past the school – thus satisfying their issues - was supported by Wotton Town Councillors. However it appears that Kingswood PC are insisting that KLB School was founded by Kingswood Abbey, and that they have more community links with the school than Wotton, and that they are unable to deal effectively with school traffic issues unless the KLB site is within their parish; thus they do not agree to Option 2. Their above argument is illogical. Furthermore there are only 3 voters in the triangle area and the transfer is thus unreasonable to make those voters travel

further to Kingswood to vote. The Boundary Commission document states that community links must be demonstrated if an area is to move boundaries, and that consultation must be carried out. However KLB School, the County Council, and WCSF are unaware of these latest proposals by SDC.

Standing Orders were temporarily suspended, and then resumed after 5 minutes, in order to allow District Cllr C Braun to comment on the proposals submitted by district cllrs.

It was proposed by Cllr R Claydon and seconded by Cllr John Cordwell that Option 1 district amendment proposal is approved by WTC and also that Cllr R Claydon would attend the SDC meeting on 18th representing the Town Council, all agreed. Other councillors are requested to attend for support. The fall-back position, if a compromise option cannot be reached, is that the K5 area remains as is, but is regrettably warded.

T.5831 Good Deeds Section: Thanks to Volunteers – To acknowledge recent volunteer work for the benefit of the town/community. A lady who cleans Rope Walk outside area most mornings was thanked, although she wishes to remain anonymous.

T.5832 Clerk's Report - circulated in advance and noted. CCTV – still issues with lack of screen clarity despite BT fibre upgrade and replacement of relay/responder at Tabernacle Pitch. RedHand considers that the screen needs to be changed for a higher resolution. Council staff were thanked by Cllr June Cordwell for the alterations to exterior civic centre steps making access much easier.

T.5833 Correspondence to note or request action: none
Brochures/Newsletters for information only; none – mostly electronic now.

T.5834 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 – meets tomorrow

SPECIAL PURPOSES – not met

ALLOTMENTS – no report

WOTTON YOUTH PARTNERSHIP – meets tomorrow

WOTTON POOL – busy applying for more grants, also re-tiling starts mid-September after season's closure.

REGENERATION – no report

WCSF – despite the torrential rain Party in the Parc event managed to break even.

Meeting discussed potential donors for new 4G pitch and clubhouse, and the extra parking. A presentation on plans will likely take place in September to Town Council. No further information forthcoming regarding barn, finances are very low after Parc event.

HERITAGE CENTRE – no report

T.5835 Town Affairs – very brief comments from Members or items for future agendas:

Cllr John Cordwell – asked about report to Glos CC of Shinbone Alley condition – Clerk will ask Information Officer to chase.

Cllr D Thomas – introduced problem of speeding cyclists along Browns Piece to Water Lane via footpath.

Cllr T Luker – commented that his survey of problem areas in the town was continuing. He was asked to provide details of ownership of such areas in order that matters could be progressed with the relevant parties.

Cllr R Claydon – spoke of increasing litter left on Wotton Hill. Also motorcyclists on path at top of Old London Rd are becoming a problem with verbal abuse for pedestrians in

their way. They pull down 'no motorcycling' notices – suggestions requested for dealing with this.

Closed Session *confidential matters of either a legal, contractual or staffing nature whereby the public are excluded under Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.*

Proposal to enter closed session by Cllr R Hale, seconded Cllr June Cordwell, agreed by all.

T.5836 Caretaker resignation – To ratify payment of £332 to advertise post of caretaker in the Gazette; & discuss council facility cover during absence; advertisement approval proposed by Cllr R Hale, seconded Cllr June Cordwell, agreed by all. Also to designate authority to the Clerk for recruitment of suitable replacement following consultation with Mayor & Deputy Mayor; proposed by Cllr John Cordwell, seconded by Cllr R Hale, agreed by all.

T.5837 Old Town Toilets – to appoint architect with recommendation from working group. A specification for design was produced and sent out to 11 architects. Some declined to quote, but 5 quotations were received, with M Snook Planning also asking to meet the Council to outline what they might be able to do as part of their community pro bono programme. After a highly informative meeting with them discussing the possibilities for the site, it was proposed by Cllr R Claydon, seconded by Cllr J Turner, and agreed by all to appoint this architect for the project.

T.5838 Civic Centre Reception Doors - to consider appointing contractor for replacement doors with recommendation from working group. Two quotes had been received for electric doors, with another quote for pure replacement manual doors. It was agreed that this decision would be delayed by one further month to allow a third contractor to meet us this week.

Town Trust Items

Minutes – to approve Minutes compilation June 2018 to May 2019. A summary document of all Council/Trust decisions during the above period was compiled and forwarded to Cllrs, to be signed as a correct record, in accordance with Charity Commission guidelines. Proposed by Cllr R Hale and seconded by Cllr N Pinnegar to approve, agreed by all.

This completed the business of the Town Council & Town Trust at 9.25 pm

Signed:Dated: