



**MINUTES OF WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING,
MONDAY 18th NOVEMBER 2019 AT 7PM IN THE CIVIC CENTRE**

Present: Cllrs R Claydon (Chairman), N Pinnegar, T Luker, J Turner, D Thomas, John Cordwell, June Cordwell, R Hale, S Wood, P Barton, A Wilkinson, M Tucker, S Smith

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

T.5907 Apologies for absence. All present

T.5908 To receive Declarations of Interest/Dispensations now or as soon as known. Personal interest declared by Cllr J Turner ref CoOp payment (employer)

T.5910 To comment on Wotton's Police statistics Cllr R Claydon provided the latest statistics for September which showed antisocial behaviour continues to dominate the figures.

T.5911 Public Forum Mr G York thanked the Council for attending the Remembrance Parade which continues to be a very popular event in the Town. He also gave a summary of the event itself highlighting the successes and areas which need refining. The Police attendance was superb with 9 attendees (some even using their own time). Traffic disruption was also minimised using a new rolling road closure technique. Since the RBL branch will be county managed next year, Mr York will submit ideas to Town Council early 2020 on how the service/parade can continue.

Mr Arnold brought Council's attention to the Tabernacle bollard problem and lorries continuing to demolish them by the churchyard.

Mr K Tucker said that the volunteer car drivers were happy to receive a thank you card.

T.5912 To receive reports from County Councillor and District Councillor.

County Cllr Dr JE Cordwell provided a written report highlighting various issues he is pursuing with Glos CC local highways manager, and also the various proposals being considered by the Glos CC youth strategy task group

A long District Council report was circulated, highlighting the various meetings attended and initiatives. The Stroud District final Local draft Plan consultation announcement is expected soon. The KLB School expansion site has apparently been withdrawn. Development Control Committee are due to site visit Berkeley Close tomorrow.

T.5913 Minutes of the Council Meeting of October 2019. Proposed by Cllr N Pinnegar, seconded Cllr P Barton, agreed all in favour to approve these Minutes.

T.5914 Chairman's Announcements Cllr R Claydon attended a meeting with the KLB Chair of Governors, met with the PCSO regarding antisocial behaviour at the old quarry site, attended a combined charities meeting, and discussed internet speed problems with Beaumont Square residents.

T.5915 Accounts

a) To authorise Buildings Manager attendance on backpack weedpsraying courses Hartpury PA1 & PA6 14th January & 21st January 2020, costs £156 & £246. Proposed to authorise by Cllr R Hale, seconded by Cllr N Pinnegar, agreed by all.

b) To approve Cllr S Smith attendance at GAPTC new Cllr training course Northway, Feb 20, £70. Proposed to authorise by Cllr R Hale, seconded by Cllr N Pinnegar, agreed by all.

- c) To approve Clerks attendance at 2 day Practitioners' Conference Kenilworth, Weds 26th & Thurs 27th Feb 20, cost £299. Proposed to authorise by Cllr P Barton, seconded by Cllr N Pinnegar, agreed by all.
- d) To approve £200 cost of Display Energy Certificate for the Civic Centre. Proposed to authorise by Cllr R Hale, seconded by Cllr N Pinnegar, agreed by all.
- e) To approve payment of GAPTC subscription for 20/21 year as per 2.2% increase. Proposed to authorise by Cllr P Barton, seconded by Cllr R Hale, agreed by all.
- i) Budget 2019/20, report noted. *Cllr J Turner left the room*
- j) To approve the accounts for payment. Extra payments were advised by the Clerk. Proposed to authorise by Cllr N Pinnegar, seconded by Cllr R Hale, agreed by all, payments of £20,662 for WTC net and £1,762 net for Wotton Town Trust. *Cllr J Turner returned to the room*

It was proposed by Cllr R Claydon and seconded by Cllr John Cordwell, agreed by all, to suspend standing orders & exit council session in order to receive comments from the public on tree planting

Mr D Driver provided a written report in advance of the meeting and reiterated the community climate action initiatives of planting woodlands for carbon capture. The two proposed disease resistant Elms (*Ulmus New Horizons*) for the Cemetery are in short supply and would need confirmation of purchase tomorrow (after being reserved specially) as they are in high demand nationally. The specific planting of the sites such as Holywell Leaze and Knapp field can change, however in principle go ahead is requested in order that consultation can commence with local stakeholders and the community. Mr Driver fielded many questions from Councillors regarding the sites of Wotton Cemetery, Holywell Leaze, and Knapp Field, concerning boundaries and hedges, root ingressions, site maintenance, provision of volunteers to weed, plant and maintain, and the free provision of the tree packs. Mr Driver stressed that in times of water shortage the trees should not be watered but left to fend for themselves. Also any hedges around Knapp field should not be maintained but left to advance into the woodland. He was pretty certain that volunteers would come forward to prepare, plant and maintain the trees at all sites for a minimum of 5 years.

Mr Jarmuz spoke of his years of work with the Cotswold Wardens in improving the site of Holywell Leaze, and stressed the need to maintain the open space area at the centre.

It was proposed by Cllr R Claydon and seconded by Cllr June Cordwell, agreed by all, to reinstate standing orders & return to council session

T.5916 Climate Change: Tree Planting suggestions– To consider reports for the proposed areas of Town Council land where tree planting may be possible; and to decide whether to proceed with plans.

Cemetery - It was proposed by Cllr S Wood and seconded by Cllr R Hale to purchase the two specified Elms at a cost of £160 +p&p and place at the Cemetery subject to clarification of extent of root invasion and consultation with local community, agreed by all. Final proposal to revert to Council for placement of trees.

Knapp Field - It was proposed by Cllr P Barton and seconded by Cllr John Cordwell to proceed with proposals to plant this field subject to discussions between a Council working group and Mr Driver particularly about the layout, and minimising long term maintenance requirements; also subject to availability of free trees and volunteer planting and maintenance of them for 5 years minimum; advice from Severn Trent about underground pipes; and Mr Driver consulting with neighbours, agreed all in favour. Furthermore the existing gate would be re-hung rather than a new one purchased, there would be no action at present on a new pedestrian gate, and the inner side of the field hedge would in future become unmaintainable.

Holywell Leaze - It was proposed by Cllr S Wood and seconded by Cllr N Pinnegar to proceed with proposals to proceed, agreed by all, subject to discussions between a Council working group and Mr Driver about the layout, the availability of free trees, and consultation with neighbours. A hedge along the fence by the stream will not be pursued, as this is not the boundary. As with all the proposed schemes the trees here shall be planted and maintained by volunteers until established, likely 5 years.

T.5917 Internal Accounting Audits for FY19/20. To approve Accountant Mr S Tasker to undertake internal audits for Town Council and Town Trust at cost of £225 and £200 respectively. It was proposed by Cllr June Cordwell and seconded by Cllr J Turner to approve, agreed by all.

T.5918 Good Deeds Section: Thanks to Volunteers – To acknowledge recent volunteer work for the benefit of the town/community. Thank you cards to be sent to Mr G York for organising the Remembrance Parade, and to Wotton Trotters for plogging (jogging and picking up litter - term from Sweden)

T.5919 Clerk's Report -circulated in advance and noted. Veolia has twice refused to empty the cemetery litter receptacle due to dumping of heavy soil and subsoil in it by locals. The buildings staff have spent a long time sorting this and emptying it – new signs have now been placed on the bin. Cllr June Cordwell asked that the notice board in Bradley St is looked at, as it is wet inside and reading it impossible. New inner board is needed. The Clerk replied that this is being done. Cllr P Barton reminded Cllrs to advise the Clerk if they needed to visit Council in advance, since the office is very busy and short staffed - notice and prior arrangement of visits would be much appreciated.

T.5920 Correspondence to note or request action:

- a) SDC email – to consider 'Happy to chat' bench signs and where might be appropriate. No further action to be taken.
- b) Email from District Cllr C Braun noting Wotton Trotters running club had done a 'plogging run' – which is about running and picking up litter many bags of litter. Noted.
- c) Noted - receipt of 'Thank you' card from the Town Crier to the Mayor and Councillors for the reception and Freedom of the Town.
- d) Noted complaint from Tabernacle resident about state of cemetery wall, lorries using Bank Yard, and bollard damage. Reply already given: Unfortunately SDC planning restrictions on lorry movements at Tabernacle Yard were not enforceable when SDC gave planning permission. Glos Highways will no longer repair or replace bollards.
- e) Noted receipt of letter of thanks from attendees of the Town Crier reception.
- f) Noted email of thanks for trimming overhanging yew in St Mary's churchyard.
- g) Noted resident complaint about parking in Synwell Lane & from Full Moon development. The increase in parking is due to SDC Planning Authority approving housing development further up, despite town council objections.

Brochures/Newsletters for information only; none, mostly now by email.

T.5921 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 but Cllr S Wood introduced himself to the Walking Festival committee meeting

SPECIAL PURPOSES – not met

ALLOTMENTS – postponed

WOTTON YOUTH PARTNERSHIP – AGM next week

WOTTON POOL – no report/public meeting last week

REGENERATION – met and agreed to produce a town guide in 2021, xmas plans are continuing by the town’s organisers, Chamber of Trade will produce a map in 2020, a tourist map by Heritage Centre is awaiting Cotswolds.com changes, map board quotes are being investigated, a litter picker & weeding person has been requested in budget, social media is discussing lack of xmas trees outside shops. A few members of the public have offered to erect some of these.

WCSF – not attended

HERITAGE CENTRE – written report provided by Cllr June Cordwell. 25th celebration of Historical Society will be celebrated at December event on 20th.

T.5922 Town Affairs – very brief comments from Members or items for future agendas:

Cllr D Thomas - reported hearing that railings have been damaged on Church St. Clerk requested more info to be able to report it to Glos CC. Pavement parking on wrong side of Long St by shoppers nipping into adjacent shops is increasing despite double yellow lines. Clerk asked for more evidence to establish patterns so that wardens can be notified and patrols targeted at those times.

Cllr P Barton noted a similar problem on double yellow lines parking outside the British School during turn out time. Wardens requested.

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 Claydon, seconded by Cllr John Cordwell, agreed by all.

T.5923 Insulation of Buildings – to consider and approve quotes for Council and Trust buildings; this will be deferred until January as quotes not yet available.

T.5924 Old Town Toilets - to consider architect’s first draft plans & submit comments. Paper copies were left at the civic centre by M Snook Planning. After much deliberation and many different views on the draft plans presented, the Clerk agreed to contact the architect to ask for reasons why the single unisex building had been moved in a southerly direction, thus making the cleaning cupboard door the main garden feature, and hiding the toilet door on the other side. There were worries that this hidden entrance could be used for antisocial behaviour. There was also concern about how a disabled access ramp could be incorporated if the building was left in its current position. If the building were to be moved towards the bus stop, access could be on a flat area without the need for a ramp and through a Remembrance Garden. Clerk to ask if this is possible, also enquiring about other possibilities for cleaning door access.

T.5925 Civic Centre reception doors electronic replacement - to consider quotations. This will be deferred until January as quotes not yet available

Proposal to exit closed session by Cllr R Hale, seconded by Cllr T Luker, agreed by all.

This completed the business of the Town Council at 9.20 pm

Signed:Dated: