



**MINUTES OF WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING,
MONDAY 16th DECEMBER 2019 AT 7PM IN THE CIVIC CENTRE**

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

In attendance: Town Clerk Ms S Bailey. District Cllrs C Braun, K Tucker, G James & 4 members of the public.

T.5926 Apologies for absence. Noted from Cllrs A Wilkinson, R Hale

T.5927 To receive Declarations of Interest/Dispensations now or as soon as known. Personal interests declared by Cllr P Barton (Mt Pleasant), Cllr N Pinnegar (Mt Pleasant & Bear St garage).

T.5928 To comment on Wotton's Police statistics Cllr R Claydon provided the latest statistics for October which showed continued antisocial behaviour, and also a small spike in public order offences.

T.5929 Public Forum The Mayor was pleased to present the prizes for the 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Stars' Christmas shop window competition to:

1st /Blue Coat Pre School at Tesco Express - £125.

2nd Loving Home - £75

3rd Longfield - £40

Mrs Janet Walshe from the Heritage Centre, who helped to organise the event with the Town Council, was pleased to collect and pass on 2nd & 3rd prizes. She also commented on the sadness that the little children's nursery in Church St had seen its Christmas display vandalised.

T.5930 To receive reports from County Councillor and District Councillor.

County Cllr Dr JE Cordwell provided a written report highlighting county tree planting proposals, pension investment policy changes, opposition to a Cotswold National Park proposal (due to the removal of local decision making), a private schools debate, and the increased cost of retendering for county public transport services.

A District Council report was circulated, highlighting recruitment of a senior director for communities with interviews today, the new Draft Local Plan now out to consultation until 22nd January, community services & licensing report, audit and standards report, canal investment specification for bids report, introduction of ethical constraints on investments report, and a county homelessness presentation report.

T.5931 Minutes of the Council Meeting: November 2019 Minutes, proposed by Cllr N Pinnegar, seconded Cllr T Luker, agreed all in favour to approve these Minutes; Extraordinary Council meeting of 30/9/2019, proposed by Cllr P Barton, seconded Cllr M Tucker, agreed all in favour to approve these Minutes.

T.5932 Chairman's Announcements Cllr R Claydon provided a written report highlighting November's SDC Development Control Committee meeting where the Berkeley Close planning application was approved. Although Cllr Claydon spoke to explain the anomaly in parking and that not enough parking spaces were provided, which is contrary to the SDC Local Plan for Wotton, the application was approved based on incorrect planning officer advice. Wotton Town Council is appalled to see that yet again SDC is ignoring the parking problems in Wotton and indeed compounding them by approving more houses which need parking and failing to specify adequate spaces

for those cars. The Clerk is unanimously asked to send a complaint to SDC Head of Planning (under delegated powers), that planning officers are not complying with Policy. The Greenway Steering Group meeting was also attended, along with Governance Review Mediation at SDC, presentation of RBL affiliation certificates to army cadets in Wotton, the Door Awards evening at Stonehouse Court, and opening Wotton's Christmas event.

T.5933 Accounts

- a) Noted Veolia price increase of 90p per lift (approx. 7%) for cemetery waste removal.
- b) To approve Cllr Wood attendance at GAPTC Planning course 30/1/20 Highnam cost £50; proposed to approve Cllr J Turner, seconded Cllr N Pinnegar, agreed by all.
- c) To approve Clerk Level 5 SLCC Community Governance, continued study from level 4, over 2 years to Foundation Degree level, £2940 first year cost. Deposit £295 needed by 30th December; proposed to approve Cllr N Pinnegar, seconded Cllr T Luker, agreed by all.
- d) SITM/Lister IT works. Noted order given for antivirus updates to 5 office machines costing £188; to ratify order given for reprogramming of wifi & routers for security after BT contract changed cost £350, proposed to approve this by Cllr R Claydon, seconded Cllr M Tucker, agreed by all, along with purchase of 12 months Windows 7~10 extended support for 1 laptop costing £47 (since Microsoft will no longer support with updates from 14th Jan 2020). Although both laptops are about 12 years old, a review of all office IT will take place in 12 months after office changes have been effected.
- e) Budget 2019/20, report noted as healthy.

Cllr N Pinnegar left the room

- f) To approve the accounts for payment. Extra payments just arrived were explained. Proposed to approve Cllr John Cordwell, seconded Cllr J Turner, agreed by all, payments of £25,640 net for Town Council and £1570 net for Town Trust.

Cllr P Barton left the room

T.5934 Mount Pleasant Verges – To consider update on the road verges problem and cost requirements from Gloucestershire County Highways. Costs provided by County Council for investigating verge alterations and allow safer parking are £4576 for report, and £1200 for trial holes. Almost £6000 appears very expensive merely for the study of possibilities. It was proposed by Cllr J Turner and seconded by Cllr T Luker, agreed by all, that the Clerk writes to SDC Alison Fisk (Head of Property Services) to advise of these serious parking problems resulting from SDC selling off its nearby car parks, which these properties used. This road is a mixture of social and private housing and very few have installed driveways. The house occupants formerly used these garages for parking, but are now forced onto the road churning up verges, obstructing the bus route, and blocking pavements causing danger to pedestrians.

Cllrs N Pinnegar & P Barton returned to the room

T.5935 Symn Lane Car Park – To consider developer request to allocate one space for exclusive use of the Fire Station to comply with County Council requirements for dedicated 8 fire spaces. It is unclear and frustrating as to why county council are refusing to negotiate on the layout of the fire spaces with the developer. In the interests of assisting the developer being able to continue and start car park construction as soon as possible, it was proposed by Cllr M Tucker and seconded by Cllr P Barton, and agreed 10 in favour 1 abstention, to agree to give up 1 space in the new car park for dedicated sole use of fire station, however its usage would be reviewed after 1 year of opening, to ascertain if it is needed.

T.5936 Cemetery – To consider refund request for return of two unused, pre-purchased burial plots which are no longer required. A document explained that burial plots are no longer allowed to be pre-purchased and policy states no refunds. However this one was purchased just before policy changed and is in the area currently being assigned for burials. It is delegated to the Clerk to offer a refund minus administration charge, proposed by Cllr R Claydon, seconded by Cllr P Barton, agreed by all.

T.5937 Grant Application/Green Spaces Assistance Offer – To consider grant request letter from Stroud Valleys Project; and note that they can be contracted to provide assistance to manage land for wildlife and the community, including tree planting. After discussion of the services provided by this charity, it was proposed by Cllr S Wood and seconded by Cllr P Barton and agreed 10 in favour 1 abstention, to decline the grant request for district tree planting because we are already investing in tree planting in Wotton itself, but to request details of their offer of assistance from their contracting arm for such areas as wildflower turf planting/weeding by the Wotton Pool verge, or for Marchesi Walk maintenance, when the latter contract is due to be renewed in 18 months time.

T.5938 Community Governance Review – talks were dealt with under S101 Clerk Delegated Powers: outcome proposals are now a public document for December SDC council papers to be voted on this week before recommendation to the Boundary Commission. Following a formal mediation process, Wotton-under Edge Town Council and Kingswood Parish Council reached an agreement on the boundary between the two parishes. Subject to the agreement of the Boundary Commission, most of the existing “Wotton South” parish ward, including KLB School, will move into Kingswood Parish with the Wotton Community Sports Foundation site and an adjacent triangular parcel of land north of KLB School, and the hamlet of Wortley will remain in Wotton. The agreement includes provisions which will allow Wotton’s cultural and historic links with KLB School to continue unaffected, with the “OK” path to the school also remaining in Wotton parish. The new arrangement will be an improved outcome for Wotton Town Council and its community, in what could have become a protracted legal dispute. Cllr N Pinnegar thanked the attendees (Cllrs R Claydon, John Cordwell, District Cllr C Braun, and the Town Clerk) for the significant efforts to secure this outcome.

T.5939 Footpaths diversion - request for comments from Glos CC no. CE69 Lacys-Wortley. After much discussion of the need for this diversion and the proposed route, it was proposed by Cllr R Claydon and seconded by Cllr June Cordwell and agreed by all that there is no objection in principle to this diversion, however it is not understood why the proposed alternative route could not follow more closely the property boundary. This view is to be considered by the Footpaths and PROW partnership, before a response is forwarded to Glos County Council.

T.5940 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 Mrs Joan Barker on her 100th birthday who has fostered 200 children in Wotton, and to the organisers of Under the Edge Christmas Event last week. Furthermore, although a card will not be sent, the Tree Musketeers of Wotton and all of their helpers will be formally thanked and congratulated on Facebook for their personal efforts in managing to erect Christmas trees around town in time for the event.

T.5941 Clerk’s Report -circulated in advance and noted. The buildings manager and caretaker are thanked for responding to repairs very quickly.

T.5942 Correspondence to note or request action:

Brochures/Newsletters for information only; CPRE Gloucestershire Views Autumn 2019; CPRE Countryside Voices Winter 2019; CPRE Fieldwork Winter 2019

T.5943 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 – postponed

WOTTON YOUTH PARTNERSHIP – Cllr June Cordwell provided a written report. It is a pity to see that Stroud Town Council pays no grant to the Door for their operation of youth provision in the centre of Stroud. Cllr P Barton has applied for a £1000 lottery grant (via WYP) to continue the recordings of significant Wotton people for the future.

WOTTON POOL – the group investigating the possible new turf wildflower area were invited to look at the new pool tiling and were impressed by the work of Rio Pools.

REGENERATION – not met

WCSF – Cllr June Cordwell provided a written report.

HERITAGE CENTRE – 25th year celebration of Historical Society this Friday evening.

GREENWAY GROUP - Cllr M Tucker attended with Cllr R Claydon. Plans continue.

WILDFLOWER GROUP – met to investigate possible verge area near pool – costs are being sourced for planting up before spring and removal of perennial weeds.

T.5944 Town Affairs – very brief comments from Members or items for future agendas: *none*

T.5945 Planning Items

Cllr N Pinnegar took the chair

1. Minutes – To approve the Minutes of the Planning meeting November 2019.

Proposed by Cllr John Cordwell, seconded Cllr M Tucker, agreed all in favour.

2. SDC Local Plan Review – Draft Local Plan Public Consultation. To consider any comments Council wishes to submit by 22nd January 2020. Cllr R Claydon was thanked for providing an in depth analysis document for Council's consideration. After discussion of the parking issues in Wotton, it was proposed by Cllr P Barton and seconded by Cllr June Cordwell and agreed unanimously to approve submitting these comments to SDC as WTC's response to the SDC Local Plan consultation.

3. New Applications

a) S.19/2521/LBC Flat 6 Lyley House, 6 Bradley Street. Open up an original doorway to flat roof at rear of property. It was proposed by Cllr J Turner and seconded by Cllr S Wood to support this application, agreed by all.

b) S.19/2548/FUL Broadbridge Mill, Wortley Road. Replacement stable block with staff accommodation in the loft. It was proposed by Cllr R Claydon and seconded by Cllr John Cordwell to make the following comments on this application, agreed by all:

- There is inadequate justification for such a large (two bedroom) staff flat. The justification suggests that only a single individual (groom/housekeeper) will be employed.
- There are several errors in the D&A statement. The staff flat is described as being modest whereas it is quite large. Also, an entertainments room is mentioned but this does not appear to be included in the current proposal,

- If the Planning Officer is minded to approve this application then this Council requests that a condition is applied which states that property is only to be occupied by family members or staff, and that the property should not be used as a separate residential unit.

The following application was dealt with under S101 officer delegated powers

c) S.19/2584/OUT Land To The East Of Warren Lodge, The Warren, Outline Planning Application: Erection of detached dwelling. It was proposed by Cllr R Claydon and seconded by Cllr T Luker to make the following comments on this application, agreed by all:

- It is unclear in the application as to how surrounding properties and gardens would be affected in terms of their privacy and being overlooked. This development would need to satisfy the requirements of Policy ES3.
- There is a lack of amenity area for this proposed dwelling, This would contravene Policy HC1/7.

This completed the business of the Town Council at 8.50 pm

Members of the public were invited to share refreshments with councillors and enjoy a festive quiz.

Signed:Dated: