# Minutes of Wotton-under-Edge Town Council Meeting

# Monday 15TH March 2021 (remote meeting due to Coronavirus)

## Present: Cllrs R Claydon (Chairman), P Barton, J Cordwell, R Hale, T Luker, N Pinnegar, D Thomas, M Tucker, J Turner

## In attendance: Acting Town Clerk Mrs Y Milsom, Assistant Clerk Mrs K Wilson, District Cllrs C Braun, G James, K Tucker Public 1 (Clerk Elect Ms A Durn)

## T.6189 Apologies for absence None

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## T.6190 To receive Declarations of Interest/Dispensations

## Cllrs T Luker and N Pinnegar declared an interest in item 7(i) March Accounts.

## T.6191 Public Forum

Clerk Elect, Ms A Durn spoke about looking forward to joining the team next week.

District Cllr C Braun gave background information for No Mow May, a project to improve biodiversity, particularly for pollinators. This was being directed at local residents this year as it had been recognised that the timescale was very short for Councils to implement new mowing regimes and re-negotiate with contractors for the 2021 season. It was hoped that the Town Council might be able to participate from 2022, although any earlier participation would be appreciated. SDC are supportive of a local pilot area for this campaign. It was hoped to arrange a briefing session for Councils shortly.

*Cllr N Pinnegar left the meeting*

*District Cllr G James joined the meeting*

## T.6192 To receive reports from County Councillor and District Councillors

Reports were submitted in advance. Cllr Claydon noted the County precept has increased by 4.75%.

## T.6193 Minutes of the Council Meeting of 15th February 2021

It was **resolved** to approve these Minutes. Agreed all in favour.

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## T.6194 Chairman’s Announcements

Cllr R Claydon submitted a report in advance. It was confirmed that the Town Clerk will deliver Town Councillor Election Applications to SDC on 26th March 2021. This arrangement has been requested by SDC to reduce the number of people attending their offices during the pandemic. Election Applications to be delivered to the Council offices no later than 3pm on 25th March 2021.

## T.6195 Accounts

* 1. **To approve Town Council Risk Assessment as at March 2021**. It was **resolved** to approve, all in favour.
  2. **To approve Town Council Asset Register as at March 2021**. It was **resolved** to approve, all in favour.
  3. **To approve payment of Annual GAPTC Membership.**It was **resolved** to approve payment of the annual subscription at a cost of £1,453.11, all in favour.
  4. **To approve the purchase of a strimmer.**  It was **resolved** to approve the purchase of a strimmer from contractor DGM at a cost of £380 plus VAT (to be paid from financial year budget 2021/2022), all in favour.

*Cllr J Cordwell left the meeting*

* 1. **To ratify payment to A & E.**  It was **resolved** to ratify the payment of £48.52 plus VAT for the Workshop Fire Extinguisher, all in favour.
  2. **To receive a report for Wotton Swimming Pool and approve payment of £8,000 in accordance with the SLA.**  It was **resolved** to approve the payment of £8,000, six in favour, one abstention.
  3. **To approve quote for minor repairs to the Civic Centre Roof.** It was **resolved** to approve the quote from Brady Contracting for £235.00 plus VAT, six in favour, two abstentions.

*Cllr J Cordwell re-joined the meeting*

* 1. **Budget 2021.** Report noted.

*Cllr T Luker left the meeting*

* 1. **To approve March accounts for payment**. Extra payment details were circulated. It was **resolved** to pay the amounts (net) £16,331.86 for the Town Council and £1,104.23 for the Town Trust. Approved, all in favour.

*Cllr T Luker re-joined the meeting*

## T.6196 Meeting Dates May 2021 – Face to Face Meetings and COVID regulations.

The Annual Parish Assembly had originally been arranged for 10th May 2021 but, due to COVID restrictions on the number of people permitted to meet indoors; the end of the legislation on 7th May permitting online meetings; and the legal requirement for the meeting to be held no later than 1st June, it was **resolved** to bring forward the meeting to 28th April 2021. This would allow the meeting to be held online and would ensure compliance with legislation. It was further **resolved** to keep the date of 17th May 2021 for the Annual Town Council meeting. Agreed, all in favour.

## T.6197 WAMA Community Survey

Suggestions for Council responses to the survey had been circulated. It was **resolved** to accept these responses with the addition of some extra ideas for potential volunteer groups, agreed all in favour.

*District Cllr C Braun left the meeting*

## T.6198 WACAN ‘No Mow May’

To consider whether to participate in this campaign and if so, agree areas for inclusion. The Town Council grass-cutting contract was due to be re-negotiated for 2022 and full consideration could be given on areas to include at that time. In the meantime, it was suggested that some small patches within staff-managed areas might be suitable as long as safety was not compromised. It was resolved to delegate to the Clerk to identify suitable staff-managed areas; and to publicise this campaign, and the Council areas to be included, on the website. Agreed all in favour.

## T.6199 General Road Conditions

To agree an action plan. Cllr J Turner issued a report prior to the meeting noting road repairs within WUE were not consistent; the general state of the roads is not good; suggesting it might be useful to meet regularly with GCC or to contact the WUE MP. It was agreed to set up a face-to-face meeting with GCC to discuss road conditions after the elections and when government COVID restrictions have been lifted.

## T.6200 May 2021 Elections

To agree an elections campaign to encourage new councillors to stand. It was resolved to provide Councillor’s email addresses for those people wishing to send in questions, issue a press release, use posters on notice boards and create Facebook and Twitter posts. Improved artwork for posters to be investigated and circulated. Councillors to send in quotes to the Acting Town Clerk, stating why they became a Councillor. Agreed all in favour.

## T.6201 Symn Lane Play Area

To note issues with littering and anti-social behaviour and agree a way forward.It was noted that the latch area of the gate could be used as a foothold to climb the gate. The Buildings Manager will be asked to investigate and modify, if possible**.** It was noted that the police had identified the youngsters responsible for the recent littering and anti-social behaviour. Cllrs are requested to send in ideas to the Acting Town Clerk of what the youngsters can do to make amends, for example, litter picking.

It was **resolved** to request help from WAMA for volunteers to recommence locking/unlocking the play area with the help of Cllrs Thomas and Hale and the Buildings Manager, all in favour.

## T.6202 Good Deeds Section: Thanks to Volunteers

To acknowledge recent volunteer work for the benefit of the town/community, as follows:

Mrs Mary George for creating and issuing 26 fortnightly newsletters to residents of Dryleaze Court and House to keep residents’ spirits up during the pandemic.

## T.6203 Clerk’s Report

The report was noted with thanks. It was observed that the Cotswold Gateway map boards were in place and waste issues within the cemetery are ongoing.

## T.6204 Correspondence

1. To note an email from Market Street resident who is concerned about speeding vehicles and requesting if traffic calming measures can be put in place. It was noted that the County Council is not in favour of introducing road humps into such a confined area. The issue has been reported to the police.
2. Public Rights of Way – To notereceipt of a letter from GCC regardingthe significance of 2026, the cut-off date when Public Rights of Way can no longer be added to the Definitive Map. The cut-off only applies to applications based on historic evidence, not to those based on user evidence. It was mentioned that the Footpath Committee had investigated this some time ago and observed it would be a very difficult task. Noted
3. To note email from resident regarding the maintenance of Town Council flowerbeds and suggesting that a volunteer group be organised for this purpose. This has been added to the WAMA Survey as a suggested project for residents.
4. To note resident’s email regarding inconsiderate parking on Synwell Lane. It was noted that the Neighbourhood Warden had visited the site but could not see any parking offences being committed. The Acting Town Clerk will ask the police to assess the situation when they are next in the area.
5. Brochures/Newsletters for information only: Clerks and Councils Direct March 2021.

## T.6205 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.

It was noted that due to COVID 19 restrictions most meetings had been cancelled.

Cllr Luker informed Council that although committee members were stepping down from Synwell Playing Field Committee there are hopeful signs of new people joining.

Cllr Barton informed Council that all allotment plots have now been taken. He advised of the Door’s new leader for WUE.

Cllr Thomas gave an update to Council from the meeting with Stroud Task Force regarding funding for decarbonisation of Council buildings and a solar canopy for the new Symn Lane car park. He enquired whether Council could pursue securing CIL funding for these projects. The Clerk will investigate.

## T.6206 Town Affairs – very brief comments from Members or items for future agenda

Old Town Toilets require attention – Council are still awaiting a reply from the Architect.

It was **resolved** to enter into closed session; agreed all in favour.

*One member of the public left the meeting.*

#### **Closed Session** – Under Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960 S1 (2) confidential matters of either a legal, contractual, or staffing nature**.**

## T. 6207 Youth Work SLA

To approve signature of the youth services SLA with The Door for the period 10th September 2021 to 9th September 2022, it was **resolved** to approve**,** agreed by all

# TOWN TRUST

### T.6208 **Town Hall Re-opening**

To approve re-opening the Town Hall to ROKH on 19th April 2021. This activity is permitted to re-open under the current COVID roadmap. It was **resolved** to approve**,** all in favour.

### **T.6209 COVID Support Grant**

To note receipt of further grants of £2096 each for the Town Hall and Chipping Clubroom for the period 16/2/21 – 31/3/2021. Noted.

It was **resolved** to exit closed session, agreed all in favour.

*This completed the business of the Town Council Meeting at 9.15pm*

Signed: ……………………………………Dated: …………………………