# Minutes of Wotton-under-Edge Town Council Extra Ordinary Meeting

# Monday 26TH April 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: A Durn (Town Clerk), K Wilson (Assistant Clerk), District Cllr K Tucker

## T.6236 To receive Apologies for absence

## None received.

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## T.6237 To receive Declarations of Interest/Dispensations

## None received.

## T.6238 Public Forum

No comments or queries received.

## T.6239 Minutes of the Council Meeting of 19th April 2021

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the Town Council meeting on 19th April 2021 as a true and fair record.

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## T.6240 Chairman’s Announcements

The Chairman reminded Councillors that a Chairman and Vice Chairman would have to be voted for at the next Town Council meeting.

## T.6241 To discuss the arrangements for Town Council meetings and agree actions

A report had previously been circulated. There was a discussion on the possible options the Council could apply depending on the success of the High Court case.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

1. If the High Court decision is in favour: to continue with remote meetings for the Town Council meetings until face to face meetings indoors can be held under COVID rules with no restrictions.
2. If the High Court decision is not in favour: To hold the Annual Town Council meeting on 17th May 2021 in the Coombe Suite of the Civic Centre as under COVID risk assessment.
3. The Annual Town Council meeting on 17th May 2020 meets in person but has essential items only on the agenda plus a Scheme of Delegation to the Clerk to enable continuation of Council business; and agreement of next meetings being 24th May 2021, 21st June 2021 and 28th June 2021.
4. Agreement of amendment of the Standing Orders to insert paragraphs to allow delegation to the Clerk under specific conditions as follows:

7. **URGENT BUSINESS**

The Council delegates powers to the Proper Officer to transact urgent business on its behalf.

a. Urgent business is business that:

i) requires urgent action be taken before the next ordinary meeting of the Council; and

ii) falls outside of the timescales for convening an extra-ordinary meeting, or it is impractical to call such a meeting (for example where there are insufficient members for such meeting to be quorate).

b. Wherever possible the Proper Officer will action the business after consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and any relevant Committees, Sub-Committees or Working Groups.

c. Urgent financial expenditure must be in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the Council.

d. Any exercise of delegated powers under this order shall be notified to the Council as soon as practicable.

7A. **SUSPENSION OF MEETINGS**

Should the holding of Council Meetings be suspended as a result of civil emergency, the implementation of government advice / restrictions on direct contact in relation to national health, or other emergency, the Clerk has delegated authority to take decisions in pursuance of the provision of ongoing Council services and business and in relation to new Council policy and functions arising from the circumstances that precipitated the suspension of Council Meetings. In non-urgent situations the Clerk should action the business having sought in writing the views of all councillors with not less than 3 working days’ notice. Decisions made under such delegations shall be noted at the next meeting of the council. In urgent situations, SO 7 applies.

## T.6242 Public Works Loan Board - To note the queries from MHCLG and agree actions.

The response to the queries was reviewed and further explanations discussed.

It was **RESOLVED** to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to apply for a PWLB loan of £80,000 over the borrowing term of 25 years for remedial works to Wotton-under-Edge Town Hall.  The annual loan repayments will come to around £4824 on an EIP basis.  It is not intended to increase the council tax precept for the purpose of the loan repayments.

It was **RESOLVED** to agree to the response to sections 2 to 4 as per the report and to include further information on uncommitted expenditure.

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*This completed the business of the Town Council Meeting at 7.19pm*

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