# Minutes of Wotton-under-Edge Town Council Meeting

# Monday 21st June 2021 held in the Civic Centre

## Present: Cllrs R Claydon, P Barton, J Cordwell, R Hale, T Luker, D Thomas, M Tucker, J Turner, L Taylor, D Davidson, T Creese, J Lewis, N Pinnegar

## In attendance: A Durn (Town Clerk), K Wilson (Assistant Clerk); District Cllrs C Braun, K Tucker; County Cllr L Cohen, plus 1 Member of the Public

## T.6266 To received apologies for absence

District Cllr K Tucker gave District Cllr G James’s apologies.

## 

## T.6267 To receive Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Interests were declared by the following Councillors

* Cllr J Turner Item 8 (a)
* Cllr N Pinnegar Item 8 (g)
* Cllr T Luker Item 8 (g)

## T.6268 Public Forum

Members of the public were invited to speak, but none wished to.

## T.6269 To receive reports from County and District Councillors.

The District Councillors had previously circulated the following report, District Cllr Braun explained all were welcome to send questions to her, Cllr K Tucker, or Cllr G James:

# Stroud District Councillors’ Report – June 2021

Report of Meetings during May and June

*All Stroud District Council and Committee papers can be found here:*[*https://www.stroud.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/meetings*](https://www.stroud.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/meetings)

# Council Annual General Meeting – 20 May

Held at Stratford Park Leisure Centre, due to social distancing requirements.

Councillor Doina Cornell (Labour) was re-elected as Leader of the Council, Cllr Catherine Braun (Green) elected as Deputy Leader of the Council. The Labour, Green and Liberal Democrat groups (which have groups have 31 of the 51 SDC seats) have agreed to continue to lead Stroud District Council for the next three years, as they have since 2012.

At the Council meeting, the following committee appointments were made:

* Strategy and Resources Committee: Chair: Cllr Diona Cornell, Vice-chair: Cllr Catherine Braun
* Audit and Standards Committee: Chair: Cllr Nigel Studdert-Kennedy (Conservative, No Group), Vice-chair: Cllr Martin Pearcy (Green)
* Community Services & Licensing Committee: Chair: Cllr Chris Brine (Lab), Vice-chair: Cllr Jonathan Edmunds (Green)
* Development Control Committee: Chair: Cllr Martin Baxendale (Green), Vice-chair: Cllr Trevor Hall (Lab)
* Environment Committee: Chair: Cllr Chloe Turner (Green), Vice-chair: Cllr Robin Layfield (Lab)
* Housing Committee: Chair: Cllr Mattie Ross (Lab), Vice-chair: Cllr Chris Jockel (Green)

Cllr Steve Robinson (Labour) was elected Council Chair, and Cllr Trevor Hall elected Vice Chair.

Since the district council election was delayed by a year the last term was five years instead of four, and the new current term will last three years.

Appointments to outside bodies were also made at the AGM ([link](https://www.stroud.gov.uk/media/1485534/item-7-appointments-to-committees.pdf)).

Cllr Tucker is a member of the Strategy & Resources Committee and Community Services & Licensing Committee, Cllr Braun is a member of the Strategy & Resources Committee and Cllr James is a member of the Environment Committee.

**Strategy & Resources Committee Meeting – 10 June**

Brimscombe Port redevelopment was the main agenda item – and the Committee unanimously supported the proposals to take steps to give notice to the tenants on the former industrial site, to secure vacant possession. Much of the discussion focused on what additional support could be provided to the tenants (Rush Skatepark and Grace Network) to find new homes. Both organisations are social enterprises and deliver huge benefits to the community. The Grace Network runs Stroud Furniture Bank, The Long Table, Stroud District Kids' Stuff, Kick Off Stroud, The Bike Drop, Gloucestershire House Clearances and facilitates Stroud Foodbank. So far only Stroud Foodbank has definite plans to relocate. The Committee received a petition with over 3500 signatures in support of Rush Skatepark.

Redevelopment of the port is one of SDC’s corporate priorities. It will be the destination at the eastern end of the canal – with the project delivering a reinstated canal and basin, a sustainable, new residential-led mixed use community. The redevelopment will also deliver better cycling and walking links, environmental improvements, a tourist destination, space for community and social enterprise. It will require new housing to be carbon neutral and include a minimum of 30% affordable homes. More information on the project can be found [here](https://www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/brimscombe-port).

Brimscombe Port is a very complex and challenging site to develop and would be unviable without the significant amounts of public investment that have been secured. The tenants will need to vacate the site so that pre-demolition surveys can begin and the demolition of units can start outside of the main activity season for bats (between October to April). Works in the river required for the redevelopment are only permitted outside the fish spawning season (i.e. from June to September). Next steps on the [project milestones](https://www.stroud.gov.uk/media/1485867/item-9-appendix-d-key-milestones.pdf) include marketing of the development opportunity and stating the procurement for a developer.

The Committee also received updates on the following:

* the Property Review ([link](https://www.stroud.gov.uk/media/1485859/item-7a-property-review-update.pdf)), which references the review of Public Conveniences, which has been deferred to autumn 2022 due to Covid.
* Report of the first meeting of the Regeneration and Investment Board, which covered the Levelling Up Fund bid (SDC need to apply – but as the Government have designed this fund for constituencies, funding would only cover Stroud Constituency), Canal Corridor strategy, a pipeline of capital investment and regeneration schemes and a further bid for One Public Estate funding. ([link)](https://www.stroud.gov.uk/media/1485861/item-7e-strategic-recovery-board-regeneration-and-investment-board-update.pdf)
* Corporate delivery Plan Progress, Corporate Peer Challenge progress and grant payments to the leisure provider SLM in Stroud. ([link)](https://www.stroud.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/meetings/strategy-and-resources-committee/strategy-and-resources-committee-10-june-2021).

**Housing Committee meeting – 8 June**

Meeting papers can be found [here](https://www.stroud.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/meetings/housing-committee/housing-committee-08-june-2021). As a follow up to the previous meeting, the committee considered the Council Housing Income Collection and Recovery Policy, Tenant Services Compensation Policy, Visitor Room Policy for Independent Living (formerly known as sheltered housing), the Cleaner Estates Strategy Action Plan and Service Standards Action Plan.

**Other issues**

**Grants of £1million secured for brownfield housing & a carbon neutral district**

On 10 June it was announced that SDC, as a partner in the Gloucestershire One Public Estate Programme, has secured a total of £976,000 for two projects from The Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government.

A £776,000 Land Release Funding grant will support infrastructure and flood alleviation measures to unlock the Brimscombe Port site for redevelopment.

A further £200,000 from the Zero Carbon Public Estate fund will be used to explore how to rationalise, repurpose and retrofit sites including SDC’s Ebley Mill HQ, the Old Town Hall in Stroud, Thanet House (Stroud Town Council HQ), Lansdown Hall, Stroud Subscription Rooms, Stroud Job Centre, Stroud Ambulance Station, and Stroud Fire Station.

The Zero Carbon Public Estate funding will explore town centre regeneration through the redevelopment, co-location and rationalising of publicly owned land and buildings; the delivery of new homes to high energy efficiency standards; the delivery of financial savings and carbon savings; the provision of new training opportunities and a pilot scheme for developing practical skills in the retro-fitting of public buildings, to stimulate a green recovery and a new skills supply that is replicable across a wider area. It is a project led by SDC with partners including Gloucestershire County Council, the Department of Work and Pensions, NHS Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire and Stroud College, Stroud Town Council and Network Rail.

As well as individual properties, sites including Beeches Green, currently used for health and education and the railway station and adjacent Cheapside public car park, in Stroud town centre will be part of the first phase.

**Award nomination**

**A SDC development of council homes for older people, built at** Tanners Piece in Nailsworth has been shortlisted as a finalist for Best Older Peoples’ Housing Development by the Inside Housing Development Awards. The scheme was constructed in 2019 on the site of eight ageing prefabricated bungalows. The new properties consist of 11 modern apartments for older people which are modern, light and spacious; with wet rooms, a scooter store and a lift to provide a comfortable environment for older people wanting to live independently for longer.

This scheme was a part of Stroud District Council’s £8million investment in modernising and rebuilding sheltered housing to meet the needs of an ageing population. Nationally it is estimated that there will be a significant increase in the number of older people over the next 20 years, so it is important councils are prepared and develop the appropriate infrastructure. The Inside Housing Development Awards ceremony will be held on Thursday 4 November

**Local Plan consultation – to 7 July**

**Following approval by Council on 29 April, the SDC Local Plan Review (covering planning changes up to 2040) is out for consultation** for six weeks from 26 May until 7 July 2021.

The documentation will only be published online – and can be viewed at [www.stroud.gov.uk/localplanreview](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/localplanreview)

Following the consultation period, the Plan will be submitted for examination by an independent Planning Inspector, appointed by the Secretary of State.

**Council offices open to the public – by appointment only**

**The SDC offices at Ebley Mill are once again open to the public – but to** remain Covid compliant, people must make an appointment before coming to reception. Anyone who does so will be asked to contact Customer Services via phone or email. The council offices have been made safe with additional screens, fewer people and pre-booked appointments only. Residents are encouraged to continue to do as much as they can online or over the phone for safety.

County Councillor Cohen had previously circulated the following report:

**County Councillor Report – Councillor Linda Cohen**

**Wotton- Under – Edge Town Council**

**June 2021**

1. The last few weeks have mainly been taken up with the County Council AGM and the necessary introductions and training for the various committees. A full report will follow in July.

I have been appointed to the Gloucestershire Health Overview Scrutiny Committee, The Planning Committee and The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee. I am the Liberal Democrat’s spokesperson for Education.

2. I intend to hold monthly meetings to allow residents to meet and discuss concerns and new initiatives. I will communicate dates in the next few days on social media and through the local press and on notice boards. It would be useful if this information could also be shared on the Town Council website.

3. Greenway - I have attended the Greenway Project meetings and actively support the re-opening of Charfield Station and the creation of a walkway to link Wotton with Charfield and Kingswood.

4. Road safety / speed controls - I am involved in and support the initiative for parish and town councils across the district to share information and to explore best practice together. I will meet with the Site Manager of Blue Coat School to discuss current concerns on Monday (21st June) and I will be able to give more information at the meeting. I have also met with North Nibley Parish Council to walk through their road safety concerns and the proposed actions which will no doubt be of interest to Wotton Town Council. The recent incident in Charfield highlights the need for a proactive rather than reactive strategy. We need to be mindful of the changes of the use of our roads and be alert to resident and visitor behaviour patterns post lockdown.

5. Highways Local - This is an initiative which focuses on a safety led maintenance approach to keep our roads in as good a condition as possible. A 30k budget is available for Wotton and Berkeley Vale. Examples of use might include patching of paths or highways, winter or environmental maintenance, repairs to drains or repointing of walls or a contribution to capital projects.

I will be meeting with the Local Highway Manager on Tuesday for first discussions but will then be consulting with residents to identify those areas which are of greatest priority. Decisions need to be made by July 16th and the programme of work completed by the end of December.

This is clearly a very small budget to address a very extensive requirement and I will be ensuring that we maximise what we can achieve.

6. Tourism - I have had several approaches to give my support to ensure that Wotton benefits as equally as other Towns in the District from County Council support for local tourism. I am in the process of setting up a meeting with Visit Gloucestershire to ensure that we have parity on the website and that we are included in their media outreach programme.

7. Green Energy - I am exploring funding opportunities for capital projects to ensure that Wotton can stay in step or indeed ahead of other areas and provide residents with a range of solutions to power electric vehicles.

8. Covid - statistics to follow under separate cover. The vaccination programme appears to be working. Last week there was only one case in Gloucester Royal Hospital of a patient who had received vaccinations.

Please ensure my contact details are available on the Town Council website: [linda.cohen@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:linda.cohen@gloucestershire.gov.uk) . Mobile 07791110906

Town Councillors made the following comments:

Cllr Thomas raised the issue that Wotton must not be left behind for funding distribution.

Cllr Claydon highlighted two areas – Speeding by Blue Coat School and looking at measures with limited funding.

The Chair thanked the District and County Councillors for their reports.

*Member of the Public left the meeting*

## T.6270 Minutes of the Council Meeting of 17th May 2021

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the Town Council meeting on 17th May 2021 as a true and fair record.

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## T.6271 Chairman’s Announcements

The Chairman had circulated his report ahead of the meeting. He reported he had attended a remote meeting for the staff review. It was noted it is a wide-ranging review, he awaits the report with interest. There were no questions.

## T.6272 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2020/21

### **To note the final annual accounts for Financial Year ending March 2021.**

The accounts were noted with no comments.

### **To receive and approve internal audit report.**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the internal audit report.

### **To comment and approve Annual Governance Statement Section 1.**

### The Annual Governance Statement Section 1 was reviewed and completed.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the completed Annual Governance Statement Section 1.

### **To approve Section 2 Accounting Statements of AGAR form.**

The Accounting Statements of the AGAR were reviewed. The Notice of the Electors Rights and the dates for inspection of the accounts 23rd June 2021 to 3rd August 2021 were explained.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve Section 2 Accounting Statements of AGAR form and to agree the publishing of the Notice of Public Rights and publication of the unaudited AGAR for the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021 with an inspection period of 23rd June 2021 to 3rd August 2021.

## T.6273 Accounts

*Cllr J Turner left the meeting*

1. **To consider quotes and approve contractor for phones and broadband.**

The quotes were reviewed and discussed.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve a 24-month contract with The Phone Co-Op at a monthly of £114.50 plus a router reconfiguration fee of £75.

*Cllr J Turner re-joined the meeting*

1. **To agree earmarking of funds.**

Cllr Claydon provided suggestions for earmarking of funds.

It was **RESOLVED** to earmark funds following the suggestions given.

*District Cllr K Tucker and County Cllr L Cohen left the meeting*

1. **To note price increases for Suez waste disposal contracts from 1st June 2021: Recycling sacks £2.42 (previously £2.30); General waste bin £11.52 (previously £10.97).**

The price increases were noted.

1. **To approve subscription renewal to Rural Services Network at a cost of £130.00 plus VAT.**

It was explained that the Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum were reviewing the subscriptions and further information will be forthcoming.

It was RESOLVED to defer this item until further information is received.

1. **To approve purchase/fitting of tow bar to council vehicle at a cost of £373.25 including VAT.**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the purchase and fitting of a tow bar at a cost of £373.25 including VAT.

1. **Budget 2021 – To note report.**

The report was noted

1. **To approve June accounts for payment**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve June accounts for payment of £15,988.46 net of VAT.

## T.6274 Election of Membership to Committees and Partnerships

Councillors volunteered for Committees and Partnerships.

It was **RESOLVED** to elect the Councillors to the Committees and Partnerships listed below:

1. **Allotments Partnership** (5 Councillors)

Cllrs Paul Barton, Nick Pinneger, Lori Taylor, Terry Luker, Derek Thomas

1. **Public Rights of Way/Amenity Areas Partnership** (5 Councillors)

Cllrs John Cordwell, Nick Pinnegar, Lori Taylor, Derek Thomas, Terry Luker.

1. **Town Regeneration Partnership** (6 Councillors)

Cllrs Paul Barton, Nick Pinnegar, Terry Luker, John Lewis, Jon Turner, Teresa Creese.

1. **Finance and Special Purposes Committee** (5 Councillors)

Cllrs John Cordwell, Nick Pinneger, Terry Luker, Roger Claydon, Martin Tucker.

1. **Strategic Planning Working Group** (5 Councillors)

Cllrs John Cordwell, Paul Barton, Roger Claydon, Derek Thomas, Rich Hale.

*District Cllr Braun left the meeting*

## T.6275 Appointment of Representatives to organisations

## The Chair encouraged all volunteers to make every effort to attend meetings of any organisations they volunteer for. Councillors volunteered to be representatives.

## It was RESOLVED to appoint the Councillors to the listed organisations below:

* 1. **Wotton & District Rec Trust** (5 Councillors)

Cllrs Martin Tucker, Roger Claydon, Rich Hale, Nick Pinnegar, Duncan Davidson

* 1. **Beaumont-le-Roger Society** (2 Councillors)

Cllrs Roger Claydon, Rich Hale

* 1. **Wotton Youth Partnership** (4 Councillors)

Cllrs Paul Barton, Jon Turner, Lori Taylor, Teresa Creese.

* 1. **Wotton-under-Edge General Charities** (4 Councillors)

Cllrs Paul Barton, Jon Turner, Terry Luker, Teresa Creese

* 1. **Wotton-under-Edge Combined Charities** (2 Councillors)

Cllrs Roger Claydon, Nick Pinnegar

* 1. **Wotton Community Sports Foundation**

Cllr Duncan Davidson

* 1. **Snow Warden** (3 Councillors)

Cllr Martin Tucker, Derek Thomas, Roger Claydon

* 1. **Water Course Warden** (2 Councillors)

Cllr Martin Tucker, Lori Taylor

* 1. **Synwell Playing Fields Committee**

Cllr Terry Luker

* 1. **Wotton-under-Edge Swimming Pool**

Cllr Rich Hale

* 1. **Wotton in Bloom** (2 Councillors)

Cllrs Martin Tucker, Jon Turner

* 1. **Rural Services Partnership**

Cllr Martin Tucker

* 1. **Wotton Walking Festival**

Cllr Lori Taylor

* 1. **Greenway Group**

Cllrs Martin Tucker, Roger Claydon

* 1. **Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum**

Cllr Martin Tucker

* 1. **Wotton Area Climate Action Network (WACAN)**

Cllr Paul Barton

* 1. **Town and Council Parish Information Network**

Cllrs Martin Tucker, John Cordwell.

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## T.6276 Appointment to Working Groups (WG)

Councillors volunteered to be a member of Working Groups.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint the Councillors to the listed working groups below:

* 1. **Car Park WG** (6 Councillors)

Cllrs Paul Barton, Rich Hale, Derek Thomas, Jon Turner, Roger Claydon, Martin Tucker

* 1. **Climate Change WG** (All Councillors)

All Councillors

* 1. **Old Town Toilets WG** (6 Councillors)

Cllrs Paul Barton, Terry Luker, Roger Claydon, Jon Turner, John Lewis, Derek Thomas

* 1. **Remembrance Parade WG** (5 Councillors)

CllrsRich Hale, Martin Tucker, Nick Pinnegar, Roger Claydon, Jon Turner, Teresa Creese

* 1. **Roadways Condition WG** (All Councillors)

All Councillors

* 1. **Town Hall Repairs WG** (6 Councillors)

Cllrs Nick Pinnegar, Terry Luker, Roger Claydon, John Lewis, John Cordwell, Martin Tucker.

## T.6277 Policies / Procedures

## To note the policy review schedule.

## The Chair advised that the Special Purposes Committee usually review the Policies and Procedures. He recommended keeping to this with a review taking place as soon as possible.

## T.6278 Marchesi Walk – Tree Planting / Sculpture

**To consider suggestions for sculpture carving of tree stump.**

There was a discussion on ideas.

It was **RESOLVED** to approach the local primary schools to take part in a competition where the local children would be invited to create designs for the tree stump based on local wildlife. It was also **RESOLVED** to invite Under The Edge Arts to judge the competition with the winner’s design being carved onto the stump**.**

**To consider suggestions for tree planting.**

The Council had received an offer to sponsor and plant 3 short crab apple trees from 3 neighbouring residents. There was a discussion on the trees, maintenance, and the site.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the offer of three short crab apple trees, and for the Town Council to accept responsibility for their maintenance, with the Council agreeing with residents the location for planting.

## T.6279 Town Council Video

**To review the Thank You video and agree actions.**

Cllr Turner had asked the community via social media for their nominations of who had provided support during the lockdown due to the pandemic. There had been a large response. Cllr Turner worked with staff on producing the video. The video was reviewed prior to the meeting. Council thanked Cllr Turner and the staff for their hard work.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the video and publish.

## T.6280 Formal Business and Training Meetings

The Clerk explained there was a need to meet outside of Council and Committee meetings to hold training sessions and to discuss ideas such as business and event planning.

It was **RESOLVED** to hold informal business meetings and training sessions.

## T.6281 Wotton Businesses

1. **To discuss proposal bids for the Welcome Back Fund.**

A discussion ensued around the employment of a Market Town Tourism Officer and ensuring Wotton received its fair share of the Officers time. The Clerk has been working closely with Stroud District Council. There was a discussion of the proposed role, funding, and sustainability.

1. **To discuss proposals for supporting local businesses and agree actions.**

The Town Council is promoting Wotton on social media using the hashtags #shopwotton and #shoplocal. Several ideas and points were raised and discussed including community and business engagement and involvement. It was recommended that the Town Regeneration Partnership could discuss this as a priority.

## T.6282 Street Naming

**To agree the street naming for the development of land south of Symn Lane.**

Several names were discussed and voted upon.

It was **RESOLVED** to put forward the name of Haw Park to SDC.

## T.6283 To Receive Reports on

1. **Town Hall Renovations**

The Project Manager is near completion of his tender documents and is awaiting responses from the Planning Officer and English Heritage. Funding has been agreed with PWLB.

1. **Old Town Toilets.**

The Architect has submitted paperwork to SDC Planning department. There is £145 to pay for planning application fees.

It was **RESOLVED** to pay £145 for the planning application fees.

## T.6284 Consultations to agree response

### **Boundary Commission consultation and agree response.**

### It was **RESOLVED** to write a response to support the proposal.

1. **Market Town Group – State of your Town Centre 2021 Survey**

It was confirmed the survey had been completed.

1. **Draft Statement of Principles (Gambling Act 2005) January 2022 to January 2025**

It was **RESOLVED** to return no comment.

1. **Stroud District Local Plan – Pre-Submission Draft Stroud District Local Plan**

There was a discussion on the Local Plan.

It was **RESOLVED** to meet with neighbouring parish councils to discuss the Local Plan and the impact on Wotton under Edge.

It was **RESOLVED** to hold a Strategic Planning Working Group meeting to review the Local Plan and make recommendations to the next Town Council meeting to meet the deadline.

## T.6285 GAPTC AGM on 24th July 2021

The meeting was noted.

## T.6286 Clerks Report – May 2021

The Clerks report was circulated ahead of the meeting. The Clerk asked Councillors their preferences on communication. There followed a constructive discussion and suggestions were noted for consideration.

## T.6287 Correspondence

## No extra correspondence to report

## T.6288 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**.

Meetings attended as follows:

Staff review meeting – various councillors attended individual remote meetings.

Alms-house meeting.

Gloucestershire County Council Highways on adopted roads and possible solutions

Wotton Walking Festival –three-day event between June 11th to 13th 2021 was completed. The AGM is set for 15th July 2021. The Chair recommended a card be sent to the Chairman of the Walking Festival Committee to give thanks.

Gloucester Forum AGM – Rural Services Network are reviewing membership fees for 2020/21.

**T.6289 EXEMPT ITEMS**: Prior to consideration of the following agenda items, councillors are invited to pass the following resolution: Pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by S100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that its consideration would involve the disclosure of exempt information

It was **RESOLVED** to exclude the Press and public.

## T.6290 To receive a report on the former play area of Hill Road and agree actions

## The Clerk outlined the history of this area, and correspondence from the last 7 months.

## It was RESOLVED to delegate authority to the Clerk to pursue legal and other advice and actions to produce options for future consideration.

*The Clerk and Assistant Clerk left the meeting*

## T.6290 To receive a staffing report and agree actions

## It was noted that the Clerk’s 13-week probation period ended on 21st June 2021 and Council, therefore, needed to decide on whether the Clerk’s performance had been satisfactory or otherwise to extend her probation. It was recognised that the Clerk had taken on a difficult role without the benefit of a handover and her hard work since arriving was much appreciated. In discussion it was agreed that the new Clerk had fitted in very well and was working positively with staff, Councillors, and members of the public. In particular, it was clear that the team was being well managed, seemed happy and was functioning efficiently despite pressure of work. The Clerk had also proposed a number of new initiatives to improve dialogue between the Council and the community.

## It was RESOLVED to confirm the Clerk’s appointment and not extend her probation period.

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*The Clerk and Assistant Clerk joined the meeting*

It was **RESOLVED** to close the exempt session and open the meeting to the public.

## 

The meeting closed at 10pm.

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