#  Minutes of Wotton-under-Edge Town Council Meeting

#  Monday 20th September 2021 held in the Civic Centre

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

## In attendance: A Durn (Town Clerk), K Wilson (Assistant Clerk); District Cllrs C Braun, K Tucker, G James; and County Cllr L Cohen.

## T.6343 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs T Creese, N Pinnegar and J Lewis.

##

##  T.6344 To receive Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Cllr J Turner - Payments

## T.6345 Public Forum

There were no members of the public at the meeting.

## T.6346 To receive a presentation and repot from Tree Warden on work done to date and agree actions

Due to technical issues, this was deferred to the October Town Council meeting.

## T.6347 To receive reports from County and District Councillors.

The District Councillors had previously circulated the following report:

**Stroud District Councillors’ Report – September 2021**

**Report of SDC and local interesting matters during August**

There were no formal Committee meetings in August.

**New Council Plan**

A new Council Plan has been prepared by the recently elected Cooperative Alliance administration (Labour, Green, Liberal Democrat) setting out the proposed priorities, objectives, key projects/ activity to be undertaken for delivery over the next five years – and focusing on the next three years of the administration.

The Council Plan is not an exhaustive list of everything that SDC will be doing – as the Council has many other statutory and delivery responsibilities. The draft Plan will be discussed at all our service committee meetings (Environment -Cllr James), Housing and Communities -Cllr Tucker) during September. Elected Members from all political parties will consider the activity within the plan as it progresses through the Council’s governance structure.

The draft plan can be seen here: <https://stroud.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s1015/Item%205%20-%20Appendix%20A%20-%20Draft%20Council%20Plan.pdf>

**Environment Committee (Cllr James)**

Meeting documents have been published for the Committee meeting on 9 September. The Committee will be asked to approve a proposed Cycling and Walking Task & Finish Group to drive delivery on the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans for the district (as issued by Gloucestershire County Council), and to help realise Stroud District Council’s wider Active Travel ambitions.

Meeting papers:

<https://stroud.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=140&MId=1118&Ver=4>

**Brimscombe Port.**

SDC’s exciting plans for the re-development of Brimscombe Port continue. Despite requests from Tenants to extend their occupancies, June’s Strategy & Resources Committee authorised the Head of Asset Management to serve formal notifications on the Tenants, some of whom have been operating without a tenancy agreement.

These notices were served on the 1st July 2021 and the legal paperwork to present to the Courts for vacant possession is progressing. However, Rush Skate Park have ceased operations at Brimscombe on the 29th August and The Grace Network are very hopeful of finding a local and suitable building to operate from. SDC are helping to support both businesses in finding alternative sites and are working with other agencies to widen the scope. SDC have also put out several media requests, asking if anyone has a suitable building to offer. The urgency to vacate the site is driven by various engineering and ecological timescales, including an autumnal bat count, which if delayed, would seriously jeopardise the overall project, due to escalating building costs. Officers and members are working hard to find a developer to provide the 140+ ‘affordable homes’ that will be built on this site, at a cost of approx. £34m. Cllr Braun and the local Ward councillor, Beki Aldam, have been looking at wider ways to help, including appearing on BBC and ITV News. The initial infrastructure to recreating the ‘port basin’, including the ‘port’ itself, access roads and other portside building, will be completed by a specialist grounds work contractor, funded by SDC and others.

**UBICO.**

UBICO our refuse management partner (of which SDC is a shareholder) continues to do well collecting our district’s waste and recycling. Despite problems with staff number during Covid, their collection rate is 98.6% on the day, and to help, we are financially supporting ‘overtime’ to ensure all collections are made as soon as possible. Fortunately, our HGV drivers have a dispensation on working hours during COVID, but a nationwide shortage of HGV drivers is not helping the situation.

Service updates on missed collections can be found here: <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/bins-rubbish-and-recycling/bins-and-recycling-containers/report-a-missed-bin-collection>

**Fromebridge Roundabout (A38 Whitminster) and Ocean, Stonehouse.**

Readers may recall that this important section of the Phase 1B Stroudwater Canal project, to connect the canal from Stonehouse to Saul Junction, was unexpectedly funded and then completed by Highways England in 2020, at a cost of £4m. During the hot weather, the 50m long lock has apparently been used by swimmers to practise their stokes. SDC are to discourage such ‘training’ by erecting signs. The lock can be seen at [https://www.google.com/maps/@51.7642487,-2.3316326,367m/data=!3m1!1e3!5m1!1e4](https://www.google.com/maps/%4051.7642487%2C-2.3316326%2C367m/data%3D%213m1%211e3%215m1%211e4)

The main rail line from Bristol to Gloucester crosses the Stroudwater Canal at Ocean, Stonehouse. However, the bridge over the Canal is incompatible, so it is planned to replace it during the Xmas 2021 ‘shutdown. The new bridge and supports are being fabricated alongside the canal, and like Fromebridge, the site is worth a visit. See [https://www.google.com/maps/@51.7437546,-2.2960947,682m/data=!3m1!1e3](https://www.google.com/maps/%4051.7437546%2C-2.2960947%2C682m/data%3D%213m1%211e3)

**Development Control Committee - Ashen Plains. (NB meeting held 2nd September)**

Following a wrongly announced declaration of delegated powers by SDC officers, the decision to allow the retrospective planning application was overturned by the High Court in July, which was directed to DCC, as was initially intended, for a member decision.

Cllr Tucker has been working with NNPC since 2019 on numerous issues in this location and attended the site visit of 10 members of the committee on the 31st August, ahead of last Thursday’s DCC meeting. Your other District Councillors, Braun and James spoke elegantly against the officer’s recommendation of approval, succinctly and forcefully supported by Cllr Larkin of NNPC and Cllr Symons. We were therefore delighted that the Committee over-ruled the officers, 5 votes to 2 and, following a final check by our legal team, a pre-prepared Enforcement Notice will now be issued requesting that the illegal ‘Barn 2’ be removed. This serving of the EN needs to be done with some expediency, as the time limit is for enforcement is 4 years since erection and that was Jan 2018. Well done everyone!

**Unauthorised Groundworks in Waterley Bottom (yet again!)**

Following a visual siting and also complaints from local residents of large earthmoving at ‘Galloway’, Waterley Bottom, Cllr Tucker requested an immediate site visit from SDC’s Enforcement Team. This was expedited the same day (1st August) and following ‘discussions’, the landowner(s) agreed to halt further works, except for some ‘permitted rights’ adjacent to a property. They were advised that planning permission was needed to cover works such as these and invited to do so. District Councillors and others are monitoring any developments.

**Blackboy Clock Review**

There has been local and national media interest in the review. The review is seeking to ensure statues and commemorations - including the Blackboy Clock in Stroud - as well as the names of streets and buildings, are representative of local people’s values and those of a modern, inclusive council.

A Review Panel made up of community representatives, councillors and historians will then review the results of the consultation and publish its recommendations based on the representations made. Possible outcomes include relocation, the addition of explanatory information, renaming or removal. In some cases, it may be decided that no action is necessary at all.

The consultation closed on 1 September.   [www.stroud.gov.uk/statuereview](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CSueBailey%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CR6ZUKHW3%5Cwww.stroud.gov.uk%5Cstatuereview)

**Afghan Resettlement Scheme**

As noted in Cllr Cohen’s County Report, Stroud District Council is part of a countywide partnership, to resettle up to 35 Afghan families in the county. So far 7 properties have been offered to the Home Office. The Gloucestershire Housing Partnership continues to appeal to private-sector landlords who have good quality properties to rent to come forward. They are particularly in need of larger (4 or 5 bed) properties. Participation in the scheme brings a number of benefits for landlords. In addition to the GCC contact (Gorib.Hossain@gloucester.gov.uk.) there is also a national website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-housing-portal-offers-of-support>

Support for all Afghan families is to be coordinated by the local provider, GARAS (Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers). This advice and assistance will cover employment, welfare benefits, housing, health, and education. The County Council is coordinating access to education, health services etc. Anyone wishing to volunteer or donate is encouraged to contact admin@garas.org.uk or via <https://www.garas.org.uk/>

**Noise Abatement Notice non-compliance upheld**

A resident from Stroud was served with a Noise Abatement Notice to address the playing of amplified music and gaming noise at high volumes from his property in Ebley, Stroud, which had regularly and unreasonably disturbed his neighbours. Despite the service of the Abatement Notice, evidence was subsequently gained of multiple instances of non-compliance affecting the neighbouring property, including during Covid lockdown periods. The resident, Mr Gregg Wootten, did not attend the original court hearing on 21 March and so a penalty was set without an opportunity to take his means and any mitigating circumstances into account. An appeal was heard on 30 July which upheld the original sentence of non-compliance with a Noise Abatement Notice and reduced the penalty from £5735 to a £1,000 fine, a £100 victim surcharge and a £500 contribution towards costs. A Forfeiture Order relating to noise-making equipment seized from Mr Wootten’s property was not appealed and remains in place.

**Road safety – local parish forum**

Cllr Braun convened a meeting of interested local parish representatives to discuss Speed watch good practice and road safety issues on 29 July. Paul Helbrow, from Gloucestershire Highways and David Collicott from Gloucestershire Police also attended. Feedback has indicated that the meeting was useful and so it is proposed to hold quarterly information sharing meetings. Cllr Braun is working with County Cllr Linda Cohen to set up future meetings, with further information to follow in September. Cllr Tucker will be working with the Stinchcombe road safety team, who will be carrying out speed checks in the village.

**Climate & Ecological Emergency Bill**

During August, Stroud District Council has been promoting its support for a new law to protect the future of life on earth: the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill (CEE). This is a proposal drafted by scientists, legal experts, ecological economists, and environmentalists, designed specifically to reverse climate and ecological breakdown. The Bill requires the UK to take responsibility for its fair share of greenhouse gas emissions, to actively restore biodiverse habitats, and to stop damaging our natural world through the production, transportation, and disposal of the goods we consume. It was tabled in Parliament by Caroline Lucas MP (Green), and now has the support of 110 MPs across 8 political parties, representing England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

SDC Environment Committee Chair, Chloe Turner commented that SDC is one of eighty two councils across the country which is supporting the CEE Bill.

People can join the campaign as an individual to get involved and support the Bill: <https://www.ceebill.uk/join_the_campaign>

**Sports kit requested**

As children go back to school, an appeal has been made for sports kit which they have grown out of. Organisations across the district are taking part in BBC’s ‘Kit out the Nation’ campaign. It’s a month long Make a Difference campaign running from Saturday 4th September to 2nd October. It aims to take in and distribute unwanted, good condition sports kit and sports clothing and deliver to children and teenagers who need it most.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee published a report on 29th July 2021 where they said data from Sport England showing 100,000 fewer children met the recommended level of activity in 2020 than in 2019 was "of significant concern".

Local organisations which are taking part include:

• The Pulse, Dursley

• GL11 community Hub, Cam

• The Keepers Community Hub, Wotton

Kit can be dropped off at any of these locations during the campaign. Each organisation should be updating their website to show when you can drop off the kit. We will be linking with business2schools to help with the distribution of the kit.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/1RvmVJyvX0PYv2vxG4rRbQS/kit-out-the-nation>

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

**The SDC offices at Ebley Mill are once again open to the public – but in** order 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.

The District Councillors were thanked for their report and there followed a discussion with Town Councillors.

**Local Plan** – the draft Local Plan is in progress

**Housing** - £18om has been allocated to retrofit Council houses over the next 9 years

**Leisure Strategy** – being developed

**Cycling** – £18k has been allocated towards the Greenway Plan. There is an intention of a Task and Finish Group to accelerate the pace of plans. Walking and Cycling groups are being consulted on to have better cycling routes and connections.

**Road Safety** – Working with County Cllr L Cohen. Looking to set up a Forum with parishes, towns, police, and Gloucestershire Highways to share information.

**Development at Symn Lane** – The affordable housing is awaiting an assessment from the District Valuation Office. District Councillors are keen to see the affordable element included.

##  T.6348 Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting of 1st September 2021

The Chair proposed an amendment to minute **T.6341**. As the amendment was proposed without sufficient time for Councillors to consider it, it was agreed to defer this for Council to consider at the next meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of the meeting held on 1st September 2021 apart from item T.6341 which would be reviewed at the next meeting.

##  T.6349 Note the Draft Minutes of the Finance and Special Purposes Committee held on 25th August 2021

It was noted that this action had already been noted at the previous Council meeting.

## T.6350 Chairman’s Announcements

The Chairman circulated his report ahead of the meeting. There were no questions or comments.

##  T.6351 Accounts

### **To consider quotes for utilities contracts for Town Council and Town Trust buildings and select provider to commence 1/12/2021.**

There was a discussion on the energy provision crisis and the impact on utility providers. The quotes were reviewed.

It was **RESOLVED** to select EON as the new provider.

### **To consider and select an electricity provider for Tolsey / CCTV unmetered electricity supply.**

The quotes were reviewed.

It was **RESOLVED** to select EON as the new provider.

1. **To consider quotes and approve provider to supply new waste disposal contract at cemetery.**

The quotes were reviewed.

 It was **RESOLVED** to select Smiths as the new provider for a 360-litre bin at an annual cost of £596.00.

1. **To consider and approve quotes for repairs to the Heritage Centre and decide whether this should be paid from the Town Council earmarked funds for the Heritage Centre or the Town Trust.**

There was a discussion on the options for repairs and the cost effectiveness of those options.

 It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote for £760. The Clerk will investigate if payment should be made from the Town Trust or Town Council funds.

1. **To approve quote for stream clearance at Marchesi Walk**

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote for £680 ensuring the contractor sterilised all tools and clothing whilst carrying out the works to ensure the environmental protection of the crayfish.

1. **To note confirmation from SDC that £40K funding is still available for the Old Town Toilets Project**

 Confirmation was noted. The Clerk advised she is waiting to hear how the money will be processed to the Town Council. Once funding is received the project can progress. It was noted that people were urinating on the outside of the Old Town Toilets.

1. **To confirm budget sources for salaries/wages changes**

It was **RESOLVED** to use the General and Pandemic Contingency funds.

1. **To approve quote for reducing the hedge around Court Orchard electricity sub-station**

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote for £350.

1. **Budget 2021 – To note report.**

### The Clerk confirmed the queries on IT Support and Tolsey Clock payments were due to billing errors by the providers and should not re-occur.

The report was noted.

 *Cllr J Turner left the meeting.*

### **To approve September accounts for payment.**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve September accounts for payment of £18,182.25 net of VAT.

*Cllrs J Turner re-joined the meeting*

##  T.6352 Notice of Conclusion of Audit

##  Thanks were given to the Deputy Clerk for her hard work and the successful conclusion of the external audit was noted.

*County Cllr L Cohen arrived at the meeting*

## T.6353 To note the draft meeting notes and discuss the recommendations from

## Regeneration Partnership

It was **RESOLVED** to use the Council’s public liability insurance to run a Christmas event.

It was **RESOLVED** to pay £85 for Road Closures

It was **RESOLVED** to pay £25 for a temporary event licence.

The draft meeting notes were noted

## Climate Change Action Group

It was **RESOLVED** to support Wotton Biodiversity Action plan.

It was **RESOLVED** to monitor sewerage overflows.

The draft meeting notes were noted

*District Cllr K Tucker left the meeting*

## Wotton Youth Partnership

 There were no recommendations from the Youth Partnership.

 The draft meeting notes were noted

## d) Remembrance Day Parade

 There were no recommendations from the Remembrance Day Parade Group.

##  T.6354 To discuss the street lighting project for the OK Path and agree actions.

District Cllr C Braun and Cllr R Claydon had previously circulated background information and briefing notes. It was reported that the Greenway would not use the OK path.

It was **RESOLVED** to investigate the costs involved with setting up and maintaining lighting including design life and replacement costs for the OK Path to help inform budget deliberations. The Council to work in partnership with Stroud District Council, Gloucestershire County Council, and neighbouring parish councils. The following Councillors volunteered to investigate the costs Cllr Davidson, Hale, Thomas, Claydon and District Cllr C Braun.

*District Cllr C Braun left the meeting*

##  T.6347 To receive reports from the County Councillor

County Councillor L Cohen had previously circulated the following report:

**County Councillor Report – Councillor Linda Cohen**

1. My next monthly meeting to allow residents to meet and discuss concerns and new initiatives will be at The Keepers on Symn Lane in Wotton on Saturday 23rd October at 11am -12pm. It would be useful if this information could also be shared on the Town Council website.
2. Build Back Better- Market Towns Fund – I would draw your attention to this fund which closes at midnight on 26th September and invites bids from parish councils and community groups in market towns and rural communities for events that will boost the local economy.

These could include Christmas Fairs, farmer’s markets, festivals. The funding must be used by August 2022. Decisions will be given by October 4th. For more information go to [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/market-towns-fund](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/market-towns-fund) email linda.cohen@gloucestershire.gov.uk or ring me 07791 110906.

I am asking the County Council if the closing date can be extended but would recommend that anyone wishing to apply works towards the existing deadline.

1. Highways:

Haw Street – I have been asked by a resident to do something about vans that are regularly parked on double yellow lines opposite the Royal Oak. I have written to the owner and asked for his help with ensuring that we make the road as safe as possible and will monitor whether there has been any improvement. Separately both Cllr Martin Tucker and I have received communication from another resident who is concerned about safety. I will be writing to him this week to update on the school signs campaign but also managing expectation about what can be achieved.

Ash Dieback – Lower Rushmire Farm – I have been in correspondence with the owner of the farm for several weeks about his dissatisfaction with the lack of communication from the County Council about road closures and subsequently the damage of his perimeter fence. I have visited and walked the area and supported his application for compensation.

Synwell / Mount Pleasant Junction – I will report on this at the meeting on Monday.

1. Blue Coat School Trees- I met with the residents of Venns Acre who are increasingly concerned about the height of trees on the Blue Coat site which overhang their property. Apart from the fact that the trees now completely obliterate any light at the back of their properties they are more concerned that one tree has recently come down and with the approach of winter it is likely that more branches could fall and this could injure a pedestrian or school child. The extensive canopy and roots also mean that the grass is not growing on the pathway which means that when it rains it become a mud bath. Historically any communication with school governors has been ignored. I have written to Glyn Jones and he has forwarded my email to the governors.
2. Road Safety - A social media campaign has been designed in partnership with Wotton Town Council to remind local drivers to drive particularly carefully when children are walking to and from school. The graphic (see first draft – example 1) uses the existing Children Crossing Triangle but with pictures of local children in place of the characters. This will be extended to posters after the trial and initial feedback. The campaign will initially target local drivers and the plan is to roll out to all parishes. There will be education work with parents and pupils at all schools.
3. Community Recovery Fund

I have only received one application and two indications (not yet substantiated) of interest.

Gloucestershire County Council has launched a new £2 million fund to help communities to recover and rebuild from the impacts of Covid-19.

The fund provides a total of £40,000 for each of the county’s 53 electoral divisions to allow each county councillor to support bids in their area and ensure the benefits of the investment are shared across Gloucestershire.

The fund is open to (but not exclusively) community groups and voluntary organisations, parish councils and sports groups.

Anyone who would like to find out more can email me on linda.cohen@gloucestershire.gov.uk or ring me 07791 110906

1. COVID -19 – UPDATE
* Government confirmed last week that vulnerable people will be offered a COVID-19 booster vaccine this winter. The programme will be rolled out to care home residents, health and social care workers, people aged over 50, those aged 16-49 years old with underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk of severe COVID-19, adult carers and adult household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals. People who are eligible for the booster will receive an invitation from local NHS services, there is no need to contact their GP.
* Children aged 12-15 years will also be offered a single dose of the Pfizer vaccine. Community NHS Services will be in touch with parents of children in this age group soon, with details of the offer which is to be delivered through schools.
* Everyone working in, going into a care home regularly for work or volunteering should have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccination in time for when the regulations come in to force on 11 November.

Testing: Our nearest Mobile Testing Unit location is:

Dursley Rugby Club, Hounds Green, Dursley GL11 6AJ (Monday-Tuesday)

Lloyds Pharmacy Wotton-under-Edge provides on site testing for people with no symptoms – 43 Long Street, GL12 7BX. Opening hours 9am-6.30pm (Monday – Friday), 9am-5pm (Saturday).

Cases

In the week Monday 6th September – Sunday 12th September there were 1,085 cases of COVID 19.

Of these cases:

* 221 Gloucester
* 142 Cheltenham
* 159 Tewkesbury
* 210 Stroud
* 182 Cotswold
* 171 Forest of Dean

The rate of cases in the last 7 days per 100,000 is 199.6 in Gloucestershire.

In the week 28th August – 3rd September, there were 3 deaths mentioning ‘novel coronavirus’ which is 3.1% of all deaths.

My contact details linda.cohen@gloucestershire.gov.uk . Mobile 07791110906

The County Councillor thanked for her report and there followed a discussion with Town Councillors.

**Build Back Better Market Towns Funding Forms** – County Cllr Cohen will ask for a printed version of the form so that all requirements can be seen. She expressed her frustration at the late notice of the funding being available.

**Social Media responses to problem areas** – the Clerk offered to work with County Cllr Cohen on the analysis of the numerous responses received to the social media posts.

**Blue Coat School Trees** – The Council agreed to send a letter to the Governors of the school highlighting the dangers of the tree to passers-by and especially the children.

**Parking at Synwell/Mount pleasant Junction –** County Cllr Cohen has written to the resident.

**Parking** – Councillors raised other parking issues in the town including the lack of enforcement and poor line marking of disabled parking bays

##  T.6355 To discuss Tourism and Economic Development and funding opportunities and agree actions

£5K has been set aside for a Tourism Officer but a proposal has been sent to Stroud District Council for them to fund a Tourism Officer for two years.

The various Tourism websites were discussed and the population of information to VisitStrouduk was encouraged.

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##  T.6356 Tree and Land Management

1. **To receive complaint regarding the poplar tree on Marchesi Walk and areas of overgrowth, including the stream and agree actions.**

The Poplar tree has been inspected several times by tree surgeons. It was mentioned the tree was planted by the President of the Civic Society in circa 1973.

 It was **RESOLVED** to follow the advice from the arborist last year and inspect the tree annually, and continue to follow the arborist’s advice.

1. To receive tree warden report on trees at the cemetery and churchyard and agree way forward.

The report was reviewed.

 It was **RESOLVED** to remove and replace the split trunk evergreen tree by the snicket in the cemetery.

 It was agreed to defer a decision on the Ash Tree at the entrance until the next Town Council Meeting when questions could be asked of the Tree Warden.

 It was agreed to defer a decision on the Norway Maple Tree at the Church Lodge until the next Town Council Meeting when questions could be asked of the Tree Warden.

##  T.6357 To consider a rota for locking and unlocking the play area – new volunteers needed

Previous volunteers were thanked by the Clerk.

The following Councillors volunteered to help – Cllrs Hale, Thomas, Tucker, Creese

The following volunteered for emergency cover – Cllrs Claydon and Taylor

##  T.6358 Council Policies – to approve policy for placing of memorial benches

This item was deferred to a future Town Council meeting.

##  T.6359 To agree to forming a Highways Working Group

The Clerk reported that the Office receives a lot of complaints about highway issues and suggested a working group be formed to enable the issues to be discussed and reported more effectively. It was noted that Highways was a Gloucestershire County Council responsibility. Councillors felt the public approached them individually or rang office staff as and when required.

It was **RESOLVED** to not form a Highways Working Group.

District Cllr G James and County Cllr L Cohen left the meeting.

##  T.6360 To discuss the offer to plant two trees for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee

It was agreed to ask the Climate Change Working Group for recommendations on where to plant them and report back to Council.

##  T.6361 Clerk’s Report – July 2021

The Clerk’s report was previously circulated.

The Clerk requested Councillors provide days and times of availability for Wotton Times to take a group photo, outside of the newly painted Heritage Centre, for an article.

##  T.6362 Correspondence

## To note application for road closures for Remembrance Day.

 Noted.

1. Brochures/Newsletters for information only

 None

 The Clerk shared a thank you card received from Gordon Phillips regarding his presentation for his contribution to the Art Society and Wotton Under Edge.

##  T.6363 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**.

Wotton Youth Partnership –thanks were given to Cllr Barton for his work on the Wotton Intergenerational Project.

## T.6364 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.

*The Assistant Clerk left the meeting*

##  T.6365 Town Hall refurbishment – scaffolding contract

The Clerk had negotiated a new contract and the quote was reviewed.

It was **RESOLVED** to agree to the extension of the scaffolding contract until 17th June 2022 with UCS Group.

**T.6366** **To discuss the request for acquisition of land at Durns Road and agree actions**

This item was deferred.

##  T.6367 Clerk’s report

##  It was reported that the cleaning contractor was retiring and that TUPE may apply to the staff. Professional advice was being sought.

It was reported that the Assistant Clerk had resigned to take up a new career opportunity.

It was **RESOLVED** for the Clerk to carry out a staffing review and bring a proposal to the next Council meeting.

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

##  The meeting closed at 10.25pm.

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