

WALLINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the

Meeting of Council held in the Town Hall, Wallingford on
Monday 31st July 2017

PRESENT

The Mayor, Councillor Michael Kidley

Councillors Beatty, Dolton, Lester, Lloyd, Norton, Titchener and Upcraft.

The Town Clerk, Mrs Paula Lopez

Officers in Attendance: Mrs Barbara Atkins and Miss Rachel Rae

**Before the formal business of the agenda was transacted, prayers were said by The
Mayors Chaplain, The Reverend Charles Lewis**

The Mayor thanked Mrs Atkins, Mrs Collins and Miss Rae for their work
on the Freedom Parade and presented each of them with a gift.

176. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cockman (holiday), Cripps (personal reasons), Davidson (prior commitment), Holland (holiday) and McGregor (not well).

177. ADMISSION OF THE PUBLIC

It was Proposed by Councillor Lloyd, Seconded by Councillor Norton and

RESOLVED:

THAT in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of the following items on the grounds that publicity would be

prejudicial to the public's interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted: -

Agenda Item 15 Neighbourhood Plan (Contracts to be discussed)

Councillor Lloyd asked for a further item to be taken in confidential but following a discussion this was deemed unnecessary.

178. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Information for each Member was available at the meeting.

There were no declarations of interest at this stage.

179. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (10 MINUTES IN TOTAL)

i) The Mayor welcomed Henry Thornton from CAGE to the meeting. Mr Thornton gave Councillors an overview of how CAGE (Campaign Against Gravel Extraction) was set up in 2011 and what its members had achieved (copy of report attached to the minutes). To date CAGE has spent £30,000 although some consultants did not charge for their services. The money had been raised via donations from individuals, businesses and local councils however more funds are required, Cholsey Parish Council has pledged £1,500. Mr Thornton asked the Town Council for their support not only monetary but also if The Mayor could write a letter of objection to the County Council.

ii) Diane Wyatt and Maureen Roberts were welcomed to the meeting. Maureen Roberts read out the paper (copy attached to the minutes) that Diane Wyatt had prepared on the proposed closure of Wallingford Bridge. The very detailed report brought to Councillors attention: lack of alternative routes if bridge is closed; concerns over town routes becoming blocked; increase traffic on residential roads; how will children get to and from school; impact on businesses in town; what if Shillingford Bridge becomes blocked; what about the increase in traffic because of new developments; why hasn't the council informed all residents; improved technology means car emissions are reducing.

In addition Maureen Roberts informed councillors that they had submitted a petition with over 700 names on it to SODC. The District Council were avoiding their Freedom of Information requests.

Councillors congratulated the representatives on their good work and were very supportive. Councillor Upcraft offered to work with them.

iii) The Mayor welcomed Pete Harris to the meeting. Mr Harris is a delivery officer for Royal Mail and spoke about the proposed bridge closure will affect this service and other businesses in Wallingford. Mr Harris brought to Councillors attention the fact that if the proposals are implemented he believed that there would be no physical barriers or policing

so that emergency vehicles could still get through. What are the costs involved in this proposed bridge closure. Mr Harris asked if the Town Council could ask to see the reports and wondered why they were not being made public.

The speakers were thanked for attending the meeting.

180. IMPROMPTU PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (15 MINUTES IN TOTAL)

There were no members of the public reporting under this section.

181. COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

i) County Councillor L. Atkins had distributed a copy of her report (copy attached) to Councillors in advance of the meeting. Councillor Lester expressed her concern over the closure of the Health and Wellbeing Centre and where would the service users, many of which have dementia, go. The Day Centre is not suitable, it is too noisy and does not have the right facilities. County Councillor Atkins stated that Age UK on behalf of the County Council are assessing the needs of the service users particularly those with statutory needs. Councillor Norton stated that the Medical Practice was in discussion with Age UK regarding setting up a dementia café. County Councillor Lynda Atkins pointed out in that in number 2 of her report she stated the County's Local Plan for Minerals and Waste was flawed and at a meeting of Cabinet there was thought to be no prospect of overturning the plan. Councillor Upcraft asked County Councillor Atkins if there had been any progress in respect of repairs to the Kinecroft steps, unfortunately as the Kinecroft is a scheduled monument this is not straightforward but it is being followed through.

ii) District Councillor E. Hornsby reported on the following:

- Portcullis Club Planning Application refused and Councillor Lloyd was thanked for representing the Town Council.
- District Council is looking at traffic flows and submissions.
- Corn Exchange received their grant.
- A water tap has been erected in the cemetery along with a number of watering cans.
- Parking is a criminal offence in order for the Town Council to take over the responsibility parking would have to be decriminalised. The District Council would need Henley and Thame to join forces too. It would be a very expensive process as all the road lines and signs would have to be changed.
- District Councillors have a grant budget of £5,000 for projects or services that will offer community benefits in their own ward area. District Councillor Hornsby stated that this was being awarded in £500 chunks but was only available to groups not the Town Council.
- LEADER Grants are available.

- The District Council are checking all those households that are claiming the 25% council tax reduction.
- Car Parks are to have new car parking machines.

Councillor Lloyd thanked District Councillor Hornsby for her support with the Portcullis Club. The Mayor thanked the County and District Councillor.

182. MAYORS COMMUNICATIONS

There were no Mayors Communications most are sent out by email now.

183. MINUTES

a) The Town Clerk submitted the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on the 12th June 2017 as set out on pages 27 to 36 of the Minute Book.

It was Proposed by Councillor Lloyd, Seconded by Councillor Upcraft and

RESOLVED:

THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on the 12th June 2017 as set out on pages 27 to 36 of the Minute Book be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

b) The Town Clerk submitted the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on the 17th July 2017 as set out on pages 53 to 56 of the Minute Book.

It was Proposed by Councillor Lloyd, Seconded by Councillor Upcraft and

RESOLVED:

THAT the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on the 17th July 2017 as set out on pages 53 to 56 of the Minute Book be signed by the Chairman as a correct record

184. CAGE/SAND AND GRAVEL

Councillor Lloyd gave Councillors an update and stated that County Councillors had been very interested in the graph that he had produced within the document that CAGE submitted regarding the Grundons application. The New Barn Farm Planning Application is likely to be submitted before the sand and gravel strategy is adopted. A second Section 22 notice has been issued.

185. PROMOTING OF THE TOWN HALL

Suzanne Symons to update councillors on events in the Town Hall and to ask for assistance in promoting the venue for future events. This item was deferred.

186. WESTGATE DAY CENTRE

Councillor Lester reported her concerns regarding the closure of the Health and Wellbeing Centre to Councillors. These concerns were:

- The elderly and people with dementia attended the centre from 9.30am to 2.30pm each day and enjoyed having a meal and a chat. They would miss this routine.
- Age UK is a voluntary organisation but professionals are needed as they are the only ones who can provide personal care such as hair washing and showering.
- Volunteers can only provide social help.
- There are no quiet facilities at the Day Centre nor a garden.
- The service users will be taken out of their comfort zone with the loss of the centre.
- The service users are also losing the use of the buses and will be transported by cars. The bus staff knew the clients well and catered for their needs.

Councillor Norton suggested that the Town Council provides a similar set up to that which was implemented to help with loss of the Children's Services. The Town Council needs to know how many people are affected. There are Church halls that could be used and all stakeholders should get together to discuss the problem.

187. CIVIC CEREMONY WORKING PARTY

Cllr Norton stated that there was the need for a Civic Ceremony Working Party in order to put together a diary sheet of civic and ceremony functions along with list of protocols in order to tidy up procedures.

The Mayor stated that a meeting was in hand for September with all previous Mayors and he would meet with the RAF to discuss civic and ceremonial procedures. The end result would be a civic/service booklet that could be referred to in the future.

Councillors were in agreement with this course of action.

188. TO CONSIDER GREENE KING'S REQUEST TO ADD THE BOATING FACILITY TO IT'S LEASE WITH THE TOWN COUNCIL

The Town Clerk outlined the request to Councillors and also read to them the email that she had received from Green King. Councillors discussed noting the following:

- The request is probably due to health and safety issues.
- Insurance and cover for the boating facility to be checked.
- Would a licence to operate be better than a lease.
- The boating facility is business not a club.
- Boating facility is good for tourism.

Councillors concluded their discussion and it was Proposed by Councillor Lloyd, Seconded by Councillor Dolton and

RESOLVED

THAT The Town Clerk enters into a discussion with Green King and Henley Sales and Charter with the view agreeing the terms for a licence to operate. An annual review date to be included.

189. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FINANCE & PROPERTY COMMITTEE HELD ON 24TH JULY 2017

Councillors considered approving the following recommendations from the committee.

i) To ring-fence the remaining available money from the reserves for the Neighbourhood Plan as this was originally to come from the 'one offs'. The Town Clerk reported that there was no longer the need for the recommendation as an error occurred in the reserves a couple of years ago.

Councillor Lloyd asked for it to be recorded that The Town Clerk and The Responsible Finance Officer's determination and professionalism meant that this issue had been resolved.

ii) BunkFest Grant - Councillor Dolton declared an interest in this item. It was proposed by Councillor Norton, Seconded by Councillor Lester and

RESOLVED:

THAT a grant of £610 is awarded to BunkFest under S137 of the Local Government Act 1972 in the current financial year.

190. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Note: When deciding upon whether to recommend approval or refusal of a planning application classified as “other”, members should, if they feel strongly about their recommendation, request that the application be called in by the District Council Ward Member in order that it may be referred to the District Council’s planning committee.

(i) Application Reference: [P16/S3852/FUL](#) – (Full Application)

Type: Major

Amendment: No.2 – dated 14th July 2017

Proposal: Hybrid planning application for the erection of 100 new residential dwellings including new access road off the A4074, public open space (full application) and the provision of school land (outline application) at Newnham Manor, Crowmarsh Gifford

Address: Land to the South of Newnham Manor Crowmarsh Gifford.

Councillors discussed this application in detail and agreed that their original objection should be upheld. Councillor Upcraft to prepare the detailed response which is due for submission on the 2nd August 2017.

191. CO-OPTION OF A TOWN COUNCILLOR

Councillors considered the following applicants for co-option to the Town Council. The Town Clerk had received all relevant paperwork and the candidates’ declarations.

- i) Deborah Whelan
- ii) Danny Hearty
- iii) Alan Streets
- iv) Ruth Baroni

Ballot sheets were handed out to all Councillors. The Town Clerk and Senior Administrator counted votes.

The Town Clerk was instructed to let the winning candidates Deborah Whelan and Ruth Baroni know the result.

192. ACTIVITIES ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Councillor Lloyd: OCC Cabinet Meeting – spoke against proposal to recommend the Minerals Local Plan for approval, Met with OCC Planners to discuss New Barn Farm, Spoke at SODC Planning committee against ortcullis Club, pre meeting with Cllr Hornsby & Lokhan, Meeting With SODC Leader, Attended SODC Council meeting to hear petition against Bridge Closure, Neighbourhood Pan – Steering Group, Comms group, Bullcroft Working Group, Survey, Building Estimates, Bullcroft Lodge, Wigod Trustees & Lease, Regal Centre & Fire Alarm Testing, Castle Gardens – Vandalism, Site

B – Contact with Thames Water and Footpaths Officer, Site E – Contact with SODC – Archaeology on site required, Wigod Centre; Cholsey and Wallingford Railway; Air Cadets; RAF Liaison; CAGE.

Councillor Lester: Municipal Charities; Westgate Day Centre 3 meetings; Visit to the new renovated day centre by the library; Freedom March; Neighbourhood Plan Consultation; Meetings with RAF regarding Freedom Parade; Wallingford School Founders day and Wallingford School Art Exhibition

Councillor Dolton: Freedom Parade

Councillor Norton: Neighbourhood Plan meetings; Housing Steering Group, Children’s Services; interviewing re extra member of staff; Meeting at Bridge re Closure.

Councillor Beatty: Meeting with Film Maker re prospective new town video.

Councillor Upcraft: Bull Croft Working Party; SOHA, SODC and the Health and Safety Executive in relation to unsafe demolition activities on Clapcot Way.

The Mayor: McDonald’s Opening; Chris Eke’s Book Signing, Cholsey School to the Cholsey and Wallingford Railway Society; Meeting with District Councillor Lokhan; Wallingford Day Centre; Meeting at Bridge re closure; Carnival; Talking Newspaper; Freedom Parade; Wallingford School Founders Day; Dorchester Abbey; Wallingford School Art and Design Exhibition; Dorchester Abbey; Church BBQ.

193. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Lead</u>	<u>Anticipated Agenda</u>
Council Neighbourhood Plan County/District Councillors Site B and Infrastructure Budget for committees Sand and Gravel Site B and Infrastructure Media Policy Youth Worker Local Plan Castle Street Yard Band Concert Refreshments Promoting the Town Hall	Cllr Norton Cllr Lloyd Cllr Lester Cllr Lloyd Town Clerk Town Clerk Councillor Dolton Cllr Lloyd Cllr McGregor Cllr Lester Suzanne Symons	Rolling Rolling Rolling
Parks Car Parking Parking Near Kerbs (Police to be asked to attend) PCSO’s attendance re Allotment Security Use of Phone Boxes CCTV	Cllr Davidson Cllr McGregor Cllr Dolton	

Rubbish Dual Markets & Terms & Conditions	Cllrs Kidley and Lester Cllr Cockman	
Tourism Future of Market Town Co- Ordinator – SODC Funding Garden Party for RAF	Town Clerk	
Finance Freedom Parade – Breakdown of cost	RFO	
Personnel Terms of Reference Protocol	Cllr Titchener	
Planning		
Civic and Ceremonial Working Party	Procedures and Protocols	
Bull Croft Working Party		

CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES SEE PAGE 76