

WALLINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the

Meeting of Council held in the Town Hall, Wallingford on
Monday 29th August 2018

PRESENT

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Dee Cripps

Councillors Baroni, Beatty, Davidson, Dolton, Hughes, Kidley, Lester, Norton, and Wilder

The Town Clerk, Mrs Paula Lopez
Officer in Attendance: Barbara Atkins (Minute Taker)

Meeting Commenced at 1901Hours

Before the start of the meeting The Town Clerk confirmed that in the absence of the Mayor, The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Dee Cripps would Chair the meeting.

209. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lloyd, McGregor, Titchener, Whelan, The Mayor, County Councillor Atkins and District Councillor Lokhon

210. ADMISSION OF THE PUBLIC

It was Proposed by Councillor Lester, 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 17 – Royal Garden Party Nominations
Agenda Item 18 – Section 106 Monies – Site E

1902 Hours Councillor Beatty arrived.

211. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

A Councillor with voting rights who has a disclosable pecuniary interest or another interest as set out in our Council's Standing Orders Code of Conduct (Item 13) in a matter being considered at a meeting is subject to statutory limitations or restrictions under code of conduct and his right to participate and vote on the matter (guidelines are available at the meeting and all Councillors have received a copy prior to the meeting) Information for each Member was available at the meeting.

There were no declarations of Interest

212. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – NOTIFIED AND IMPROMPTU (Total 15 Minutes)

District Councillor Lokhon due to work commitments sent his apologies for non-attendance.

There were no members of the public present.

213. MAYORS COMMUNICATIONS

- Wallingford Museum – Successful LEADER grant application & update on proposed work
- Thank you letter/letters received.
- River Thames Alliance AGM Meeting on the 4th September 2018 – If anyone is able to attend could they please let the office know.
- Garden Party for The RAF – thank you to all those involved that is the working party, volunteers, office and park staff.
- Michaelmas Fair Invitation
- Lasted copy of the Neighbourhood Policing Newsletter available for collection.
- Wigod Way Wallingford Family Centre – AGM 10th September 2018 at 10am
- Remembrance – Reverend David Rice notification regarding evening events.
- Neighbourhood Plan Public Consultation – Save the Date – Wallingford Town Hall – Saturday 29th September 2018.
- Andrew and Wilding Service – 2.50pm by the Cairn corner of Andrew and Wilding Roads and afterwards at the Masonic Centre for tea. Attendance board being circulated.
- Kidlington's Chairman's Fete – Kidlington 8th September 10am to 4pm
- Barbara Atkins – Congratulations on passing CiLCA

214. COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS (Total 15 Minutes)

i) County Councillor Lynda Atkins had distributed a copy of her report (copy attached to minutes) in advance of the meeting.

ii) District Councillor Elaine Hornsby report is summarised below:

a) The District Council's Leader has reiterated the preferred option of Corridor C, which would run between Milton Keynes and the A34 at Bicester via Buckinghamshire to the north and west of Oxford, along with sub-option C1 which would link back to the A34 between Abingdon and Didcot.

b) Planning Applications – District Councillors at recent planning committee meetings have refused 2 large planning applications situated in Sonning Common and Benson. These were then went to appeal and inspectorate and the District Councillors decisions were upheld due to one have its Neighbourhood Plan and the other as its Neighbourhood Plan was almost complete. The District Councillors were very pleased with this response.

c) Demolition of SODC's building at Crowmarsh – This will take about 4 months to complete.

d) SODC's Lottery – This is proving to be successful with £3,064 having been raised for charities and community groups to date.

e) Decriminalisation of Parking – This is being discussed, a business case is being prepared, running costs are being investigated and County Council will have to agree to make good any yellow lines and signage.

f) Victims of Hate Crimes – This is new and it is to facilitate people with reporting and talking to third party bodies (SOHA, HIVE and CAB) about their concerns, who will then in turn encourage them to report their concerns to the police.

1912 Hours Councillor Baroni arrived

g) Pilot Scheme of 1 year – This is to help volunteer groups. They can apply for funding to assist with paying for insurance and training. £250 - £750 is available for each group.

h) Oakdale Court – This planning application is to be included at SODC's planning committee on the 5th September 2018.

215. MINUTES

The Town Clerk submitted the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on the 16th July 2018 as set out on pages 45 - 50 of the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Hughes, Seconded by Councillor Norton and RESOLVED: THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on the 16th July 2018 as set out on pages 45 – 50 of the Minute Book be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

216. TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING MINUTES

The Town Clerk asked Councillors to adopt the minutes of the following committee meetings in 2018, copies previously signed as a correct record:

Tourism and Economic Development	05.03.18	265 – 269
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Proposed by Councillor Beatty, Seconded by Councillor Wilder and RESOLVED: THAT the Minutes of the Tourism and Economic Development committee meeting as previously circulated to Councillors and listed above be adopted.

Planning	02.07.18	39 - 44
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Planning	6.07.18	51 - 56
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Planning	30.07.18	67 – 71
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Proposed by Councillor Kidley, Seconded by Councillor Wilder and RESOLVED: THAT the Minutes of the Planning committee meetings as previously circulated to Councillors and listed above be adopted.

217. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

Councillors were asked to discuss and resolve:

(i) Parks, Gardens, Allotments and Open Spaces Committee – Meeting of the 9th July 2018

Minute 164(g)07/2018 refers:

Bunting

Councillor Lester wanted to thank the W.I for all their hard work in getting the bunting put together, the town looks lovely. Councillor Lester asked that another £400 be put in the budget for some more bunting for next year to finish off down St Marys Street.

It was Proposed by Councillor Hughes, Seconded by Councillor Kidley and

RESOLVED: THAT £400 is put in next year's budget for more bunting.

(ii) Tourism and Economic Development Committee – Meeting of the 23rd July 2018

Minute number 150(ii)/07/2018 refers :

Town Council Logo – Members were asked to approve a policy (copy attached to the Minutes) for the use of the Town Council's Logo (Portcullis). **Proposed by Councillor Beatty, Seconded by Councillor Wilder and**

RESOLVED: THAT the Town Council Logo Policy is adopted.

(iii) Finance and Properties Committee – Meeting of the 6th August 2018

Minute number 188/08/2018 refers:

Agatha Christie Sculpture - Following the receipt of Mrs Blacker's report (attached) Members discussed the proposed LEADER application for the Agatha Christie Sculpture project and the recommendation below:

Proposed by Councillor Norton, Seconded by Councillor Beatty

RECOMMENDED: THAT an application proceed for LEADER funding and that some monies, £5k to £10k be taken from the S106 Public Arts Fund.

Councillors had very mixed views over the above recommendation:

Councillor Lester questioned the Town Clerk as to why it had not been to full council. The Town Clerk responded that it had been discussed by Full Council in March 2018 who had then asked the Market Town Co-ordinator to conduct a feasibility study which had been taken back to the Tourism and Economic Development Committee, who had then referred it back to Finance and Properties for the funding options to be discussed where the above recommendation had been made.

The Town Clerk was asked about the positioning of the sculpture and it was generally agreed by all that this could be discussed at the meeting and could be changed.

Councillor Baroni objected to Section 106 money (arts money) being used for the proposed sculpture and stated that she believed that it should be used for play equipment that is linked to art and that Councillors should be clear on their priorities which she believed should be the Bull Croft Park with leisure strategy being promoted. Councillor Baroni also stated the Council could encourage tourism by having better play equipment/play park in order that families would want to come to Wallingford. In addition are Councillors aware that Abbey Meadows in Abingdon is the most visited park.

The deadline for the LEADER grant application was confirmed as the 5th September and The Town Clerk also confirmed the very specific criteria which had to be met. Members had received an email from the museum supporting the application although they did not like the location.

1935 Hours Councillor Dolton briefly left the meeting

Councillor Norton stated that the museum believed the project is good and as a consequence Councillors should support.

Councillor Cripps gave some background information regarding a previous Agatha Christie project (Blue Plaques) and stated that the sculpture would be better sited by the coach park opposite the museum and the library.

Councillor Lester asked the Town Clerk if the Council's insurance company would charge extra to cover the sculpture. The Town Clerk responded that the RFO had made initial enquires which were positive, but of course, this could change.

Councillor Norton wished to bring the discussion to a close and stated that the above recommendation should be resolved with the addition that the location be changed to the vicinity of the Kincroft by the coach park opposite the museum and the library.

Proposed by Councillor Beatty, Seconded by Councillor Norton

RESOLVED: THAT an application proceed for LEADER funding and that some monies may be applied for from the District Council, that is £5k to £10k to be drawn down from the S106 Public Arts Fund. In addition the location of the Agatha Christie sculpture should be changed to the vicinity of the Kincroft by the coach park opposite the museum and the library.

The majority of Councillors were in favour of the proposal. Councillors Kidley, Lester and Baroni were not in agreement with the above resolution.

218. THE APPOINTMENT OF A NOMINATIVE TRUSTEE FOR A PERIOD OF 4 YEARS TO THE WALLINGFORD MUNICIPAL CHARITIES

Councillor Lester reported that Councillor Dolton had expressed an interest in being the replacement Trustee for The Wallingford Municipal Charities. **It was Proposed by Councillor Lester, Seconded by Councillor Hughes**

RESOLVED: THAT Wallingford Town Council nominate Councillor Dolton to be their nominative trustee to the Wallingford Municipal Charities for a period of 4 years.

219. FREE CHRISTMAS PARKING

Councillors discussed The District Council's proposal for a free parking day for Christmas. **It was Proposed by Councillor Norton, Seconded by Councillor Lester**

RESOLVED: THAT Wallingford's free parking day for Christmas should be Thursday which will include 6th, 13th and 20th December 2018 respectively.

220. ADOPTION AND USE OF TELEPHONE BOXES

Minute 187/08/2018 refers. Councillors discussed the 2 adopted telephone boxes situated at St Georges Road/Blackstone Road and at Plough Corner junction of Croft Road/St John's Road. It was clarified that it would not be wise to move the boxes due the current

condition and size of the boxes, the boxes currently have an electricity supply, they are in a poor condition and the recommended paints/materials are reasonably expensive.

Councillors suggested the following use of the boxes: housing a defibrillator, pop up museum and that the schools situated near to the boxes could be asked for their ideas.

The Town Clerk reported that a part-time member of staff from the park's department was keen to refurbish them and that the telephone box by the Town Hall which is listed and still in use was due to be repaired.

It was Proposed by Councillor Hughes, Seconded by Councillor Kidley

RESOLVED: THAT Wallingford Town Council refurbish the 2 adopted boxes and that this is undertaken by the part-time member of staff from the park's department. The use for the boxes will be discussed at the next full Council meeting.

221. SODC SPORTS AND LEISURE STRATEGY

Councillor Baroni reported that District Councillors Hornsby and Lokhon, Beryl Guiver and herself had met with the Leisure Manager at the District Council and the Cabinet Member of the Community. They had put forward the views that Wallingford was not a hub town and although they had been listened to, the Cabinet Member had objected. Councillor Baroni asked for Councillors' opinions about what to do next, for example does the Council wish to put forward specifics to be included in the Leisure strategy?

222. CO-OPTION OF A TOWN COUNCILLOR

(i) The Town Clerk asked for Councillors to note officially that Councillor Matt Cockman resigned on the 24th July 2018. Elections at the District Council had been notified.

(ii) The Town Clerk has been advised that vacancy for a councillor can as the notice period has expired be co-opted. The closing date for the vacancy is Wednesday the 12th September in order to allow Councillors to consider and vote on the candidates at the Full Council Meeting to be held on the 24th September. As yet nobody had come forward for co-option and the Town Clerk asked how the Councillors wished her to progress? Councillor Norton suggested that the Town Clerk approached a previous very keen un-successful candidate to see if she wished to put herself forward again.

223. ACQUIRING/PURCHASING CASTLE MEADOWS

Currently the Town Council own the Castle Gardens and the Castle Meadows are owned by the District Council. Councillor Wilder reported that he believed that if the Town Council owned the meadows again it may facilitate grant applications. The Town Clerk gave an overview of how the Town Council had acquired the Castle Gardens and Farm. In 1972 Sir John Hedges leased (with restrictions) to the Town Council the Castle Gardens and Keep. On Sir Hedge's death in 1983 he bequeathed the Castle Gardens, Keep and Castle Farm to the Town Council. The Town Council took a while to consider whether they should accept this bequest. The Town Council agreed to accept the bequest but later sold the Farm including where the Thames Mansions are now situated to the farm tenant with the idea that the

money (£50,000) produced from the sale would fund the upkeep of the gardens. The new owner, the farm tenant, later sold part of the Farm to Berkley Homes and Thames Mansions were built. After which SODC negotiated the purchase of the remaining farm land from the tenant. The meadows cost some £40,000 a year to maintain, the area being managed by The Earth Trust. There are grazing rights and a High Stewardship on the land. In addition there are capital costs associated with the maintenance and SODC have budgeted a sum of money this year for repairs to Castle Lane. The Earth Trust's management is renewed every five years and on this renewal The District Council ask the Town Council if they wish to jointly manage the meadows which has been declined in the past. The Town Clerk mentioned that the District Council would like to see the fence between the farm land and gardens removed but this might not be practical however SODC would like to work with the Town Council on this land going forward.

Councillors discussed stating:

Councillor Lester: concerns over cost; ancient monument; paths being installed and removal of fence

Councillor Norton: Work with the District Council but cannot afford to buy.

Councillors concluded that they were like to open negotiations with the District Council to see how they can work to together to promote tourism.

Proposed by Councillor Lester, Seconded by Councillor Kidley

RESOLVED: THAT if required a working party be set up to discuss and explore how best to work with the District Council to promote tourism.

224. COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

In the absence of Councillor Lloyd this item was deferred.

225. ACTIVITIES ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Councillor Lester – Dorchester Abbey Trefoil Guides 75th anniversary, Friends of Day Centre x 3

RAF Garden Party, Historic England meeting, Liaison meeting Site B, Meeting with The Mayor on cancer forum, WAGS meeting, Allotment judging, Band Concert, Municipal Charities, Mill Croft Homes open day.

226. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Lead</u>	<u>Anticipated Agenda</u>
Council		
Neighbourhood Plan	Cllr Lloyd	Rolling
County/District Councillors		Rolling
Site B and Infrastructure	Cllr Lloyd	Rolling

<p>Sand and Gravel Site E and Infrastructure Promoting the Town Hall Mooring Projects Proposals Youth Worker Beacon Project Worker Air Quality Management Community Speed Watch Telephone Boxes – Use of Mayor’s Engrossment Presentation</p>	<p>Suzanne Symons Cllr Lloyd Cllr Dolton Public Participation Councillor Lloyd Cllr Lloyd</p>	<p>Rolling Rolling 2018 September 2018 September 2018 September 2018 September 2018 September 2018</p>
<p>Parks Castle ruins Car Parking Wilding Road and Radnor Road Play areas Bull Croft Working Party Limit Damage to Kinicroft</p>	<p>Councillor Norton Councillor Davidson Councillor Baroni Councillor Baroni Mr Gilbey/Mr Brett</p>	
<p>Tourism Use of the Town Hall for Events and refreshments that could be provided Residents Packs Twinning</p>		
<p>Finance Investment Policy Community building on the parks yard Draft Income/Strategy Policy Spreading Treasury Stock Grants, as required Next year’s budget Precept new housing 85 properties Possible engagement of an estates/asset manager next year. Charges – to include open spaces</p>		
<p>Personnel Full Evaluation of all job roles</p>		<p>October 2018</p>

Planning		
Working Party Updates		Rolling

CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES SEE PAGE 92