WOODBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the TOWN COUNCIL held in the Shire Hall, Market Hill, Woodbridge, on TUESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2019 at 7pm.

Councillors:


Apologies: E O’Nolan

In Attendance: The Town Clerk, Secretary (Minute Taker), EADT Reporter, County Councillor Page and 12 members of the public

437. MEMBERS AND OFFICERS WERE INVITED TO MAKE ANY DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY OR LOCAL NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS THAT THEY MAY HAVE IN RELATION TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND WERE ALSO REMINDED TO MAKE ANY DECLARATIONS AT ANY STAGE DURING THE MEETING IF IT BECOMES APPARENT THAT THIS MAY BE REQUIRED WHEN A PARTICULAR ITEM OR ISSUE IS CONSIDERED, AND TO DEAL WITH DISPENSATIONS AS REQUESTED BY INDIVIDUAL COUNCILLORS IN LINE WITH S33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT 2011

Councillor Gillard declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 450 as he is the husband of the claimant. He went on to say he would take no part in any vote on the matter.

Councillor Mortimer declared non-pecuniary interest in item 439 as he lived in close proximity to the area of concern.

438. COUNCILLORS WITH A PECUNIARY INTEREST IN AN ITEM ON THIS AGENDA, WHO WISH TO REMAIN, SPEAK AND/OR VOTE DURING CONSIDERATION OF THAT ITEM, MAY APPLY FOR A DISPENSATION BY WRITING TO THE TOWN CLERK PRIOR TO THE MEETING. APPLICATIONS MAY ALSO BE CONSIDERED AT THE MEETING ITSELF SHOULD THE NATURE OF THE INTEREST BECOME APPARENT TO A COUNCILLOR AT THE TIME OF THE MEETING.

There were none.

439. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Four members of the public spoke.

Two members of the public spoke about item 450 with opposing views.

The third member of the public, a member of Friends of Eley’s Rest, spoke on behalf of residents in Russell Close near the A12 who had complained about noise pollution from motor cross vehicles using a wooded area close to their homes. Councillor Bale had visited their homes to experience the noise disturbance and fully endorsed their complaint. Councillor Holdcroft volunteered to take on this matter with the District Council.
The fourth member of the public expressed concerns over a stretch of road on Grundisburgh Road where the surface area was very dangerous and had caused several serious accidents resulting in casualties and damage to his property. Councillor Holdcroft volunteered to contact the District Council.

440. CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF 15 JANUARY 2019

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 15 January 2019 be confirmed as a true record.

441. MATTERS ARISING

The Town Clerk informed Council that due to lack of resources and no permanent Police Inspector there was no presence at that meeting. Town Clerk said that the acting Police Inspector had contacted her and an eviction in Angel Lane was imminent.

442. TOWN MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR’S REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor’s report and announcements had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Due to insurance and health and safety implications Suffolk County Council had said the Town Mayor could not attend the morning session as a Lollipop person at St Mary’s School. BBC Radio Suffolk had highlighted the issue with recruiting to this post.

The Town Mayor announced anyone could join him at a meeting for the visually impaired for a walkabout around the Town on 7 March at 11.30am starting at Market Square.

The Deputy Mayor had not attended any events for that month.

443. TO CONSIDER REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

The report from the County Councillor was noted.

The report from the District Councillors was agreed.

District Councillor Holdcroft had that day sent an invitation from EDF Energy for briefings to Town and Parish Councils about the Sizewell C consultation. The Town Clerk was asked to arrange an extraordinary meeting and was asked to book a briefing for that meeting.

444. TO CONSIDER REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

The following minutes of meetings were considered and noted. IT WAS AGREED to approve the recommendation made in these minutes.

a. Planning Committee of 22 January 2019
b. Finance and Staffing Committee of 22 January 2019
It is recommended to Town Council that two new Ear Marked Reserves are created for Flood Defences and POS Defences and that level of charge be reviewed annually during the budget setting process.

c. Amenities Committee of 29 January 2019
d. Highways Committee of 29 January 2019
e. Planning Committee 5 February 2019

445. **ACCOUNTS AND PAYMENTS**

To consider and agree the following financial reports. It was noted that an authorised Councillor from the Finance and Staffing Committee had checked and signed the figures for the accounts prior to the meeting.

a. The Accounts and Payment list for February 2019 £6,694.20
b. The Bank Balances for December 2018 £603,849.03
c. The HSBC.net reports for February 2019 £5,287.46
d. The HSBC Corporate Card report for January 2019 £22.49
e. Debtors Report to 5 February 2019

The Town Clerk talked the meeting through the Debtors Report.

446. **IT WAS RESOLVED** unanimously that the accounts and payment lists, bank balances, HSBC.net reports, Corporate Card Report and Debtors Report be approved.

447. **TO CONSIDER CREATION OF WARD SURGERIES**

The Town Clerk spoke to the report. **IT WAS AGREED** in principle, that Ward Surgeries be established, however, the dates for these should be resolved by the incoming Council.

448. **TO CONSIDER QUOTATIONS AND APPOINT SUPPLIER FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS AT THE SHIRE HALL, ELMHURST PARK AND KINGSTON FIELD**

After discussion **IT WAS AGREED** that the quotation from Houchell to undertake the urgent work to the toilets at Elmhurst Park be accepted.

Council asked the Town Clerk to get additional quotes from further contractors as they would like to see one contractor doing all the work.

449. **TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT A NEW POLICY**

A Bullying and Harassment Policy had been previously presented to Council. There was much discussion with some Councillor passionate that such a policy was needed while others felt that it was not needed.

**IT WAS AGREED** to adopt the policy, with the amendment in paras 1.4 and 1.5 should be changed from ‘harassment and bullying is shown to have taken place’ to harassment and bullying is alleged to have taken place’. (13 for, 2 against)
TO DISCUSS THE TOWN COUNCIL’S POSITION IN RESPECT OF THE OBJECTION TO THE EXTERNAL AUDIT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2017/2018

The Town Mayor read a statement tracing the history of the objection. A discussion then followed with opposing views.

As it had proved impossible to allay the concerns of County Councillor Page and it was not fully clear to Council what her remaining objections were, and if she felt she could withdraw them, it was not possible for the Town Council to progress this further. **IT WAS AGREED** having engaged in some dialogue together, giving information that would allow County Councillor Page to feel satisfied that she could withdraw the final objection to the 2017/2018 AGAR, it be referred to the External Auditor to proceed accordingly, and additionally to ensure that a financial statement as to eventual cost of this be published (11 for, 3 abstentions, none against).

Councillor David Mortimer
Town Mayor