

MINUTES of the WILTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING held online on TUESDAY 6th April 2021 at 7.15pm

Joining the Meeting online

Cllr Andy Kinsey – Mayor of Wilton
Cllr Charlotte Blackman – Deputy Mayor of Wilton
Cllr Pauline Church
Cllr Alan Crossley
Cllr Peter Edge
Cllr Paula Johnston
Cllr Phil Matthews
Cllr Teresa Taylor

In Attendance Mrs C Churchill, *Town Clerk*, Mr M Bastick, *Assistant Clerk* and Mr H Abel, *Minute Secretary*.

Also Present (*names recorded as presented on each individual's screen*) Alexandra Boyd, Yvonne Crossley, John Cutland, Maria La Femina, Bob Primmer, Susan's iPad, Steve Taylor, Larissa Tonkin

Cllr Kinsey in the chair

Community engagement

- *Steve Taylor – (re items in Minutes from previous Council meetings)* He told the meeting that Cllr Church had been under pressure on social media and defended her position saying that allegations of her taking other people's credit were unjustified as she had been ahead of the game in dealing with the pandemic.
He mentioned planning permission for the Men's Shed. After work had started, it was stopped and then planning approval was sought before it could be started again. He wondered if Cllr Edge could shine any light on that situation.
He told the meeting about Cllr Edge raising a point of order re the transmission of infectious diseases at the meeting of 26th May 2020 which, he said, had been unnecessary as Cllr Church had dealt with this particular issue earlier.
He told the meeting that the Council had said goodbye to Catherine Purves as Town Clerk on 7th August 2018 and although interviews were held no suitable replacement was found but on 2nd October 2018 Mr Steve Milton appeared. He was brought in by Cllr Edge and someone else. He lasted until 1st September 2020. At the Council meeting of 7th July 2020 voices had been raised and tempers frayed. His last Council meeting was on 1st September 2020 and a complaints procedure was launched with Wiltshire Council despite the fact that there was already a complaints procedure within the Town Council.
He said his final point was about the legality of online voting which had been challenged but the government legislated that this was legitimate.
- *John Cutland – (re road surface in Shaftesbury Road)* He asked if the Town Council could use its influence in getting Shaftesbury Road and, possibly, Saddlers Mead repaired.
- *John Cutland – (re SID locations)* He asked if all the locations for had been decided upon and also asked how the SID could be moved between sites.
- *John Cutland – (re Council Minutes)* – He asked if these could be made available on line.
- *Cllr Blackman – (re road repairs to South Street (Bishopstone Hill))* – She said the surface had deteriorated to such an extent that it was dangerous for cyclists using the road and asked if Cllr Church could use her influence to get the situation rectified.
- *Cllr Matthews (re road repairs)* – spoke in support of John Cutland and Cllr Blackman's appeals for road repairs.

Councillor Pauline Church gave her report to the Town Council

- *Covid Update* – The seven day rolling record shows that presently, case rates are down to 21.6 per one hundred thousand. Figures for the past seven days are:

In the 60+ age range, there were 5.7 cases per one hundred thousand.

In the 70 to 89 age range there were zero cases.

In 5 to 9 age range of children there were 9.6 cases per one hundred thousand.

In the 10 to 14 age range there were 52.1 cases per one hundred thousand.

In the 15 to 19 age range there were 33.3 cases per one hundred thousand.

In the 35 to 44 age range there were 50 cases per one hundred thousand.

Over all the rate in Wiltshire is 21.6 per one hundred thousand.

- *COVID 19 Testing* – the Council is looking at possible sites for the roll out of the new testing facilities which are to be offered free to everyone from next weekend.
- *Restart Grant* – there is a new grant which the government Wiltshire Council has been awarded £25 million to help support businesses. It is similar to the Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSRG) which is available to local businesses with premises that have a rateable value. Wiltshire Council will approach businesses that received the LRSRG and ask some additional questions and will distribute that grant according to eligibility. The grant will be available from the end of this week until the end of June. There will be a table of the relevant criteria posted on the County Council website.
- *Wilton Junction* – we are now awaiting a response from the DFT to see whether we are successful or not and we expect to hear by next month.
- *Wilton Hill & Erskine Park Residents* – she met with the operation director of Redrow to make sure that things are still on track. There is a planning application for the Millennium gate with just the legal elements to be settled. The A36 crossing should be started this month.
- *Yellow Lines at Wilton School* – these are now done.
- *Welcome Back Fund* – Wiltshire Council has received £420,000. She has asked Wiltshire Council to come up with a scheme to benefit all 18 Market towns in the county. This money is in addition to the £1 million for the next four years that was announced in the budget.

Questions for Cllr Church

Cllr Matthews – (re apolitical town and parish councils) he referred to a letter from Cllr Church to the editor of Salisbury Journal which was published on 1st April in which she cites a previous letter about tribalism in party politics and its place in local issues. He said that when she became County Councillor, the Town Council seemed to divide on party political lines and was never quite the same *Cllr Church* – agreed that the town council had divided and she has never been happy with that. She said that her point in the letter was that it didn't matter if the council was apolitical, there would still be tribes and allegiances within an apolitical council but she would prefer more collaboration.

Cllr Edge – commented that although he was standing as a candidate for Wiltshire Council as a Liberal Democrat he agreed with Cllr Church that the town council should be apolitical and he had always remained apolitical on Wilton Town Council. He opined that political allegiances had started to emerge when Cllr Church took county office and the situation had deteriorated causing two senior Councillors and a former Town Clerk to resign. He believed that this council had thrived on consensus politics up until the 2017 election.

Cllr Edge (re government funding) – he asked if there was any of the government funding to Wiltshire Council to use as support for local businesses that was left unused, would it be held in Wiltshire Council coffers.

Cllr Church – said that any government funding given to the county cannot be co-mingled with the Council's budget. All money from central government that remains un-used must be returned to the government. The County Council will be audited to make sure that this is the case. The surplus in the County's budget was purposely created in order to meet the latent demands for child care needs and dealing with mental health difficulties arising from the pandemic which will become evident in due course.

77/21 Apologies

None were received

78/21 Declarations of Interest

- a. None were declared.
- b. Dispensation requests – none had been submitted

Resolved: to note

79/21 Minutes

To approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 23rd March 2021.

Resolved to approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 23rd March 2021
(*prop Cllr Crossley sec Cllr Blackman – unanimous*)

80/21 Community Engagement

- *Steve Taylor statement* – The Chairman didn't think there was anymore to be said on this. *Cllr Edge (re Steve Taylor statement)* said that he could see that much of the statement had been aimed at him. Everything that had been done was authorised and minuted. With relation to the Men's Shed, originally the Shed was seen as Town Council property and therefore work began. When it emerged that it could not be regarded this way, work stopped and planning consent was sought. Work only began again when planning consent was granted. *Cllr Kinsey (re Grievance Committee)* – the former Mayor, Cllr Seviour put in place a Grievance Committee and written complaints were invited. None were received by Cllr Seviour or myself.
- *Road repairs to Shaftesbury Road* – Cllr Church said she would check to see if this item was on the list for works.
- *Road repairs to South Street (Bishopstone Hill)* – Cllr Church told the meeting that she had been chasing this item and would let everyone know as soon as she finds out about it.
- *SID Locations* – The Clerk told the meeting that of the SID locations, The Avenue SID would need to be moved by an Approved Street Works Contractor and she is in the process of finding out how much this would cost. She is also waiting for the results of traffic surveys in South Street, Wishford Road and Shaftesbury Road to see if they meet the criteria to have a SID. *Cllr Matthews* said there was a pole near the cemetery entrance which was put up by Wiltshire Council as a location for the original SID.
- *Minutes* – The Clerk said that she would ensure that minutes were posted with the meeting agenda.

81/21 Managing the Council's Money

- (i) To note the bank reconciliation dated 28th February 2021 **Resolved:** to note
- (ii) To note the budget/actual spend. **Resolved:** to note
- (iii) To allocate Ear Marked Reserves. **Resolved:** to note
It was agreed to earmark these items ready for the Internal Audit on 4th May
(*prop Cllr Johnston, sec Cllr Church – all in favour*)
- (iv) To confirm the Direct Debits currently in place for Wilton Town Council
It was agreed to cancel all PayPal accounts
(*prop Cllr Johnston, sec Cllr Taylor – all in favour*)
- (v) To confirm the Standing Orders currently in place for Wilton Town Council

The Clerk reported that there were none at present.

(vi) To confirm payments as per attached payment schedule.

The Clerk drew the meeting's attention to a correction – it should read 'Signs in Motion' for the Bus Shelter panels. The payments were confirmed. (*prop Cllr Edge, sec Cllr Matthews – all in favour*)

vi) To receive an update regarding boundary sign repayments.

The Clerk told the meeting that one sponsor wanted a full repayment of £1,800. Another sponsor wanted the money to be put towards the purchase and erections of Deer warning signs.

82/21 Asset Register

To confirm the newly updated asset register.

Cllr Johnston pointed out that, in several instances, the insurance value was at variance from the asset value. For example the toilets are insured for £44,000 whereas the Asset Register states the figure as £1 million.

Cllr Edge suggested that the assets should be identified by their location and he would email a list through to the Assistant Clerk.

83/21 Highway Issues

(i) To receive an update on the removal of the Perspex from the bus shelter on Burcombe Lane. The Perspex has now been received and we are waiting for ID Verde to fit them.

(ii) To receive an update on the replacement benches.
3 benches have been ordered and are expected in the next week or so.

(iii) To receive an update on the on the new/replacement street signs. The Assistant Clerk reported that these should be delivered by the end of April.

84/21 Amenity Matters

The new equipment for the Bulbridge play area is on order and expected to be installed in late April / early May.

Cllrs Johnston, Kinsey and Taylor will discuss the Wishford Road play area requirements with the Assistant Clerk.

Resolved: To note

Cllr Edge pointed out that the kick walls would benefit from a hard surface. The Wishford Road and Bulbridge kick walls are almost unplayable.

85/21 Reports from local organisations

To receive reports and updates from the following organisations, if available.

(a) *Wiltshire Association of Local Councils:*

Cllr Kinsey reported that there had not been a meeting one reפורrecently.

(b) *South West Wiltshire Area Board:*

Cllr Church was not present at the last meeting but had spoken in favour of Wilton Help CiC at a preliminary meeting. Cllr Blackman reported that Wilton Help CiC had been awarded £510.

(c) *Wilton Community Centre:*

Cllr Blackman reported that the Centre was planning to follow the government's road map and will be letting groups back in when it is possible. The NHS have now made a regular booking for Physiotherapy treatment sessions.

(d) *Wilton Neighbourhood Plan.*

Cllr Crossley expressed concern that the Neighbourhood Plan had not met for about four months and he thought there had been too much work put into it to not continue. It was agreed to put the matter the agenda regularly as it would be good practice to maintain the plan.

86/21 Election of Mayor for 2021/22

Cllr Kinsey was nominated at the Council meeting on 2nd March
Cllr Kinsey was proposed by Cllr Johnston and seconded by Cllr Blackman – all in favour
Cllr Kinsey was declared Mayor for 2021/2022

87/21 Election of Deputy Mayor for 2021/22

Cllrs Crossley and Johnston were nominated at the Council meeting on 2nd March
Cllr Crossley was proposed by Cllr Edge and seconded by Cllr Matthews
Cllr Johnston was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Taylor
The result of the poll was Cllr Crossley – 3 votes. Cllr Johnston – 5 votes.
Cllr Johnston was declared Deputy Mayor for 2021/2022

88/21 Town Clerk's Report

The Accounting Technician will be coming in next week for her last visit. She is waiting for the computer to be fixed. The CCTV technician has been in. She is getting quotes for the windows on the Harvey & Snowden office side. sr.

89/21 Date of next meeting

To note that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 11th May 2021 at 7.00 via Zoom
Mayor Making will take place on Tuesday 18th May at 7.00pm via Zoom
Policy & Resources meeting will take place on Tuesday 25th May at 7.00pm
Full Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 1st June at 7.00pm
Environment and Amenities will take place on Tuesday 15th June at 7.00pm

90/21 To close the meeting

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.42 pm.

Equality Statement

In the exercise of their responsibilities, Wilton Town Councillors have committed to uphold the Code of Conduct and to have full regard of the following in decision making:

- Equal Opportunities (age, race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability)
- Data Protection(GDPR)
- Health & Safety
- Human Rights.