

**MINUTES of a MEETING of WILTON TOWN COUNCIL held in Wilton Council Chamber
on TUESDAY 2nd January 2024 7.00pm**

Present Cllr Alan Crossley, *Deputy Mayor of Wilton*
Cllr Charlotte Blackman
Cllr Alexandra Boyd
Cllr Claire Forbes
Cllr Gail Moore
Cllr John Page
Cllr Teresa Taylor
Cllr Mick Whillock
Cllrs Hilliard and Harrison, *joined after 013/24 (vi)*

In Attendance Mrs C Churchill, *Town Clerk* and
Mr P Cornish, *Minutes Secretary*.

Also Present 10 members of the public.
via ZOOM 13 members of the public.

001/24 Welcome and Apologies

Cllr Crossley, Deputy Mayor of Wilton, in the Chair, opened the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr Kinsey for personal reasons.

Resolved: To approve the apologies with reasons.

Proposed: Cllr Crossley

Seconded: Cllr Moore

All in favour

002/24 Minutes

Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th December 2023.

Proposed: Cllr Crossley

Seconded: Cllr Page

All in favour

003/24 Standing Orders were suspended at 7:02pm

Community Engagement

Members of the public raised the following points:

1. Regarding the approved contractors list – what has been done since May 2023 to get more contractors onto the list? How many contractors are on the list?
2. The website has many draft minutes on it – why? Should the signed copies be displayed?
3. Can the condition of the gravel paths in the cemetery be improved?
4. A recent funeral damaged the grass and also the gravel boards – can these be repaired?
5. Does Wilton Town Council have a Policy on public electric vehicle charging points?
6. When will the Town Trail Information Board at Wilton Hill be reinstated at the previously agreed location?
7. What is the status of the funding, ear marked reserves, for the Wilton Parkway project?
8. What is the status of the funding, ear marked reserves, to improve the toilets?
9. The Co-option Policy has a date of July 2024 in the footer.
10. Until a few years ago, the Christmas tree lights were put up by Volunteers but now a Contractor is used costing £1000's. The Christmas tree lights were not always on over the Christmas break – is Wilton Town Council seeking a refund from the contractor?
11. The Chair of Wilton Community Centre reported that they had provided 25 Christmas meals and that the recent poor weather meant they had to spend funds on roof repairs.
12. If volunteers working on the Christmas Tree have an incident, is Wilton Town Council at risk of being sued?
13. Can an additional street light be provided in Castle Keep as it is dark.

Report from the Unitary Councillor for Wilton

Unitary Cllr Pauline Church told the meeting that Wiltshire Council had grants available to Town/Parish Councils to fund public charging points and that they would follow up with Redrow about getting the Town Trail Information Board re-installed. Unitary Cllr Church then gave a report on the events and achievements in 2023. They were asked whether they would support the new owner of The Guild being

asked to setup a Wilton Museum. The cross hatching at the pinch point needed re-doing; they asked that a report be made in MyWilts.

Cllr Blackman reminded all attendees that if there were any issues then they should firstly report it via the MyWilts app and then secondly email the Town Clerk. Wilton Town Council's Officers do not have time to monitor social media. If the reports were related to a Health & Safety issue then reporting / emailing were the quickest ways.

004/24 Standing Orders reinstated at 7:29pm

005/24 Community Engagement Response

Cllr Crossley, supported by the Town Clerk and other councillors provided the following responses:

1. This would be referred to the next Policy and Resources Committee.
2. Wilton Town Council's Officers shall update the Minutes.
3. This will be looked at as the Environment and Amenities Committee are arranging an on-site meeting during January.
4. This will be looked at as the Environment and Amenities Committee are arranging an on-site meeting during January.
5. Wilton Town Council does not currently have a Policy on public electric vehicle charging points but it is willing to look at this.
6. The local Unitary Cllr is taking this issue on.
7. The funds have been set aside in an ear marked reserve.
8. There are funds set aside in an ear marked reserve that are added to on a regular basis.
9. This will be looked at.
10. This was raised in the Environment and Amenities Committee meeting who are looking into it.
11. The Chair offered his thanks to the members of the Community Centre.
12. Wilton Town Council has to comply with Health and Safety but also must get value for money.
13. This will be looked at by the Environment and Amenities Committee but additional street lighting will most likely be a matter for Wiltshire Council.

006/24 To note the following response to questions and statements made at the Wilton Town Council Meeting held on 5th December which was not answered at the Meeting

The number relates to the number listed on the Minutes of the Meeting when the statement was made.

- 5 Grit Bins. The grit bins are filled by Wiltshire Council, should any person notice a damaged bin or one in need of refilling then this should be reported to Wiltshire Council preferably via the MyWilts app using the weather emergencies option.

007/24 Declarations of Interest

- (a) Cllr Boyd declared an interest in item 011/24 and Cllr Blackman in item 013/24 (ii).
- (b) No Dispensation Requests have been received by the Town Clerk.
- (c) Wilton Town Councillors were reminded that it is their duty to ensure their Register of Interests is kept up to date.

008/24 Exclusion of the Press and Public

There were no additional items requiring the exclusion of the press or the public.

009/24 Mayor's report

As Cllr Kinsey had sent his apologies there was no report.

010/24 To receive the Minutes of the Environment and Amenities Committee Meeting held on 19th December 2023

Cllr Whillock was elected as Vice Chair of this Committee. Cllr Boyd, as Chair of the Committee, made the following recommendations to the Full Council for its agreement. Please note details are in the Minutes of the Meeting.

- (i) To contribute £471.25 towards the improvement to the A30 crossing point in Minster St.
- (ii) To contribute £725.00 towards the Speed Limit Assessment.
- (iii) To confirm the locations for the Speed Limit Assessment.
- (iv) To refer Wilton Town Council representation at interments to the Staffing Committee.

- (v) To send the Town Clerk and Assistant to the Town Clerk for Memorial safety testing in March 2024.
- (vi) To adopt the Biodiversity Policy.
- (vii) To refer the newly adopted Biodiversity Policy to the Policy Working Group for further development particularly the deleted section on reduced cutting.
- (viii) To set up a Working Group to look into publishing and distributing a newsletter.
- (ix) To rename the Christmas Lights Working Group as Events Working Group to cover all planned Wilton Town Council events.
- (x) To accept Quote 1 for the guttering and roofing work subject to access via the neighbour's property.

Resolved: To receive the recommendations.

Proposed: Cllr Crossley

Seconded: Cllr Whillock

All in favour

011/24 To receive written applications for the office of Wilton Town Councillor and to consider co-opting two candidates to fill the existing vacancies

Wilton Town Council currently has two vacancies, both of which have been advertised and no requests for an election were made. The Vacancies may now be filled by Co-Option. The vacancies have been advertised on Wilton Town Council noticeboard, website and Facebook. In accordance with the Wilton Town Council Co-Option Policy, four applications have been received, all of which had been circulated to the current Members.

- (i) Standing Orders were suspended at 7:40pm to allow each Candidate 3 Minutes to speak. The four candidates Mr Boyd, Mr Edge, Mr Harrison and Ms Hilliard each made a short personal statement.
- (ii) Standing Orders were reinstated at 7:44pm and Cllr Crossley thanked the candidates for their statements.
- (iii) Wilton Town Council decided that there was no need to exclude members of the public and press to discuss the candidates.

Resolved: To move onto 011/24 (v).

Proposed: Cllr Crossley

Seconded: Cllr Whillock

All in favour

(v) Following the Co-Option Policy, Wilton Town Council took these steps:

- a) Cllr Moore nominated Mr Harrison with Cllr Taylor seconding.
- b) Cllr Blackman nominated Ms Hilliard with Cllr Page seconding.
- c) Cllr Crossley nominated Mr Boyd with Cllr Whillock seconding.
- d) The outcome of the first round of voting for the first vacancy was:

Mr Boyd	2 votes
Mr Harrison	4 votes
Ms Hilliard	1 vote

 Cllr Boyd abstained from voting.
- e) Mr Harrison having received an absolute majority of the votes was the successful applicant for the first vacancy.
- f) The outcome of the first round of voting for the second vacancy was:

Mr Boyd	0 votes
Ms Hilliard	7 vote
- g) Ms Hilliard having received an absolute majority of the votes was the successful applicant.
Cllr Boyd abstained from voting.

- (vi) The successful candidates signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined Wilton Town Council at the table.

012/24 Signing of the Lease between Wilton Town Council and Wilton Men's Shed

The Draft Lease was agreed at the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on September 2023 (Minute ref PR/86/23(i)). The Chair of the Men's Shed has been contacted but not responded to emails regarding contacting the Solicitor re the term of the Lease.

Resolved: To sign the lease with a start date of 1st February 2024 and ending on 30th January 2027.

Proposed: Cllr Crossley

Seconded: Cllr Blackman

All in favour

013/24 Managing the Council's Money

