

MINUTES of a meeting of WILTON TOWN COUNCIL held in the COUNCIL CHAMBERS, KINGSBURY SQUARE, WILTON on TUESDAY 5th MARCH 2019 at 7.00pm

Present Cllr Trevor Batchelder
Cllr Charlotte Blackman
Cllr Pauline Church
Cllr Peter Edge – Mayor of Wilton
Cllr Lee Glyde
Cllr Paula Johnston
Cllr Phil Matthews
Cllr Ivan Seviour – Deputy Mayor of Wilton
Cllr Teresa Taylor

In Attendance Mr Steve Milton, Town Clerk; Mr Hugh Abel, Minute Secretary.

Also Present Rachel Ashton-Brown, John Cutland, John Harris & David Parker

John Harris – asked about progress with the planned A36 pedestrian crossing by the garden centre.

David Parker –

- mentioned several issues that had been raised at recent Town Council meetings – town team, town manager, town trail, and most recently, Wilton in bloom. He hoped that the Town Council would be able to get some action on this latter item.
- said that the Town Council needed to keep Wilton Parkway on the agenda and push for its progress as much as possible.
- expressed concern about the future of the Sheep Fair field and reminded the meeting that the South West Wilts Area board had supported it becoming a community asset or entrusted to the Town Council.
- He also raised the matter of the U3A and suggested that the town council engage in more communication with the community in an effort to spread the workload.

Cllr Edge – agreed that these were all valid points and would be the subject of discussion at the council's committees.

Cllr Blackman – said that new signs saying 'Private Keep Out' had appeared on the footpath between North Street and the Shopping Village car park. As this route has been a public path for many years she asked that it could be looked into.

Cllr Matthews – told the meeting that he had collected the baskets from Linda Martin and that they were now in store at the Valley News offices. He also volunteered to be the Council's lead for Wilton in Bloom.

Cllr Edge – thanked him on behalf of the Town Council and suggested he contact Neil Prigent.

Cllr Blackman – asked if the Town Clerk could re-open exploration into lodging the Town Council's historic charters with Salisbury museum.

Wiltshire Councillor Pauline Church gave her report to the Town Council

- *Salisbury Museum* – Cllr Church was happy to explore the deposit of the Town's charters with the Museum director.
- *Riperian Ditch in Water Ditchampton* – she is still trying to get all parties round the table to move this forward.
- *Wilton Parkway* – she is still pushing ahead with this and is looking forward to a meeting of local stakeholders. A key element will be to get both the Exeter line and the North South line to stop there. This would mean two platforms with a footbridge crossing.
- *Street Lights* – some lights have been replaced so far and others will follow shortly.
- *Post Office* – She has met the regional post master and challenged him that Salisbury doesn't have a full post office service. She has been told that the Post Office is trying to find a retailer prepared to take on this role.

- *Former Imerys Quarry* – this is obviously a site which could be used but in order to make it safely accessible, the bridges would to be rebuilt.
- *Pedestrian Crossing over the A36* – She undertook to chase this up.
- *Sheep Fair field* – she told the meeting that its future was closely tied up with the development of the Wilton Parkway station.

Cllr Edge – said that he had been approached by a resident with a property which backed on to Sheep Fair field. When he wanted access, via the field, to do some repairs to his boundary, Wiltshire Council asked for £25 per week for using the access code to the field.

Cllr Church – said she did not think that was in the spirit of ‘care for the community’ and suggested that the property owner get in touch with her.

Cllr Matthews – said that since the South West Wilts Area Board agreed five years ago to transfer the Sheep Fair field back to Wilton, Cllr Church, as representative of the people of Wilton, should support this move.

Cllr Church – said that she recognised her role and responsibility to the people of Wilton but there was a need to think strategically about this issue.

Cllr Blackman – reported on some lights that had yet to be replaced and also wondered if warmer LEDs were available as the ones so far replaced gave a cold light.

Cllr Church – agreed to follow this up.

David Parker – expressed concerns about Wiltshire Council’s precept and domestic rate rises as well as alleging that the County had been selling public assets at below market rates. He had derived his background information from his membership of the Bureau of Investigative Journalists.

Cllr Church – said she would write to him about his concerns.

A G E N D A

Cllr Edge in the chair

28.19 To receive apologies

Cllr Lyons apologised for her absence because her journey home had been delayed.

Resolved: to accept her apology and the reason for it.

29.19 Minutes

a. **Resolved:** that the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 8th January 2109 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record with one amendment. (that Cllr Kinsey had been present but Cllr Glyde had not).

30.19 Declarations of Interest

a. **To receive any Declarations of Interest** in respect of matters contained in this agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of officers, and in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of members.

None were declared.

Resolved: to note

b. **To consider any Dispensation Requests** received by the Town Clerk and not previously considered. - None had been requested.

Resolved: to note

31.19 Exclusion of the press and public. To agree any items to be dealt with after the public, including the press, have been excluded under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 and Local Government Act 1972 ss100.

Resolved: That there was no agenda item for which this provision needed to be exercised.

32.19 To consider any urgent business raised by the public in public discussion, and any other urgent matters or items of information from councillors, for referral to the appropriate committee.

Wilton in Bloom

Cllr Johnston – told the meeting that the Town Council supports the initiative but at the A&P Committee it was felt that it was for members of the public to come forward.

33.19 D Day Commemorations 1944-2019

Further to the matter raised by Cllr Matthews at the last meeting, the Finance and General Purposes Committee considered how the Council should mark the 75th anniversary of the D Day landings on 6th June 2019.

Wilton played a very significant part in the preparations for D Day that were coordinated and planned by Allied Command at Southern Command HQ (which was then based at Wilton House before moving to Fugglestone House where it became UK Land Forces HQ). The Double Cube Room in Wilton House was used for top secret planning meetings between Churchill, Montgomery and Eisenhower prior to the Normandy landings and the Pembroke Arms was requisitioned as an officers' mess. The Committee noted that Wilton House was not planning any events to mark the occasion and, in view of the short time available, F&GPC has recommended that the Town Council organises a reception with film presentation and talk about the Town's role in the D Day preparations. On a proposition by Cllr Matthews, seconded by Cllr Kinsey, it was agreed to support F&GPC's recommendation and arrange a reception to mark this anniversary.

34.19 To receive the minutes of the following committee meetings and to consider any recommendations arising

a. The Amenities & Planning Committee held on 19th February 2019

the minutes of the A&P Committee Meeting held on 19th February 2019 were approved as a correct record with two amendments.

- Cllr Johnston stated that minute 25.19 '*Sheep Fair field - This would be included as part of negotiations and has been approved by South West Wiltshire Area Board*' was incorrect and needs to be amended.
- It was further stated that minute 26.19 '*...that the Town Council was contracted to provide premises for three years from the time that the Focus School took ownership of the premises. This is currently the third of those three years and therefore the TC has an obligation to be supportive in finding alternative accommodation. . .*' should be amended to more clearly reflect the Town Council's contractual obligations. It was agreed that the Clerk check the terms of the contract.

b. The Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 26th February 2019

the minutes of the F&GP Committee Meeting held on 26th February 2019 were approved as a correct record without amendment. (prop Cllr Batchelder, sec Cllr Seviour nem con)

35.19 To receive nominations for Mayor elect for 2019/2020

Cllr Ivan Seviour was nominated by Cllr Batchelder

36.19 To receive nominations for Deputy Mayor elect for 2019/2020

Cllr Andrew Kinsey was nominated by Cllr Johnston

Cllr Charlotte Blackman was nominated by Cllr Matthews

37.19 To receive reports from:

a. Wiltshire Association of Local Councils and Community First

Cllr Seviour reported on the WALC held in February:-

- WALC subscriptions were set at the same level as last year.
- Training courses will be organised for councillors.
- Out of Wiltshire's 220 local councils, 40 had expressed an interest in a Human Resources service.
- WALC's finances are more stable this year.
- The next meeting will be in July 2019.

b. The South West Wiltshire Area Board

Cllr Matthews reported that the next SWAB meeting will be on 20th March.

c. Wilton Community Centre

Cllr Blackman reported that parking continued to be a problem with non-users parking there and others parking in front of the fire escape.

d. Wilton and District Chamber of Commerce

No meeting had been held recently.

Cllr Church asked about the suggested merger between Salisbury and Wilton's Business Chambers.

Cllr Edge reported that talks were in progress.

e. Mayor of Wilton

Cllr Peter Edge reported on the following:-

- *Wilton House Restaurant* – He had met with Matt Hogarth who was the new manager and heard about plans to become involved with the community.
- *Solar Panels on the Pavilion* – He told the meeting that, following a request, Nadder Community Energy had looked into the possibility of solar panels on the roof of the pavilion but had concluded that it would not be a project that was viable for their company. He therefore recommended that the Town Council explore the idea bearing in mind that the cut off date for the government's feed in tariff was 31st March.

After considerable discussion, the Town Clerk advised Members that if the Town Council wanted to consider a motion to proceed with solar panels before 31st March, it would be necessary to waive the council's standing orders to accommodate this move.

Cllr Edge proposed that standing orders be suspended. Seconded by Cllr Batchelder, the motion was put to the vote and passed with one against (Cllr Johnston) and no abstentions.

Cllr Edge then proposed that the Town Council agree in principle to support the installation of solar panels on the roof of the pavilion subject to a technical and financial assessment and that a firm decision be taken at a special full council meeting to be held on Tuesday 12th March. The motion was seconded by Cllr Seviour and put to the vote and passed.

In favour: Cllrs Batchelder, Blackman, Edge, Glyde, Matthews, Seviour

Against: Cllrs Johnston, Taylor

Abstain: Cllr Church

The motion was declared carried.

- *Toilet Cleaner and Maintenance operative* – Cllr Church asked about progress with this appointment.

Cllr Edge – said that there had been no applicants for this double post and it may be necessary to divide the two areas and consider how best they could be carried out.

Resolved: to note

38.19 Financial Monitoring Reports

Cllr Batchelder told the meeting that this would be considered at the next F&GPC

Resolved; to note

39.19 To confirm the date of the Annual Town Meeting on Tuesday 2nd April 2019 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber to be followed by The Council meeting at 7.30pm. Resolved: to confirm this.

40.19 To close the meeting

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.28 pm.

Members of the Council considered the foregoing matters in consideration of their duties: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability); Crime and Disorder; health and Safety, and Human Rights.