

MINUTES of a meeting of WILTON TOWN COUNCIL held in the COUNCIL CHAMBERS, KINGSBURY SQUARE, WILTON on TUESDAY 3rd September 2019 at 7.00pm

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

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

Also Present Rachel Ashton Brown, John Harris and Rosemary Moore

Community Engagement session

Rosemary Moore – expressed concern about the drains and gullies in North Street and asked what was being done to prevent flooding.

Cllr Taylor – told the meeting that despite the yellow lines, Castle Lane was still difficult to access for emergency vehicles because of cars being parked along the lane.

Cllr Matthews – said that he had been told that the Co Op was planning to re-open its Post Office on 15th September..

Councillor Pauline Church gave her report to the Town Council

- *Hollows footpath* – the maintenance work has been delayed by the discovery of slow worms. Work in Wilton will start on 9th September, when Wiltshire Council's 'Sparkle' team returns to the Town.
- *Wilton Parkway* – the Wilton Stakeholder meeting is planned to take place soon.
- *Imerys Quarry* – a Planning application has been submitted for establishing a battery storage facility. Meetings have been arranged with Wilton Estate and the County Councillor for Bemerton Division as well as the Salisbury City Councillors for Bemerton ward.

Cllr Matthews – asked what plans Wiltshire Council had for its strategy to deal with Brexit and will Parish Councils be notified.

Cllr Church – replied that Corporate Services were being briefed about the situation as it developed and Parish Councils would be notified if relevant.

Cllr Matthews – asked if the Hairdressers in North Street had got planning permission.

Cllr Church – replied that work was done when a partial conversion was agreed and she has asked if it complies.

Cllr Seviour – asked about the footpath beside the railway which was overgrown.

Cllr Church – asked if the matter had been reported.

Cllr Seviour – replied that it had not.

Cllr Matthews – asked for any further updates on Wilton Market

Cllr Church – said that she had met with the Markets Team and asked about ways to improve the current position. Things like arranging an extra trading day such as one Sunday a month or holding the market on a different day. The team was presently stretched financially and she is going to look into ways of getting it better resourced. In the meanwhile she suggested that any ideas might be shared with the Town Team.

AGENDA

Cllr Seviour in the chair

115/19 Apologies

Cllr Batchelder apologised for his absence because he was indisposed

Cllr Glyde apologised for his absence owing to ill health

Cllr Lyons apologised for her absence owing to a prior commitment

Resolved: to accept these apologies and the reasons for them

116/19 Community Engagement

Drains in North Street – Cllr Edge told the meeting that the location of the blockage had been identified around a gas pipe which cuts through the drain and causes a blockage. *Cllr Church* undertook to follow the matter up.

Castle Lane – Cllr Johnston suggested that some small leaflets be printed and put on the windscreens of cars parked in a way liable to impede emergency vehicles. The Town Clerk would get some printed and Cllr Johnston undertook to put them on offending cars' windscreens.

117/19 Declarations of Interest

a. Cllrs Edge and Seviour declared pecuniary interests in claims submitted.

b. Dispensation requests – none had been submitted

Resolved: to note

118/19 Minutes of the last Full Council Meeting

The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on August 6th 2019 were approved as a correct record with one amendment: -

that the warm and effusive words of thanks and appreciation to Rachel Ashton Brown be recorded.

Proposed Cllr Seviour, sec Cllr Taylor – all in favour

119/19 Mayor's Updates

Cllr Seviour, Mayor of Wilton told the meeting of the recent occasions when he had represented Wilton. There would be a Civic Service in Wilton on Sunday 15th September.

120/19 Community Governance Review

Wiltshire Council has written asking if there are any community governance matters the Council wishes reviewed (*previously circulated*). Within the scope of the review the Council can consider the number of councillors, boundaries, mergers with neighbouring parishes, and electoral warding arrangements.

Cllr Johnston – suggested that it would be good to have two additional Town Councillors.

Cllr Edge – told the meeting that when Wilton Borough Council was abolished in 1974, and became the Town Council, it had been reduced from 16 Members down to 11. Since then this last election was the first one to be held for over twenty years because of the lack of residents putting themselves forward as prospective candidates.

Cllr Church – said that the Boundary Commission was still deliberating and should have its proposals ready by the 1st October.

After further discussion it was agreed to refer the matter to the next Policy and Resources Committee on 22nd October and to seek further information in the meantime.

121/19 Tennis Courts –Access System

At the request of the Environment and Amenities Committee, the Clerk has been seeking quotes for the provision of an access control and electronic booking system for the tennis courts in Minster Street. Following an extensive search and approaches to numerous companies, only one supplier has provided a quote that matches the Council's requirements.

Because of the location, the system requires a 4G connection to the internet to facilitate the use of the online booking system. The system proposed is flexible, should the Council wish to issue membership cards, introduce charges or provide coaching sessions in the future.

The Council included £2,500 in the 2019/20 budget to cover the cost of the system and connection to the electricity supply. The cost of the System is £1,633 but this excludes installation which is likely to be in the region of £1,000. The system also costs £887 per annum for licence fees. Therefore, the quote is significantly above the budget available and the Council is asked to consider whether it now wishes to proceed with installation. The Council's finances are in good shape and the additional funding required can be found from underspends elsewhere in the budget .

There was a wide ranging discussion with the following suggestions being made:-

- That the courts are free to play on
- That there be concessions if charging were imposed.
- That charging must be made either daily or via a membership system
- To be able to meet the costs of maintenance charging needs to be imposed.

In order to clarify the position and to enable informed discussion, the Town Clerk was tasked to produce a report for consideration by the Environment & Amenities Committee which will meet on 17th September.

122/19 Edward Slow – Blue Plaque

Councillor Lyons has suggested that former Mayor and noted Wiltshire dialect poet Edward Slow may be commemorated by having a blue plaque made. The cost of a blue plaque is in the region of £1,000 and this would need to be met from underspends and contingencies in the current budget.

Members agreed that it warranted further discussion.

123/19 Sponsored Planters

Members will recall that various local companies and organisations have sponsored planters to be erected at the entrances to the Town.

Implementing this decision has been difficult and several of the proposed locations are unsuitable for planters due to the obstruction they would cause to the pavements. In view of this, the Clerk has contacted several of the companies involved and asked if they would have any objection to the location of the planters at alternative locations. The Clerk suggests that the planters be located at Minster Street adjoining the A36 roundabout and around the Market Square. These would be highly conspicuous locations giving good exposure to the sponsors. The sponsors contacted have supported this proposal.

The proposal has the advantage that it reduces ongoing maintenance costs and means that larger planters of uniform design can be purchased.

The Council is asked to consider this suggestion. Alternatively the Council could return the sponsorship funding received.

It was agreed to contact the original sponsors to ask if they were agreeable to the siting of the containers in alternative locations with equal or greater visibility.

124/19 Reports from local organisations

To receive reports and updates from the following organisations

(a) Wiltshire Association of Local Councils: Cllr Seviour reported that there had been no meeting since the last Town Council Meeting,

(b) South West Wiltshire Area Board: Cllr Church reported that there had been no meeting since the last Town Council Meeting,

(c) South West Wiltshire Community Area Transport Groups Cllr Matthews reported that there had been no meeting since the last Town Council Meeting,

(d) Wilton Neighbourhood Planning Group: Cllr Johnston reported that there would be a meeting on the 4th September.

(e) Wilton Community Centre: Cllr Blackman reported on the work that had been carried out at the Centre during the summer. The next meeting will be on 9th September and the AGM will take place in October.

(f) Wilton Town Team: there will be a meeting at the Shopping Village on 19th September.

125/19 Looking after the Council's Money

The schedule of payments had been circulated. The water bill had been £795. This was due to a leak at the toilets which has now been fixed. The annual toilet contract with Idverde was £15,000. The new contractor's annual charge is £7,000 but the Town Council is responsible for ongoing maintenance. The Youth Club line rental contract is still running because it was entered into just one month before the school terminated the Council's lease.

126/19 Planning Application

To consider the following planning application and to make recommendations to Wiltshire Council as appropriate:

(a) **19/06436/FUL:** New driveway -10 The Hollows, Wilton **Resolved:** to support

(b) **19/07783/FUL:** Change of use from A1 (Retail) to Sui Generis (Tattoo Studio) -28 North Street, Wilton. **Resolved:** to support

127/19 Date of Next Meeting

To confirm the date of the next Full Council Meeting as Tuesday 1st October 2019 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber.

128/19 To close the meeting

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25pm

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.