

MINUTES of a meeting of WILTON TOWN COUNCIL held in the COUNCIL CHAMBERS, KINGSBURY SQUARE, WILTON on TUESDAY 7th January 2020 at 7.00pm

Present Cllr Ivan Seviour – Mayor of Wilton
Cllr Andy Kinsey – Deputy Mayor of Wilton
Cllr Batchelder
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 Rachael Ashton-Brown, John Harris and Maria La Femina.

Community Engagement session

Maria La Femina – outlined activity in the wild flower areas of Castle Meadow and Minster Street gardens. She also spoke about plans for later in the year including seeding parts of Castle Meadow and also creating a raised bank there.

Rachael Ashton-Brown – told the meeting that the the stream by the railway overflowed in early December. On closer inspection it seems that the normally high river banks have been worn away by livestock seeking access to the waterway and this has provided a way for the water to flood the neighbouring land. Information about the state of groundwater and river levels is being logged for the Environment Agency. There is a need for local residents in vulnerable properties to be made aware of any need for action. Perhaps the Town Council could help with this.

Flouse Hole is presently fine but an appraisal of the wildlife could be beneficial.

Flood Group had not met since early July and needs to meet again soon as there are a number of outstanding issues. She noted that routine matters that used to be dealt with by the Parish Stewards are now being ignored. Also the ground water event in December was very poorly attended.

Cllr Edge – told the meeting that Wilton Carnival was now scheduled for Saturday July 4th. There would be a meeting of the committee on 8th January.

Cllrs Taylor, Matthews and Edge – all reported on the poor state of the public toilet. It seemed that the contractors were only cleaning the floors and anything else was being ignored.

Councillor Pauline Church gave her report to the Town Council

- *Wilton Parkway* – Work is still being done on trying to secure the £100,000 needed to go on to GRP stage 3. When this is in place the scheme will be nearly shovel ready.
- *A36 Crossing* – There was a meeting between Redrow and the county's Highways Department on 28th November. The problem seems to be due to the legal situation surrounding this project.
- *Four Corners* – The drainage system is very complicated and the contractors are having to deal with the situation step by step. This could require some disruption and she has asked for a Highways Engineer to come and assess the situation
- *Wiltshire Council Chief Executive* – Carlton Brown has volunteered for redundancy. The role of Chief Executive will be replaced by two separate posts. One centred on 'People' to be headed by Terence Herbert and the other centred on 'Place' to be headed by Alistair Cunningham. Carlton Brown will leave his post on 6th January.

Cllr Matthews – commented that when the traffic lights at Four Cornerd were out of action, traffic had seemed to move much more easlily.

Cllr Matthews – raised the issue of the footpath by the A30 on which £52,000 had been spent by the County and asked why it had been authorised when it was so little used.

Cllr Church – replied that the footpath was of general benefit to the community.

Cllr Edge – suggested that as it had been overgrown for quite a while it could simply have been cleared of vegetation.

Cllr Johnston – asked if the traffic flow in Wilton generally was to be looked at. Also the local air quality.

Cllr Church – replied that air quality monitoring was already taking place in Wilton and it shows that pollution is high but not too high.

Cllr Edge – asked if the metro count currently near the bottom of the Avenue could be sited much higher up the Avenue where there is concern from residents about speeding traffic.

AGENDA

Cllr Seviour in the chair

01/20 Apologies

Cllr Charlotte Blackman apologised for her absence owing to a prior commitment

Cllr Lee Glyde apologised for his absence owing to a prior commitment

Resolved: to accept these apologies and the reasons for them

02/20 Declarations of Interest

a. Cllr Edge declared pecuniary interest in the authorisation of payments

b. Dispensation requests – none had been submitted

Resolved: to note

03/20 Minutes of the last Full Council Meeting

The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on December 3rd 2019 were approved as a correct record with one amendment: - That Cllr Edge's apologies be recorded.

Proposed Cllr Matthews, *sec* Cllr Edge – all in favour

04/20 Community Engagement

Wild Flowers – the Clerk reported that funds had been included in the draft budget to support these ideas.

Flood prevention –

The Clerk – told the meeting that he had been in touch with the Environment Agency before Christmas to ask about the deployment of the flood barrier in Crow Lane and to give them contact details in case of an emergency or the need for rapid deployment. No such request had been received.

Cllr Church – suggested the formal adoption of Wilton Flood Group as a sub-committee of the Town Council. She was willing to chair such a sub-committee.

Cllr Seviour – said that it was important to get the Flood Group to meet as soon as possible. It was agreed that it be formed of Cllrs Church, Edge, and Glyde, Rachael Ashton Brown and Anthony Brown Hovelt.

Public toilets

The Clerk told the meeting that, currently, the Town Council pays for 6 cleans a week. He has spoken to the contractors who schedule a clean first thing each day. It was agreed to refer this matter to the Environment and Amenities sub Committee.

05/20 Mayor's Updates

CLr Seviour reported on recent occasions when he had represented the people of Wilton. He also told the meeting about how much local people had like the Lighting up eveing and also he reported on the Christmas Day Lunch organised by Wilton's Christian Fellowship. There had been 50 sit down lunches and a further 12 lunches taken out to local disabled folk.

06/20 Neighbourhood Plan

The survey has now been completed and Lemon Gazelle are analysing the results and writing an initial issues paper. There were over 500 responses. There will be a Neighbourhood Plan steering group meeting later this month.

07/20 Town Council Vacancy

Following the resignation of Councillor Lyons, the notice of vacancy was displayed on Friday 3rd January 2020. If by 23 January, a request for an election to fill the vacancy is made in writing to the Returning Officer by TEN electors from the Parish of Wilton, then an election will be held. Otherwise the vacancy will be filled by co-option. The Clerk has received a number of expressions of interest.

08/20 Internal Audit Report

To receive the interim internal audit report prepared by Auditing Solutions Ltd and to consider the points it raises. The recommendations arising were included on the agenda together with the Town Clerk's observations

- *The Council should consider arranging for an offsite back-up of the Rialtas system – the Council's IT consultants have been asked to provide a cloud based solution.*
- *Officers should confirm whether invoices should be raised for the scattering of ashes in respect of the two people in our sample and whether they were resident in the Town there is a charge of £65 for scattering of ashes and invoices will be created using the new Rialtas Omega system.*
- *The Clerk should confirm the correct pension deductions have been made in connection with the Local Government Pension Scheme by contacting Wiltshire Council – pension payments have been adjusted to the correct rate.*

With these qualifications, the audit provides assurance that the Council's financial management is sound.

Resolved: to note.

09/20 Wiltshire Council: Service Delegation and Asset Transfers (SDAT) Programme

The Clerk and Assistant Clerk attended a briefing on 19th December at County Hall, Trowbridge. The presentation provided an overview of the process with examples of what is likely to be transferred. It also outlined the support available from Wiltshire Council during transition and provided an opportunity to ask any questions. The revised schedule now proposes that formal negotiations commence in February.

Resolved: to note.

10/20 Budget and Town Precept 2020-2021

To consider the Town Clerk's report and to approve the budget and Town precept 2020-2021.

The precept requirement for Wilton Town Council in 2019/20 recommended by the Budget Working Party is £243,187. The Precept requirement consists of the base budget (annual running

costs) plus the additional items recommended for inclusion next year. The increase equates to £12.47 per annum at Band D, approximately £1 per month. The Council can, should it wish, amend this by including/removing projects or by using reserves to mitigate the increase.

Cllr Batchelder said it was prudent to maintain a reasonable level of reserves and these should not be allowed to go below £50,000 and should be ring fenced.

Cllr Seviour told the meeting that the Town Council had already earmarked £10,000 to support the Wilton Parkway project. He proposed that a further £15,000 be committed to this project making a total of £25,000.

After discussion it was made clear that the £25,000 would not be released by the Town Council unless the remaining £75,000, needed for the GRP stage 3 was guaranteed from other sources.

Resolved: to make £25,000 available for Wilton Parkway's GRP Stage 3 on the understanding that the money would not be released by the Town Council unless the remaining costs were guaranteed. (*prop Cllr Seviour, sec Cllr Church – nem con*)

Resolved: to approve the budget for 2020/2021 as presented and to set the precept at £243,187. (*prop Cllr Batchelder, sec Cllr Matthews – all in favour*)

11/20 Reports from local organisations

To receive reports and updates from the following organisations

(a) *Wiltshire Association of Local Councils:* Cllr Seviour said there had been no recent meeting.

(b) *South West Wiltshire Area Board:* Cllr Church had been unable to attend this meeting.

(c) *South West Wiltshire Community Area Transport Groups:* Cllr Matthews reported that there had been no recent meeting.

(d) *Wilton Community Centre:* It was noted that the Forest Forge Show had been successful.

(e) *Wilton Town Team:* Cllr Matthews told the meeting that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 13th January

12/20 Looking after the Council's Money

(a) To receive the current and deposit account bank statements and bank reconciliation report for November. **Resolved:** to note

(b) To note the budget monitoring report prepared by the Clerk. **Resolved:** to note

(c) To authorise the schedule of payments.

Cllr Johnston commented that the payment to Cllr Edge was in direct contravention of the Town Council's procurement policy.

Cllr Church noted that the Christmas lights had been switched off on twelfth night but that the contractors will come back on 23rd January to re-connect the small tree lights.

Resolved: to authorise (Cllr Edge abstained)

13/20 Planning Application

There were no planning applications to consider.

14/20 Date of Next Meeting

To confirm the date of the next Full Council Meeting as Tuesday 4th February 2020 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber.

15/20 To close the meeting

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20pm

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.