

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF WILTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN WILTON COUNCIL CHAMBER ON TUESDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2024 7.00PM**

Present Councillor Alan Crossley, *Mayor of Wilton*
Councillor Alexandra Boyd
Councillor Charlotte Blackman
Councillor Claire Forbes
Councillor Chris Harrison
Councillor Andy Kinsey
Councillor Gail Moore
Councillor John Page
Councillor Mick Whillock

In Attendance Mrs Clare Churchill, *Town Clerk*
Mr P Cornish, *Minutes Secretary*

Also Present 9 members of the public, 1 member of Wiltshire Police.
via ZOOM 5 members of the public.

The Mayor of Wilton, Councillor Alan Crossley, opened the meeting.

178/24 Apologies

The Town Clerk had received apologies from Councillor Hilliard, the Mayor had received apologies from Unitary Councillor Church.

179/24 Minutes

(i)&(ii) Resolved: To approve as a true record of the meetings the Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd September 2024 and the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2024.

Proposed: Councillor Crossley **Seconded:** Councillor Page **All in favour**

180/24 To suspend Standing Orders at 7:02pm

Report from Wiltshire Police - Wilton Neighbourhood Policing

PCSO Charlotte King briefed the attendees on the results of the recent speed enforcement exercise with 9 vehicles caught speeding, fastest speed was 41mph in a 30mph limit. The exercise was curtailed due to tall vegetation interfering with the exercise. The major operation to arrest suspected drug dealers has a follow-on action – Wiltshire Council have issued eviction notices for four properties.

Community Engagement

15 minutes is set aside to allow local people to raise their issues and concerns. Questions and statements are restricted to 3 minutes. Questions not answered at the meeting could be answered in writing or may appear as an Agenda item for the next appropriate committee meeting.

Members of the public raised the following points:

1. There was excess litter, damage to the shelter bench and weeds encroaching on the margins of the tennis courts.
2. Why hasn't the Castle Meadow noticeboard been put up?
3. Why is there no historical information on the noticeboards?
4. Why were the Policy and Resource Committee minutes for 17th September not published on the web site?
5. Why are any details being redacted in the payment schedule?
6. What does the Town Council do with the names of members of the public that the Town Clerk collects at its meetings?
7. Cllr Moore's made the following statement
At the recent civic service for the Mayor on the 15th Sept, a friend of mine took a picture after the service of my daughter with a few councillors in the background. I put this picture on my FB page. Following this, a former councillor commented on the picture, complaining that Cllr Taylor was making a rude gesture that was inappropriate for a councillor. I understand that subsequent verbal complaints were also made at public meetings and a formal complaint has been made to the council.

I immediately took the picture down and reviewed it with my husband. Cllr Taylor is emphatically not making a rude gesture in the photo.

Cllr Taylor is a well-respected councillor. She is well known and well-liked by the people of Wilton and has been on the council for more than 10 years. She makes great efforts for the council and the wider community in Wilton while working full time. She does not deserve the stress of having to deal with a false, vexatious complaint against her to the council, or attempts to embarrass her on social media.

We seem to have developed a culture in Wilton of former councillors spending way much time searching social media for the slightest fault with the council and councillors and then attacking them from the safety of their keyboards.

We as councillors are not perfect but we're community-minded volunteers doing our best with the very limited staffing and financial means available to the council. It would be good if some of our former members remembered this instead of trying to make petty, false points and raising vexatious complaints for their own political gain.

8. The front page of New Valley News made several statements about Wilton Town Council.
9. The New Valley News contained no reporting, it had just copied the details from the Town Council's minutes.
10. Could Mr Edge contact Mr Barnes to discuss his photo that was on social media?
11. The Community Centre has issues with its WiFi. The recent Charity Prize Bingo night had 96 attendees and raised £889 on the night for Salisbury Hospice. A further donation was made of £400 by a Member of the Wilton Community Centre Staff. Thanks were expressed for all local organisations who donated prizes.
12. The recent Carnival, the 76th, was a success. Its surplus was donated to the Wilton Football Club (£750) and the Wilton Primary School (£1500). Thanks to all who were involved.
13. Expressed their thanks to Mr Barnes and his team for organising the Charity Prize Bingo night.

Report from the Unitary Councillor for Wilton

Unitary Councillor Pauline Church had sent her apologies.

181/24 To reinstate Standing Orders at 7:22pm

182/24 Community Engagement

To respond to matters raised by the public. No decisions may be taken on such matters at the meeting unless due notice has been provided. No decision can be taken during this session, but the Chairman may decide to refer any matters raised for further consideration.

Councillor Crossley, supported by the Town Clerk and other councillors provided the following responses (note during this session Standing Orders were occasionally suspended to allow further comment from the members of the public):

1. Thank you for alerting the Town Council. The Town Council is already aware, the issues were discussed at a recent Environment & Amenities committee meeting. The growth of weeds will be looked at by them.
2. The final location was agreed in September and they are awaiting for a contractor to provide an installation date. The noticeboard for Old St Marys may now require planning permission.
3. The historical information panels have been drafted, they need to be sent to the printers.
4. Why were the Policy & Resource committee minutes for 17th September not published on the web site?
5. This has been reviewed by the Policy & Resources committee and will be discussed under 187/24.
6. As this involves study of the relevant legislation this will be considered by the Policy and Resources committee.
7. Noted.
8. Noted.
9. Noted.
10. Noted.

11. Noted and the Mayor expressed his thanks for the Charity Prize Bingo night
12. Noted and the Mayor expressed his thanks for the work of the Carnival team.
13. Expressed their thanks to Mr Barnes for organising the Charity Prize Bingo night.

183/24 Declarations of Interest

- (i) Councillor Crossley stated that after seeking advice, he was declaring that, with regard to Agenda Item 188/24, although he resides in the Wilton Hill Estate he has no boundary with the Application Red line and has no pecuniary interest in this specific Application. Councillors Moore, Page, Harrison and Boyd confirmed that this also applied to them. There were no other declarations of interest.
- (ii) No Dispensation Requests received by the Town Clerk.

184/24 Exclusion of the Press and Public

No items were identified.

185/24 Mayor's report

To receive a brief report of events and engagements attended by the Mayor of Wilton:

- On Sunday the 8th September the Mayoress and I attended the Great Wishford Bread Stone unveiling.
- On Wednesday the 11th September we gave two talks in Old Saint Mary's as part of the Heritage Days.
- On Saturday the 14th September we also hosted the Heritage Days Council Chamber open to the public event.
- On Sunday the 15th September we participated in the Wilton Mayor Civic Service for the Community in the Saint Mary and Saint Nicholas Church.
- We would like to thank everyone who supported these Wilton events especially those who helped out with the catering for the Civic Service.

To receive notice of upcoming events:

- On Sunday the 13th October we will be attending the Mayor's Civic Service in Royal Wootton Bassett.
- Planning is under way for the Remembrance Sunday Service on the 10th November, the Christmas lights event on the 29th November and the Mayor's Christmas Family Barn dance on the 14th December

186/24 To receive the Minutes and agree the Recommendations of the Staffing Committee Meeting held on 16th September 2024

Councillor Forbes, as Chair of the Staffing Committee, presented, with updates in italics, the following recommendations arising from the LCC review report:

- (i) 17.1. Consideration should be given to the proposed officer structure suggested, including the revised hours of work and, where applicable, the salary changes and implemented as soon as is practicable if agreed
 Agree: to recruit a Deputy Clerk for 30 hours per week and later consider the appointment of an Administration Assistant for 22 hours per week. Flexibility on hours is essential. Amend the Town Clerk's role to focus on the Finance (RFO role) and Policies. Councillor Forbes to contact WorkNest re drafting an advert and job description
The recruitment of the Administration Assistant is on hold and Councillor Forbes has contacted WorkNest. If this is agreed by the Full Council then the drafting of the Deputy Clerk's Job Description and advert will be progressed by a Staffing Committee meeting in week commencing 7th October with the adverts being published before the next Full Council meeting.
- (ii) 17.2. Commence the process of drawing up job descriptions to suit the new / revised roles and moving to a corporate suite of Job Descriptions
 Agree: to be discussed with WorkNest.
Councillor Forbes is yet to contact WorkNest regarding this.
- (iii) 17.3. Ensure the officer budget provision is suitable for the balance of financial year 2024/25 and thereafter
 Agree: to be considered by the Budget Working Group
- (iv) 17.4. Consider a move to the NJC grading structure for salaries paid

- Agree: to consider
- (v) 17.5. As a matter of priority, commence the process of drawing up a Corporate Plan, to include identifying a Vision and the key themes for WTC and ensuring full input to it by all Councillors, all officers, stakeholders and residents
Agree
- (vi) 17.6. Consideration should be given to agreeing a strategy as regards precept levels moving forwards
Agree
- (vii) 17.7. Consider drawing up a devolution plan in readiness for any opportunities ahead
Agree: to monitor situation with Wiltshire Council and devolution
- (viii) 17.8. Consider arranging a Councillor / Officer development event if deemed necessary
Agree: to try to hold a development event within 12 months
- (ix) 17.9. Seek to undertake an appraisals option on future office accommodation arrangements
Agree
- (x) 17.10. Set an aim to meet the Local Council Quality Gold Standard within 3 years
Agree
- (xi) 17.11. Set an aim to achieve Green Flag status for certain parks and open spaces managed by WTC within 3 years
Agree

Resolved: To agree the recommendations.

Proposed: Councillor Forbes

Seconded: Councillor Moore

All in favour

187/24 To receive the Minutes and agree the Recommendations of the Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 17th September 2024

Councillor Crossley, as Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee, presented, with updates in italics, the following recommendations:

- (i) PR/098/24(i). The income and expenditure dated 31st August was reviewed and approved
Resolved: Noted.

Proposed: Councillor Crossley

Seconded: Councillor Page

All in favour

- (ii) PR/098/24(ii). To publish the Pay Schedule in the Minutes of the Meeting but that Wilton TC retains the right to redact individual names if necessary and this redaction is to be agreed at the time of authorizing the payment.

Councillor Harrison objected to the recommendation. The Town Clerk stated that if the Town Council wanted to amend this recommendation that it would need to go back to the Policy & Resources Committee. Councillor Harrison asked for the Town Council to disregard the Town Clerk's advice.

Resolved: To publish the pay schedule in the minutes of the meeting on the basis that any receivers of Wilton Town Council money will be made aware that their names will be in the public domain as a result.

Proposed: Councillor Harrison

Seconded: Councillor Moore

All in favour

- (iii) PR/099/24(i). To Adopt the Terms of Reference for the Budget Working Group
Resolved: Agreed.

Proposed: Councillor Crossley

Seconded: Councillor Forbes

All in favour

- (iv) PR/102/24. To publish the current balance of S106 contributions each month at Full Council
Resolved: Agreed.

Proposed: Councillor Crossley

Seconded: Councillor Boyd

All in favour

188/24 Planning

To respond to the following Planning Application following the receipt of amended plans on 27th August 2024

PL/2021/08160. Land off Buckeridge Road, Wilton. Mixed use development comprising 52 dwellings, an innovation centre (use class E) with 15no. Veterans flats above, access off the avenue (already constructed), internal roads and footpaths, car parking, public open space, landscaping, drainage and other associated works and infrastructure

The Town Clerk informed the Council that it had previously objected to this application.

193/24 Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting of Wilton Town Council will be held on Tuesday 5th November 2024 at 7pm in the Council Chamber

194/24 To close the meeting at 8:14pm.

DRAFT