

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE
TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 14th DECEMBER 2017**

PRESENT: Mrs S CONBOY (Town Mayor)
Councillors: R TAPLIN (Deputy Mayor); G CAMPBELL; A HOOKER; P MALLEY; A McINNES; Mrs M RADFORD; D UNDERWOOD; G WILSON; Mrs S WORTHINGTON; J YOUNG; C VANE PERCY; Mrs S WILSON; P MORGAN; Ms J MACLEOD

Deputy Town Clerk: Mrs V PRYCE
Mace Bearer: Mr M WILLIAMS

One member of the public was in attendance

ACTION

17/196 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

CLLR KING – Family commitment, CLLR YOUNG – Work Commitment, CLLR SPOWART – Work Commitment.

17/197 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

CLLR S WILSON planning application 17/02375/HHFUL, CLLR G WILSON planning application 17/02375/HHFUL, CLLR VANE PERCY Mill Sluice.

17/198 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 16th November 2017 were duly APPROVED and signed as a complete and accurate record.

17/199 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

John Thackray addressed the Council with regard to the proposed Farm Track, asking the Council to agree to support the use of the track to remove heavy duty farm traffic from Silver Street. He advised the Council that to date, 4 out of the 5 affected landowners had agreed to its use and he advised that there is a currently a hardcore track in place which would remain. He reported that it is proposed that gates be installed at either end of the track.

The club 800 draw took place.

17/200 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE MAYOR advised she had represented the town on 8 occasions since the last meeting. THE MAYOR informed the Council that she had had great pleasure attending the carol services and was hoping to attend more of the locally planned Advent events in the Town next week. THE MAYOR thanked the Deputy Mayor for attending a number of events on her behalf.

THE MAYOR reported that a memorial service was being held for the lady who had previously run the book shop and would pass details on to any Councillors who wished to attend.

THE MAYOR drew Councillors attention to the office closure between Christmas and New Year, contacts for all staff were provided to all Councillors.

THE MAYOR thanked everybody who had worked hard to make this year a successful one and extended her thanks to Councillors and those who have supported Councillors.

17/201 OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

THE MAYOR reported that the Neighbourhood Plan Referendum had been a success with a 22% turnout of which 96% voted in favour of the Plan. Four Councillors had attended on the evening as counting agents. The District Council had unanimously voted the plan through and the Town Council were publicly praised at the meeting as being an example on how Councils should present Neighbourhood Plans. THE MAYOR extended her thanks to everybody who had worked on the plan which took three years of Councillor and non-Councillor time. CLLR RADFORD thanked THE MAYOR for the work that she herself had put into the Neighbourhood Plan. THE MAYOR requested that spiral bound copies of the Neighbourhood Plan be made for planning.

Town Clerk

CLLR S WILSON reported that a document had been produced by the office listing the Neighbourhood Plan policies which made it easier to view when considering planning. CLLR S WILSON to forward to all Councillors.

Clr S Wilson

17/202 CORRESPONDENCE

The list of correspondence received was noted.

17/203 ENVIRONMENT REPORT

CLLR HOOKER presented a report the contents of which were noted. CLLR HOOKER proposed that the river clearance be carried out as soon as possible at a cost of £1500. All were in favour and it was **resolved** to do so.

Town Clerk

CLLR HOOKER advised that the Council had been offered a mature Willow Tree from CLLR VANE PERCY to replace the Willow which suffered damage at Mill Lade. CLLR HOOKER proposed the Council accept the offer of the tree and pay for a tree surgeon to remove the trunk of the damaged Willow. All were in favour and it was **resolved** to do so.

Clr
Hooker/Town
Clerk

CLLR HOOKER proposed that the Council approve the draft letter and drawings with regard to the bunds at Devana Park, 12 CLLRS were in favour, 2 abstained and it was **resolved**.

Town Clerk

20.05 CLLR MACLEOD arrived.

17/204 PROVISION OF NEW FARM TRACK

THE MAYOR advised that she had been approached by John Thackray and asked to pen a letter of support on behalf of the Council to allow farm vehicles to use the farm track to tackle the traffic issues on Silver Street. CLLR UNDERWOOD added that vehicles transporting straw through the town had caused a great nuisance and the use of the track would be beneficial. CLLR MORGAN raised the issue with farm vehicles using West Street, John Thackray advised that he believed that the use of the track would alleviate the problems in West Street also. CLLR S WILSON commented that it was a good idea in principle, but it must be clear that it was a private matter and the Council would not be offering any financial incentives. THE MAYOR proposed that the letter of support from the Council be approved, all were in favour and it was **resolved**.

Town Clerk

17/205 FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTS

17/205.1 The list of payments to be made in Appendix 17/205.1 was APPROVED.

17/205.2 Councillors received a copy of the salary payments, Petty Cash Reconciliation for the period to 14 December, a copy of the budget report on the year to date, a copy of the monthly bank reconciliation approved by the DEPUTY MAYOR.

17/205.3 THE MAYOR proposed that the income from the Christmas Market be donated to the Mayors Charities and the cost be accepted by the Council. All in favour and it was

resolved.

17/206 DRAFT BUDGET 2018-2019

CLLR G WILSON presented a report the contents of which were noted.

CLLR G WILSON referred to the two financial reports provided by the Town Clerk which had both been reviewed at the Finance Working Party meeting the previous week. CLLR G WILSON advised that the Council needed to consider hire charges for the QES and the VAT implications. CLLR G WILSON reported that CIL would be recorded using the spreadsheet referred to in his report. Following the approval of the Neighbourhood Plan CLLR G WILSON reported that the Council would benefit from 25% CIL money for the Marina and RGE developments. THE MAYOR proposed that the Council approve:

- The budget for £600k for 2018/19 with additional specific reserves set aside for Log World and the Skate park.
- An increase in council tax of 2% and request a precept of £202,300 from HDC 2018/19. Town Clerk
- That portfolio holders will submit business cases to seek approval for any significant new items of expenditure in 2018/19.
- The Business Group to review charges for the QES, Judiths Field and London Road Cemetery and make recommendations to the January meeting of the Council; Business WP
- Agree that the contract with HDC for the CCTV at School Hill will not be renewed Town Clerk

All were in favour and **resolved**.

THE MAYOR proposed that the detailed budget proposals of the Environment Group be approved, all were in favour and it was **resolved**.

THE MAYOR expressed her thanks to the Town Clerk/RFO for all of her hard work in producing a most detailed budget. THE MAYOR also thanked CLLR G WILSON for his work on the budget.

17/207 GRANT APPLICATIONS

CLLR UNDERWOOD declared an interest in the DISH grant application. CLLR G WILSON and CLLR CAMPBELL declared an interested in the GMC in Bloom application.

Grant applications were considered Deputy Clerk would advise applicants of the outcome. Clarification on the definition of running costs would be updated and agreed. Deputy Clerk

17/208 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

The applications and correspondence set out in Appendix 17/208 were considered. The Deputy Clerk would advise HDC of the Council's recommendations Deputy Clerk

CLLR S WILSON advised that the disabled parking bay at West Street will go ahead as officers feel it will improve road safety.

17/209 PROPERTY REPORT

CLLR CAMPBELL presented a report the contents of which were noted.

CLLR CAMPBELL advised that he and the Town Clerk had met with Neil Sloper representing

HDC with regard to the Mill Steps. HDC have confirmed responsibility for the steps and are aware that there may be health and safety issues. CLLR CAMPBELL has passed on information with regard to the A14 Legacy Fund and will continue to liaise with Neil.

CLLR CAMPBELL reported that the scaffolding around the QES had come down and progress is being made with the flooring in the large hall. The three phase electricity will be installed in January. Contractor reporting the total cost of the project will be £320k including the electrical work with late completion on 8th March 2018.

17/210 SKATE PARK REPORT

CLLR CAMPBELL reported that the questionnaire on the Council website had attracted 104 responses to date of which only 8 had raised concerns or objected. CLLR CAMPBELL hoped to present a paper at the January meeting on how to take the project forward.

The meeting ended at 21.40

Mayor