

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON-LINE ON THURSDAY 16th JULY 2020**

PRESENT: R TAPLIN (Town Mayor)
Councillors: Mrs S WORTHINGTON (Deputy Mayor); G CAMPBELL; Mrs S CONBOY; J HLADKIWSKYJ; A HOOKER; C HYAMS; P IRVING; P MORGAN; R MAHMOOD; Mrs M RADFORD; P ROUND; C THOMAS; C VANE PERCY; Mrs S WILSON; G WILSON; J YOUNG

Town Clerk: Ms V PRYCE

Two members of the public.

MINUTES

Action

20/93 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE:

None

20/94 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Cllr CAMPBELL – planning applications.

20/95 MINUTES:

The MAYOR proposed the Council approve as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 18th June all were in favour and was so **resolved**. The MAYOR proposed that the Council approve the minutes of the Extraordinary Town Meeting held on 29th June all were in favour and it was so **resolved**. Cllr CONBOY, WORTHINGTON and VANE PERCY offered their retrospective apologies.

20/96 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The MAYOR welcomed two members of the public District Cllrs Grice and Morris as the Council's first public participants since the lockdown. The MAYOR advised that the Mayor of Raunds had had to cancel a virtual quiz due to technical difficulties. The MAYOR thanked Cllrs IRVING and HYAMS for the large and impressive garage sale notice on wall opposite the Town Hall. The MAYOR advised that the Town Clerk would be on annual leave for 24-27 July and 3rd – 9th August with any urgent requests to be sent to Julie. The MAYOR advised that Daniel Beckett and the Godmanchester Baptist Church had delivered a hamper to the Council thanking the Cllrs and staff for their hard work. The MAYOR advised that there was enough for each of the Cllrs to have an item, that the Clerk would be at the Town Hall between midday and 1pm on Monday 20th July for collection, and the MAYOR would write to thank Daniel Beckett on behalf of the Council. Cllr WORTHINGTON thanked the Porch Museum, Stanjays and Cllr VANE PERCY for the posters up around the Town. The Clerk added that the internal audit had been completed and the Annual Return had been sent to the external auditor. The public's right to view the accounts would begin from 20th July and continue for 6 weeks. The Town Clerk advised that the newsletter was now ready for circulation and it was agreed that it should be sent to print.

The Mayor

20/97 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION:

The Clerk read out a statement received from Mr J Sheppard requesting that Council give priority for the use of the approx £500,000 of Infrastructure Levy available this year should be given to traffic calming and road safety improvements to make life better for pedestrians and cyclists.

District Cllr S Wilson read a statement. District Cllr S Wilson reminded Council that the Council had already committed to carrying out a Town Wide transport study after which the Council would agree the priorities in conjunction with HDC and CCC.

Signed:

Dated:

District Cllr S Conboy commented that she had hoped Mr Sheppard would have attended the meeting this evening as he had made it clear that he wished to be represented. He continues to be strident in his views and passionate about his particular projects.

District Cllr Grice advised that he had been dealing with Mr Sheppard since 2018 and that he had been the subject of Mr Sheppard's attention, with regard to his vision to put in a pedestrian crossing in West Street. After numerous emails backwards and forwards Mr Sheppard had stopped communication. Cllr Grice added that District Council were aware that there are problems regarding traffic in Godmanchester, including speeding and parking but felt it would be far more sensible to wait until the A14 upgrade was completed and a professional survey carried out instead of piecemeal projects that are being requested.

County Cllr G Wilson advised Council that the day after Mr Sheppard had contacted District Cllr S Wilson, that he had received a letter from Mr Sheppard demanding answers to a number of similar points. Mr Sheppard had threatened to report Cllr G Wilson to the Chairman of the County Council if he did not do exactly what Mr Sheppard wanted. District Cllr S Wilson had now written to Mr Sheppard covering the points he had raised with County Cllr G Wilson. County Cllr G Wilson advised he will not be replying to Mr Sheppard's letter, and if necessary, would involve the Monitoring Officers.

District Cllr Morris had circulated an email regarding a £2.9million fund being made Available for walking and cycling to assist with social distancing and the future of the town bridge. Cllr Morris advised he was a founder member of Hunts walking and cycling group which had 650 Facebook members and he was keen to promote active travel. He advised that the government had committed £575,000 which needed to be spent by 21st August; failure to spend this would mean the additional £2.3 million may no longer be available. Cllr Morris felt that it was a public health emergency, the public had been advised to avoid using public transport if possible, with schools returning in September it was likely that the 8 coaches that arrived at Hinchbrooke would be replaced with cars.

Graham Campbell from GOVT provided an update on the work of the Trust. Mr Campbell advised that the Trust now had partner membership from nearly all parishes in the valley and the RSPB, the protection of Royal England and National Trust. Mr Campbell thanked the Town Council for their support with the campaign for the river crossing, the Clerk for attending the meeting with the Rowland Potter from the CPCA, the MAYOR for attending a meeting with the CPCA and the County and District Cllrs for their efforts. Mr Campbell advised that among the many projects that the Trust was participating in for the Godmanchester Commons that they were currently working with the Freeman and the District Council to develop a land scape Poplars and Willows to improve the hedges in the East and West side Commons, this was supported by the Woodland Trust in their efforts to cooling the rivers, was also supported by Environment Agency and Natural England and he expressed his hope that the Town Council would come on board also for the benefit of the Town and tourism.

The club 800 draw took place with the assistance of the Mayoress.

20/98 OUTSTANDING ACTIONS:

The report was noted. The Mayor requested that the entries on the listing should be made briefer. As an example, the history of the Nursery be removed on the outstanding actions as the Nursery was now under the ownership of the Council.

Town Clerk

20/99 CORRESPONDENCE:

List of correspondence was noted.

Signed:

Dated:

20/100 PLANNING REPORT:

Cllr G WILSON advised that new information had been received about the proposed waste recycling site at Hemingford Abbots golf course. Cllr G WILSON requested permission to consult with Hemingford prior to responding to the County Council with a recommendation of refusal. Cllr G WILSON advised he would seek more information from Hemingford and return to Council.

The applications set out in Appendix 20/100 were considered. The Town Clerk would advise HDC of the Council's recommendations. Cllr HYAMS thanked Cllr G WILSON for his work.

Town Clerk

Consultation had been received on a Licensing Policy recommend the council support it. The MAYOR proposed the Council support the Policy all were in favour and it was so **resolved**.

Town Clerk

The MAYOR, Town Clerk and Cllr G WILSON had met with the Planning Officer from HDC, following the meeting Cllr G WILSON requested the Town Clerk formally write to HDC explaining the Council's expectations that any retrospective applications for Romans Edge be referred to the Development Management Committee so that District Cllrs are aware what is happening on the site. Cllr S CONBOY advised that she was the custodian of a SUDS report which she would provide to Cllr G WILSON following this and the Town Clerk should take ownership.

Cllr G WILSON referred to District Cllr Morris' presentation on cycling and walking routes across the County. Cllr G WILSON advised that he and Cllr CAMPBELL had recently met with three County Officers to discuss options for making the medieval bridge accessible to cyclists and pedestrians, to discuss what could be fitted across the bridge providing a 2 metre distanced cycleway and potential installation of a separation barrier. A temporary measure could tie in with the opening of the Mill Common link road due in mid-August in time for children going back to Hinchingsbrooke school in September. As soon as more information was received, he would update Council. Cllr VANE PERCY advised that this had previously been considered with a cycle path going down Post Street, and a previous report advised that it would not work.

Cllr Conboy

19.48 Cllr HOOKER joined the meeting.

Cllr G Wilson referred to the money being made available but that it would have to be safe and feasible. Cllr CAMPBELL added that the purpose of using the medieval bridge was to ensure social distancing could be maintained.

A letter had been received from Mr Coxhead suggesting that a cycle route should be considered for Cow Lane, Cllr G WILSON advised that this should be put to CCC and to Paul Ryan of Hunts Cycling feed in to the Council's traffic study.

Complaints had been received from Mr Lambourne and Mr Sheppard about traffic speeds on the A1198 and West Street. When the MVAS had been located at West Street, the reports received did not identify a general speeding issue. When Covid guidelines allow the MVAS will be installed again; Cllr G WILSON advised that it would be installed on the A1198 to provide clear evidence that could be provided to the County Council and the Police. The MAYOR had offered to install the MVAS with the assistance of the Mayoress if they were covered under the Council's insurance, Cllr WORTHINGTON suggested that the Council take the Clerk's advice whether this should be carried out by trained employees rather than Councillors.

20/101 PROPERTY REPORT:

Signed:

Dated:

Cllr CAMPBELL advised that the tender process had begun and the public toilet for Judith's Field was now advertised on Contracts Finder and added the Clerk would also approach local builders in the area to invite them to tender. The Clerk would write to the Trustees of Judith's Field to advise them of the Council's intentions. Cllr CAMPBELL advised that the tender would require the successful contractor to apply for planning permission. The Pump Track Steering Group had met and wanted to clarify that the Pump track was not merely a specific track for specialist mountain bikes, but that it would be a family installation. He suggested cllrs might visit Trumpington where there was also a 'sky playground' such as that Cllr HOOKER reported in the Environment Report. The MAYOR advised caution on raising public expectation as the Council had not yet agreed that we would have a Pump Track or Skyworld, and that the Council was simply researching ideas at present. Cllr CAMPBELL advised the difficulty that, when we apply for external grants, it is important that we consult with the public and demonstrate support for the project proposed. The Portfolio were also investigating a power supply to Queen's Walk but were unclear as to whether that should include street lighting as there was some concern over too much street furniture in the area.

20/102 ENVIRONMENT REPORT:

Cllr HOOKER advised that the replacement see-saw was being installed at Queen's Walk on 26th July. The Clerk had received three quotations to clear the fallen Willows on the Osier beds; GTS had provided the most competitive quote of £1,300, which had been accepted. The new adult play equipment would be installed on 10th August and the portfolio group were considering appropriate signage. Cllr HOOKER advised that the portfolio had been asked to submit projects that they would like funded through CIL money, several projects had been discussed and Cllr HOOKER requested that he would like three of these progressed urgently if possible. These included Skyworld, Covid Walk which would require a license from the Environment Agency, and two rose arbours for the Cemetery with benches, all of which had been sent to the Budget Advisory Panel.

Cllr HOOKER advised that a second Fox Glove tree that had been installed had died and the Tree Warden had suggested a Red Oak replace the tree. A memorial tree had been requested by the family of the late Robert Hughes but, as no positions were available on the Recreation Ground, they would like to offer the Red Oak which would be funded according to Council Policy. The dog bag dispensers were now being replenished on a weekly basis. The Memorial Tree and Bench Policy would be reviewed to include new bench positions. There had been a high demand for memorial benches on the recreation ground. Cllr HLADKIWSKYJ requested that should the Council agree to the new pathway around the Recreation Ground but that it should not be called "Covid Walk"; Cllr HOOKER suggested that it could be called "Willow Walk".

20/103 FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTS:

20/103.1 & 20/103.2 The list of payments were approved.

20/103.3 Council noted receipt of petty cash reconciliation to 30th June, monthly budget report on the year to date, monthly bank reconciliation.

20/104 BUSINESS REPORT:

Cllr THOMAS advised there were a number of items for noting from previously circulated report: Projects for CIL funding; Plant Nursery expenditure featuring polytunnel and how that may be funded; the Remembrance Day service; and Civic Service that is still planned to go ahead although it is unlikely. The Council had been approached by a group called Finding Fitness offering summer activities, who have been directed to local schools. The Code of Conduct was currently going through a consultation, Cllr S WILSON was investigating on the Council's behalf. Cllr S WILSON advised that recently a resident had questioned her ability to follow the Nolan Principles so asked the Council to confirm that they had confidence in her ability to carry on with this. Cllr THOMAS advised that he felt

Signed:

Dated:

completely confident in her abilities. The MAYOR confirmed that the Council recognised her efforts and the great deal of work that Cllr S WILSON had carried out, and that he had no concerns and thanked her for all the hard work she had put in on the Financial Regulations. Cllr THOMAS reminded the Council that he was continuing to research defibrillators - if approved they would be installed at School Hill, Judith's Field and at the Plant Nursery. A decision to continue to run or cancel the Christmas Market would be required at the August meeting. The MAYOR added that if the Council decided to go ahead that Cllr IRVING would need volunteers to assist him.

Cllr THOMAS advised that the Financial Regulations had undergone substantial changes in the tender and quotation processes, credit card limits had been raised, and prepaid cards were to be made available to staff to assist the office. Cllr S WILSON thanked the Clerk for her assistance. The MAYOR proposed that the new Financial Regulations be adopted, all were in favour and it was so **resolved**.

Town Clerk

Cllr THOMAS discussed the policy for charging for use of town land and its facilities, Cllr WORTHINGTON had been investigating a scale of charges for use and sought the endorsement for conditions for use. All organisations where individuals were running activities will need permission from the Council and a license will be issued. Details of public liability insurance, a statement to indemnify the Council and a full risk assessment would be required. If fees are charged for the activity a license levy may be applied on an appropriate scale of charges. There was concern over damage to the ground of Judith's Field by a goal-keeping training group; this process would allow the Council to recover such damage made by users. Cllr HYAMS aired his concern that if a license is granted, fitness groups may believe that they had more rights than members of the public, and concerns were also raised over the policing of the area. The MAYOR felt that if the Council had a policy in place, we would have the legal right to approach these people. Cllr THOMAS advised Council that by not adopting such a policy, the Council were aware there were people using the field potentially with no insurance and no risk assessment. The MAYOR agreed that the Council would be seen to be taking all reasonable steps by following a policy. The MAYOR proposed the Use of Land Policy be adopted. All were in favour and it was so **resolved**.

Town Clerk

Cllr THOMAS advised that the Council had received a request for a grant from CamSAR for the amount of £300. Town Council policy stipulates that if applicants are not local to Godmanchester and have national affiliation the upper limit of a grant is £50. The MAYOR proposed that the Council give a £50 grant; all were in favour and it was so **resolved**.

20/105 BUDGET ADVISORY PANEL REPORT:

Cllr THOMAS advised that due to a number of late emerging factors the written advisory report has been withdrawn. He advised the principle tasks for the meeting on 10th July was to review the budget impact from coronavirus, which had been largely unimpacted, with the exception of the Property Portfolio where income was being reduced due to the closure of the buildings and only partially offset by reduced cleaning and utility bills. The deficit was manageable and would need to be addressed by the General Reserve. If there is no income at all the maximum loss of income for the year would be around £29,000. The Panel had considered a list for projects potentially eligible for CIL funding (which currently stands at £640,000, but could rise to £974,000 by the year 2024/25). The five-year rule meant the Council would need to spend £25,000 by October 2023. The group intended to seek provisional approval for a number of projects. A change in guidance had emerged in potential use of CIL for Highway issues, a number of observations had been received for potential projects and the Council needed to ensure that an agreed process was in place before commissioning large spending projects to ensure transparency and accountability. Members of the Advisory Group would meet up to draw up a paper to be agreed by full Council. Emerging projects, in addition to those already agreed, included

Budget Advisory
Panel

Signed:

Dated:

the introduction of defibrillators, activity facilities, pump track, EV chargers, cemetery enhancement and a renovation of the Town Hall all and these ideas and more would return to Council after the process had been confirmed. The MAYOR advised that the meeting was being held on the following Monday to create the correct framework under which projects would be considered.

Meeting ended at 20.47

Correspondence

Mayor

Wertheim	Correspondence – Twinning Association (June)
Mayor of Raunds	Lockdown Quiz Night (15.07.20)
Mayor of Fenland	Carol Service (04.12.20)
Chairman of East Northamptonshire	Event – details not yet confirmed (12.12.20)
Mayor of Rushden	Civic Carol Service (13.12.20)

Planning

HDC	Licensing Act 2003 Consultation Letter
HDC	Romans Edge – Review of Meeting 24 th June
CCC	Temporary Cycling and Pedestrian Route
R Coxhead	Cycling Routes Cow Lane
M Lambourne & J Shepherd	Traffic concerns on A1198 and West Street
CPCA	Third River Crossing
HE/CCC	Ring Road Signs

All Town Councillors

GOVT	Strategic Plan Meeting Invitation
	Third River Crossing

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Application No	Location
FMW/072/19	New Farm, Hemingford Abbots
20/00943/HHFUL	2 Orchard Way
20/00834/HHFUL 20/00835/LBC	5 Corpus Christi Lane
20/00760/FUL	1 London Street
20/01150/REM	Land East Of 1 Cardinal West

Signed:
Dated:

