

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE  
TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 16<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2020**

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

Town Clerk: Ms V PRYCE  
Mace Bearer: Mr M WILLIAMS

**MINUTES**

**Action:**

**20/05 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE:**

CLLR HOOKER – Holiday  
CLLR THOMAS – Holiday  
CLLR S WILSON – Holiday  
CLLR G WILSON – Holiday  
CLLR HYAMS - Illness

**20/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

None

**20/07 MINUTES:**

THE MAYOR proposed that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019 were accurate and should be accepted as a true record, all in favour and it was so **resolved**.

**20/08 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The MAYOR thanked those who attended the planning meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> January. The MAYOR advised that he had attended five Carol concerts within the past month and had taken staff to a Christmas Market event. The MAYOR announced that his next charity event would be a Quiz Night on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March being held at the Black Bull; all were welcomed. The MAYOR and others attended a Climate Change meeting held at Buckden Parish Council; he felt this had been very engaging, and visitors included the local MP, representatives from the County and District Councils and from other Towns and Parishes. The MAYOR thanked all Cllrs who had assisted with the bike marking and litter pick on 4<sup>th</sup> January. He gave special thanks to Cllr CONBOY for arranging the bike marking and kits.

**20/09 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION:**

Mr Emery from Let's Go Skate thanked the Council for the funding support provided to him, to subsidise the skate park lessons. Lessons had been offered shortly after the skate park opening. He felt that the skate park had been a great success despite a small number of negative remarks. Mr Emery thanked Cllr CAMPBELL for his efforts in ensuring that the skate park happened. The Mayor thanked Mr Emery for his efforts with the skatepark facility.

The club 800 Draw took place.

**20/10 OUTSTANDING ACTIONS:**

The Town Clerk advised that Mr Westcott-Rudd had made contact, and a meeting had been agreed for the end of January, to discuss the process of registering the Councils land. Mr Westcott-Rudd had offered to work with the Council pro bono. Cllr CONBOY had been approached by the Nursery with a request to purchase a number of items for the Nursery. Cllr CONBOY proposed the Council use S.137 monies to allow these purchases of up to £500 to be made, following a comprehensive list provided by the Nursery's lead volunteer. All were in favour and it was so **resolved**.

7.16 Cllr Morgan arrived

Town Clerk

## 20/11 CORRESPONDENCE:

List of correspondence was duly noted.

The MAYOR advised he would be travelling to Wertheim for a business event. The Town Clerk was requested to provide a letter giving permission for the MAYOR to take the chair overseas.

Town Clerk

Cllr MORGAN advised Council that the District provided two charging points at Bridge Place car park. Cllr HLADKIWSKYJ advised that they do not work and have not worked for some time, he also advised that this was also true of some of the charging points in St Ives. Cllr CONBOY advised that the District were not aware that they were not working and that she would ensure they were made aware.

Cllr Conboy

## 20/12 ENVIRONMENT REPORT:

Cllr IRVING presented the report. The portfolio requested approval for two pieces of play equipment. The recommended pieces were a 'chest press and pull-down' machine and a 'cross country skiing' machine. Quotations had been obtained from four companies FLP, Wicksteed, Fresh Air Fitness and HAGS. The portfolio recommended purchasing from Fresh Air Fitness and installing the pieces next to the existing Queens Walk play area. Caution was suggested regarding installing exercise equipment at Judith's Field due to the number of fitness classes using the site. The cost including installation would be £6,500 and would be within existing budget. The MAYOR proposed both the quote and location were accepted; the majority were in favour and it was so **resolved**.

Town Clerk

The portfolio group also recommended the purchase of a traditional see-saw to replace the current see-saw at Queens Walk which was the group felt was inadequate. Three quotes had been sought but FLP was the only company to respond with a quotation of £5145+vat; again, the spend would fall within the current budget.

7.26 Cllr Round arrived

Cllr IRVING informed Council that there would be an additional expenditure to remove the current see-saw. The MAYOR proposed the Council agree the purchase of the replacement see-saw; all were in favour and it was so **resolved**.

Town Clerk

Cllr IRVING explained that the portfolio group had proposed planting 15-20 new trees at Judith's Field which would become an established feature in the area. These would include 4 fastigate lime trees along the car park bund, and the total cost would be in the region of £2000. The MAYOR proposed that the Council agree to plant up to 20 trees on Judith's Field with a maximum budget of £2000; all were in favour and it was so **resolved**.

Cllr Campbell

Cllr IRVING acknowledged the success of litter pick on January 4<sup>th</sup>. He advised that discussions had taken place regarding energy producing initiatives such as wind turbines and solar panels which had great support from the portfolio group. He also reported that the portfolio had agreed to begin research on Log World's replacement.

Cllr IRVING advised that the Environment Portfolio supported declaring a Climate Emergency, and the MAYOR also addressed the Council on a previously circulated paper detailing the reasoning and meaning of such action. He explained that it is an authoritative statement from central, regional and local government and was a statement of intent to achieve an overall reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. He felt that by declaring a climate emergency it demonstrated a commitment to take action and would give citizens a positive lead. Debate took place regarding whether the emergency should be declared. Cllr CONBOY advised of her concern in committing the Town Council beyond its time of office and, while agreeing that the Council should carry out positive actions, was concerned that this might mean that Councillors as individuals would come under public scrutiny. Cllr CONBOY suggested that the Council support the initiative in principle and confirm that the Council is intent on doing all it can to tackle change where it can, but not declare the emergency. Cllr ROUND suggested that the Council lead by example which would encourage others to join us. Cllr WORTHINGTON voiced concern about increasing workload pressures on the Town Office, adding that the taking over the Nursery would already have a large impact and suggested that Councillors would have to do the work involved and not the staff. The MAYOR advised that he was prepared to

take the lead on the project, having done similar work as a Bursar which had been certified by the Carbon Trust. The MAYOR proposed the Council declare a Climate Emergency; the majority were in favour, and so was **resolved**. Cllr CONBOY, MORGAN and WORTHINGTON advised that they supported the principle but not the wording. Cllr CONBOY requested caution when dealing with residents that are unable to financially adapt. Cllr HLADKIWSKYJ added that by formally declaring an emergency the Council would join the climate emergency club.

#### 20/13 FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTS:

20/13.1 & 20/13.2 The list of payments was approved.

20/13.3 Council noted receipt of petty cash reconciliation to 31<sup>st</sup> December, monthly budget report on the year to date, monthly bank reconciliation.

#### 20/14 BUSINESS REPORT:

Cllr WORTHINGTON introduced the Business report. Cllr CONBOY advised Council that the Community Nursery was nearing takeover and that solicitors had the transfer deeds. Although Council had requested a two-month handover, the District Council had requested a handover date of 1<sup>st</sup> March. Due to process and recruitment the Town Council would negotiate the date but accepted this would not go beyond 31<sup>st</sup> March. The Town Clerk would be attending a meeting with HDC the following week and would confirm this date. Cllr CONBOY had liaised with other local groups and advised that they would be involved following recruitment and an agreed business plan.

Cllr WORTHINGTON read out an email received from Mr Thackray, regarding the Mill Steps project advising the Council that piling tests were to be carried out and that the group were reviewing nesting sites. A subgroup was reviewing railings for the site which would be put forward to the whole group. The Mill Steps Community Group would be meeting again on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January.

Cllr WORTHINGTON advised Council that she had asked the Town Clerk to request feedback from Councillors and stall holders on the Xmas Market, and the Business Portfolio would review responses at their next meeting.

Cllr WORTHINGTON asked Council to ratify the allocation of £2000 each to Picnic in the Park and £2000 to Gala Day to the Community Association in line with the budget for 2020/21. Cllr WORTHINGTON asked the Clerk to request for a notice to be displayed during these events clearly stating that they had been supported by Godmanchester Town Council.

Cllr WORTHINGTON requested that the Council change the location of its Annual Town Meeting to Judith's Field, giving an opportunity to showcase Judith's Field, and maybe encourage residents from Romans Edge to attend. Changing location also meant that current QES hirers would not be displaced. All were in favour and it was so **resolved**.

#### 20/15 PROPERTY REPORT:

Cllr CAMPBELL advised that CCTV at Judith's Field was up and running and that the CCTV had been upgraded at the Town Hall. Cllr CAMPBELL reported that there were two lights that needed upgrading at Judith's Field, but the contractor could not access these due to the condition of the ground. Following on from a wash up meeting and suggestions for Xmas Market for 2020, the Property Portfolio would be exploring the costs of adding adequate lighting and electricity feed points to School Hill.

#### 20/16 PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

Cllr WORTHINGTON reported that, following the opening of Judith's Field Pavilion, the Council now needed to recruit a third Town Warden, which had begun. Council were asked that, if they knew of any suitable candidates, they should contact the Town Clerk. Cllrs had been requested to inform the office if they were able to assist with cover where possible while staff were absent. Recruitment had also started for the Community Nursery Manager.

Cllr WORTHINGTON asked Council to be aware of the workload in the Town office, which has become onerous - in particular, during the autumn - causing overtime to be worked, and that additional resource may be needed at some point. Cllr CONBOY requested the

Clerk produce an annual rolling plan to note the peaks and troughs in the workload and asked Council to look corporately at the portfolio projects and identify the corporate priorities. An annual schedule would be produced by the Clerk, and Chairs from portfolio groups would meet to agree priorities. Cllrs were reminded that any requests for work should go through the Town Clerk and not direct to the Admin Officers. Cllr IRVING gave his appreciation on behalf of the Council to the members who work in the office, who are extremely helpful, and he expressed his gratitude for the timely manner, in which requests were responded to.

Town Clerk

Meeting concluded: 8.20