

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ONLINE
ON THURSDAY 16th APRIL 2020**

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

Town Clerk: Ms V PRYCE

No members of the public were present

Action

20/47 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

J Young – Other commitment

20/48 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Cllr Taplin – Mayor Making

Cllr Worthington – Mayor Making

20/49 MINUTES:

The MAYOR proposed that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 19th March were accurate and should be accepted as a true record, all were in favour and it was so **resolved**.

20/50 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The MAYOR spoke about the Covid-19 pandemic and the impact on the Town and its residents and advised that the meeting would pause temporarily at 8.00pm to allow Council to clap for the NHS. The MAYOR advised the Council that a Facebook post regarding a local Nurse, Bex Williams, had made local and national news. The Council recognised the good work of the NHS, Carers and Key workers and expressed their thanks.

20/51 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION:

None

20/52 OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Club 800 draw took place.

20/53 CORRESPONDENCE:

A list of correspondence was noted.

20/54 FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTS:

20/54.1 & 20/54.2 Council approved the list of payments to be made.

20/54.3 Noted receipt of petty cash reconciliation to 31st March, monthly budget report on the year to date and monthly bank reconciliation.

20/55 BUSINESS REPORT:

Cllr THOMAS presented the Business paper. Cllr THOMAS asked portfolio groups to consider their priorities at the current time. The Business Portfolio had prioritised Covid-19 activities, the Annual Return, the Annual Report and Town meeting. Cllr THOMAS advised that the Annual Report was usually submitted in writing to the Town and presented verbally at the Annual meeting. Following government guidelines Cllr THOMAS proposed the Annual meeting planned for the 12th May be postponed until public gatherings allowed all were in favour and it was so **resolved**.

Signed:

Dated:

Cllr THOMAS encouraged portfolio groups to submit their reports to the Clerk by 14th May to enable publication. Cllr THOMAS asked the Council to note that the office was overseeing routine and essential work of the running of the Nursery. Cllr THOMAS advised that on the assumption the restrictions will continue for some time, Cllr WORTHINGTON had been tasked to work on a paper for the significant work the Council may need to undertake in near future. The Business Portfolio would discuss this further and return to Council. The MAYOR advised that members of the Council had been working with the Covid-19 Mutual Aid group and that the Clerk had successfully applied for a grant of £5000 to assist residents facing hardship. Cllr THOMAS advised that the Councils grant awarding scheme deadline was 15th May and advised that the Council had received a couple of enquiries concerning financial hardship from businesses arising from the virus outbreak. The Business Portfolio suggested that any organisation applying for Council grants, must demonstrate that they had followed and applied for the Government financial aid before approaching the Town Council. Cllr THOMAS proposed that the grant application deadline of 15th May be removed and the Council would offer a rolling date with a review to the 30th September. All were in favour and it was so **resolved**.

Cllr THOMAS proposed that providing there were no Councillors wishing to stand for the position of Mayor or Deputy Mayor, that the current incumbents remain in post and Mayor Making be postponed with a review by 30th September, all were in favour and it was so **resolved**. The Mayor and Deputy thanked the Council for their faith and support.

20/56 PLANNING REPORT:

The applications and correspondence set out in Appendix 20/56 were considered. The Town Clerk would advise HDC of the Council's recommendations.

Town Clerk

Cllr G WILSON referred to correspondence received relating to the Huntingdon prospects for growth document collated by Combined Authority, which included reference to a third river crossing across Ouse Valley and parallel to Cow Lane which also referred to Tyrells Marina which is also in Godmanchester. The MAYOR and Cllr CAMPBELL had previously attended a meeting of the CPCA in January where these documents were discussed, Cllr G WILSON asked if the Clerk had received any information from the CPCA regarding consultation with the Council, the Clerk responded that she had not. Cllr G WILSON proposed that the MAYOR write to the CPCA on behalf of the Council to express concerns over the lack of consultation, all were in favour and it was so **resolved**. The Town Clerk would endeavour to locate the minutes from the CPCA meeting.

The Mayor

Cllr G WILSON advised that he had been liaising with the County Council regarding LHI bids, he was seeking their advice as to costing an improved cycling and pedestrian routes and in return Cllr G WILSON would write a justification for double yellow lines to be installed on parts of London Road. Cllr G WILSON had also been liaising with the County Officers regarding the 30mph sign at Silver street and potential for moving the sign to beyond the new houses at Wigmore Farm; he reported that he had not made progress and that County were insisting it would only be possible by applying through an LHI bid. Cllr G WILSON would work with Cllr HYAMS and YOUNG to investigate the legal aspects and would go back to Council.

The MAYOR congratulated Cllr CAMPBELL on his article in the Hunts Post on behalf of Great Ouse Valley Trust (GOVT) regarding the river crossing. Cllr WORTHINGTON requested that the media be included when the MAYOR wrote to the CPCA.

20/57 PROPERTY REPORT

Cllr CAMPBELL advised that the Property Portfolio had met but, as the buildings were currently closed and other companies were not working, there was not a lot of business to transact. Cllr CAMPBELL advised that on his frequent visits to Judith's Field he had not seen people abusing the government guidelines. The Clerk advised that the lights to the MUGA and the skate park had been turned off to dissuade nighttime gatherings.

Signed:

Dated:

20/58 ENVIRONMENT REPORT:

Cllr HOOKER advised that the environment projects are on hold although additional play equipment was being researched. Cllr HOOKER advised that he had put dog bag dispenser notices had been up to advise the public they would not be refilled at present. Cllr CAMPBELL congratulated Cllr HOOKER on his signs. The MAYOR thanked Cllr HOOKER for digging out the old see-saw at Queens Walk.

Meeting concluded 20.12.

Signed:
Dated: