

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON-LINE ON THURSDAY 26th NOVEMBER 2020**

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

Town Clerk: Ms V PRYCE
Minute Taker: Mrs C WHITLOCK

Two members of the public

MINUTES

Action

20/179 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE:

CLlr MAHMOOD – None
CLlr S WORTHINGTON – Other commitment

20/180 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None

20/181 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION:

The MAYOR welcomed District CLlr John Morris to the meeting. CLlr Morris advised that he was in support of the trial closure of the bridge between Godmanchester and Huntingdon. CLlr Morris hoped members would agree to the trial period and, if it was not successful, things would revert back to the current situation. He reported that CLlr G WILSON had proposed five caveats for the trial, again which CLlr Morris supported, which should be met before the trial commences. He felt that the trial would be a fantastic opportunity for Godmanchester and hoped it would be very popular with the residents. The MAYOR thanked CLlr Morris for his presentation.

20/182 PLANNING REPORT:

The TOWN CLERK to advise HDC of planning application recommendations.

TOWN
CLERK

CLlr G WILSON briefed Council on the application for the land west of A1198 with a proposal to build 59 houses. A debate ensued which included questions over safety concerns with the road and whether it was dangerous for children, whether the new dwellings would dominate over existing properties, and whether it would be an overdevelopment? There were also concerns raised with regards to having 100% affordable housing on the site, as this would not necessarily provide a good mix of occupants. CLlr G WILSON proposed the Council maintain the recommendation to refuse the application on the grounds of overdevelopment, dominance and child safety. The majority were in favour and it was so **resolved**.

The TOWN CLERK advised that Mr Paul Ryan had joined the meeting at 20.01. The MAYOR welcomed Mr Ryan to the meeting.

CLlr G WILSON advised that the previous refusal of the development on 'white land' at Roman's Edge be withdrawn with the recommendation that the application should be approved. The MAYOR proposed that the application for 54 dwellings on 'white land' be approved. The majority were in favour and it was so **resolved**.

Cllr G WILSON made reference to Cllr Morris's earlier presentation and confirmed he had received an email from the Communications Manager at Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) which had listed some details regarding consultation. Cllr G WILSON confirmed he would review the information and report back to the Council in the coming days. As some clarity was required regarding the trial, Cllr G WILSON suggested that the Council would benefit from meeting with a CCC officer to discuss the various proposals. It was agreed that Cllr G WILSON would invite a CCC officer to the December meeting of the Council.

Cllr G
WILSON

20/183 CHRISTMAS

Cllr IRVING updated the Council following last week's meeting when only one quotation had been received for a proposed lighting display at School Hill. Cllr IRVING was able to advise that a further three quotations had been received within the week and he explained what each company was offering and the costs involved. The Council debated whether the light show would be value for money, whether there were funds available to support it, how it would be accepted or otherwise by residents, whether funds should instead be provided in the form of supermarket vouchers to support those in need. The Council felt that, as a number of events had had to be cancelled throughout the year due to Covid-19, residents would hopefully appreciate and enjoy something a bit different in the town. Questions were asked as to what lights or pictures would be projected and onto what part of the town. Cllr IRVING explained that more detail would be sought once a decision had been made by Council to either approve or refuse the proposal. The MAYOR proposed that a light show should go ahead on the School Hill area of the town to celebrate Christmas for up to a three week period using AVxpert as the suppliers. The majority were in favour and it was so **resolved**.

Cllr IRVING initially recommended that the Council approve Option 1 of AVxpert's quotation which would involve lighting the Town Hall, the Chinese Bridge and the Willow Tree on the rec. After a discussion, it was felt that as the Chinese Bridge already had its own lighting it would not need to be included in the show. Other options were suggested for the bridge including having red lights instead of the traditional white lights. Cllrs IRVING, CAMPBELL, HLADKIWSKYJ, HOOKER, VANE PERCY and the MAYOR would arrange to meet with the supplier to discuss the finer details. The MAYOR suggested that the details should be refined with AVxpert as to how the Town Hall and the Willow tree would be lit and to ensure there would be publicity of the 'Festival of Light' event (using the wall board and printing). With that in mind, the MAYOR proposed that £4,000 (excluding VAT) be allocated to this project. All were in favour, and it was so **resolved**. The MAYOR congratulated and thanked Cllr IRVING on how quickly the additional quotes had been sourced.

The meeting closed at 21.03