

WOOTTON BASSETT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Wootton Bassett Town Council held on Thursday 9th December 2010 at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Station Road, Wootton Bassett.

PRESENT: Councillors: Steve Bucknell, Mary Champion, Peter Doyle, Sue Doyle, Owen Gibbs, Mike Leighfield, Peter Roberts, Bill Roberts, Jenny Stratton, Steve Walls, Audrey Wannell and Chris Wannell.

Officers in Attendance: Johnathan Bourne, Town Clerk
Michelle Temple,
Administrative Team Leader

46. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Linda Frost, Paul Heaphy, Sanjay Soni and Ernie Taylor.

Further RESOLVED that the Council's best wishes be extended to Councillor Ernie Taylor who has recently been ill.

47. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive Declarations of Interest in accordance with the Local Authorities [Model Code of Conduct] Order 2007.

RESOLVED to note that no declarations of interest were made.

48. WRITTEN REPORTS

To receive written reports from the following:-

Wootton Bassett Police – Inspector Steve Cox presented the Council with his report covering the local policing team, the neighbourhood policing team's current priorities and consultation opportunities, performance statistics and reported incidents of anti-social behaviour. With regard to the latter Inspector Cox was pleased to note that there were no incidents of anti-social behaviour on either Halloween or Firework Evenings and there was only one incident of anti-social behaviour during the recent Christmas Lights Event.

Inspector Cox also provided a brief update with regard to the Afghan Riders who are organising an event for Mothers Day 2011. It was noted that the police are working with organisers to ensure that this will be a safe event.

Inspector Cox finally noted that he is being posted to Chippenham and his replacement, Inspector Chris Martin, is a police officer of five years experience who Inspector Cox advised will do an excellent job for the town.

RESOLVED to record a vote of thanks to Inspector Steve Cox for all his work over the previous five years and thank him on behalf of the Council.

Further RESOLVED to record a vote of congratulations to his team for the recent award presented by the Home Secretary.

Wootton Bassett Town Council Vandalism/Crime Log Report – It was noted that there had been no significant incidents of vandalism since the last meeting.

Member of Parliament – Written report from James Gray, MP

Wiltshire Councillors Written Reports from Councillors Bill Roberts, Peter Doyle and Mollie Groom.

Area Board representative-verbal, update from one of the Councils representatives Councillor Mike Leighfield.

A number of the above reports referred to the closure of RAF Lyneham and the possibility of the site being used, in the future, by the Army.

RESOLVED that a letter be sent to the Secretary of State for Defence, Dr Liam Fox advising that with its strong sense of community Wootton Bassett embraces the military covenant and would be delighted to welcome the army and their families to be based at RAF Lyneham.

Further RESOLVED that copies of the letter be sent to James Gray MP, David Cameron, Prime Minister and Members of Royal Family who have shown an interest in Wootton Bassett.

Representatives appointed by the Council – Councillor Steve Bucknell advised that he had received a letter of representation from Wootton Bassett Bowls Club in respect of their usage of the Memorial Hall car park. Difficulties have again arisen regarding the use of the site and the Bowls Club have asked whether there is any action that the Town Council can take in order to assist a resolution of this dispute.

RESOLVED both parties be contacted with an offer to facilitate mediation.

Councillor Bill Roberts advised that the Wootton Bassett Parochial Charities will be holding their annual dispersment of funds between 10.00 am and 12 noon at the Church Croft on Saturday, 18th December 2010.

49. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED to confirm and sign minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Thursday 7th October, 2010 [WBTC/4/2010-2011]. Copy previously circulated.

50. MAYORS COMMUNICATIONS

During a short report in which the Mayor drew attention to the various events that she had attended, particular tribute was paid to Wootton Bassett School who had recently achieved “outstanding” in their Ofsted.

RESOLVED that a letter of congratulation be sent to the School on this achievement.

51. PLANNING COMMITTEE

Report on meetings of the Planning Committee held on Thursday, 26th October 2010 [P/7/2010-2011] and Thursday, 4th November 2010 [P/8/2010-2011] Copies previously circulated.

RESOLVED the Reports be adopted.

52. AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Report on a meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 11th November 2010 [A/4/2010-2011]. Copy previously circulated.

RESOLVED the Report be adopted.

53. REVENUE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Report on a meeting of the Revenue and Resources Committee held on Thursday 25th November 2010 [R&R/4/2010-2011]. Copy circulated.

RESOLVED the Report be adopted,

54. TOURIST INFORMATION POINT

Report from the Town Clerk, copy circulated.

The purpose of the Report was to update members on discussions that have been taking place at the Amenities Committee and the Revenue and Resources Committee concerning the possible closure of the Tourist Information Point which is currently located at Wootton Bassett Library.

RESOLVED that the Town Council close the Tourist Information Point located at Wootton Bassett Library.

Further RESOLVED that the staff saving should be used to help the Administration Team meet the current demands that are placed upon them and that during the initial transition period the Administration Team be authorised to help customers with tourism enquiries whilst encouraging them to use other methods of information gathering, such as the internet service on offer at the Library.

55. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

RESOLVED to adopt the Calendar of Meetings for 2011 for the remainder of the current Civic Year and for the 2011/2012 Civic Year. Copy circulated.

Further RESOLVED to note that the Council Meeting in April will now be held on 7th April and not, as originally shown in last year's Calendar on 14th April 2011 as this has been changed in order to facilitate attendance at the Larger Councils Conference.

56. WAR MEMORIAL AND APPRECIATION GIFTS

Report from the Town Clerk, copy circulated.

The purpose of the Report is to update Members of the Council on possible works to the surround of the War Memorial in Wootton Bassett High Street and the construction of a cabinet to display appreciation gifts in the window of 117 High Street, Wootton Bassett.

It was recommended that the Council note the report and authorise the Town Clerk to continue work on each project, consulting the Royal British Legion where appropriate and bring a further report back to the Town Council in the New Year when design solutions become available.

RESOLVED that whilst noting the difficulties with the Health and Safety advice on this matter to leave the existing surround to the War Memorial as it is, repairing it when appropriate.

Further RESOLVED to advertise as broadly as possible for a cabinet maker to provide, at cost, a cabinet for the display of Appreciation Gifts.

57. ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Letter from Tom Blundell, Chairman of the Royal British Legion seeking the Councils support in respect of a matter that is due to be considered before their Committee in January.

The Royal British Legion have been approached seeking support for the erection of a memorial sculpture in Lydiard Park.

The Royal British Legion leadership advised that they feel a little uneasy about becoming involved in a project that is based in Swindon, feeling that Swindon should do what they feel is right.

RESOLVED to fully support the position of the Royal British Legion and communicate this to them.

58. ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2010-2011

Councillors were advised that the effect of Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1982 was that if, when considering budgetary items, any Councillor was in arrears for more than two months with his/her Council Tax, he/she must declare that Section 106 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1982 applies and neither speak nor vote on the matter before Council. Failure to observe this renders the Councillor liable for prosecution by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

It is the responsibility of the Town Council to levy a precept on Wiltshire Council to cover its costs for the 2011/2012 financial year. Wiltshire Council is the charging authority and will collect this on behalf of the Town Council.

Although Standing Committees make budgetary bids and the Revenue and Resources assesses these in making its recommendations to Council, it is the Council alone that has the power to levy the precept.

The Town Council can only levy its precept once per year and this must be submitted to Wiltshire Council no later than the 21st January 2011.

Copies of the documentation were circulated with the Revenue and Resources agenda and remain unchanged.

The Revenue and Resources Committee recommended that the Council adopt a budget with a precept of £787,090 which will represent a decrease on last year's Council Tax of 1.0437 %

A copy of the draft budget previously circulated.

RESOLVED to set a precept of £787,090 which is a decrease on last year's Council Tax of 1.0437%

59. PRESS RELEASES

RESOLVED that the Council issue a press release regarding the display cabinet.

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm

