

WOOTTON BASSETT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Wootton Bassett Town Council held on Thursday the 17th February 2011 at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Station Road, Wootton Bassett.

PRESENT: Councillors Mary Champion, Peter Doyle, Sue Doyle, Linda Frost, Owen Gibbs, Paul Heaphy, Peter Roberts, William Roberts, Jenny Stratton, Ernie Taylor and Steve Walls.

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

60. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mike Leighfield, Audrey Wannell and Chris Wannell.

61. DECLARATION 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.

62. CONFIRMATION OF MINTUES

RESOLVED to confirm and sign Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on the 9th December 2011 [WBTC/ 5/2010-2011]. Copy previously circulated. As a matter arising from Item 56 [WBTC/5/2010-2011] a request for assistance from a cabinet maker has been widely circulated, but to date no response has been forthcoming. Design drawings received prior to the last meeting have been forwarded to the Royal British Legion for their observations.

The Town Clerk reported that a response had been received from the Royal British Legion, who had indicated a preference for one of the two cabinet designs.

RESOLVED that a small working party be established to finalise the designs of the cabinet to be constructed, working party to comprise Councillors Mary Champion, Paul Heaphy, Peter Roberts and two members of the Royal British Legion. Further RESOLVED that an Agenda item be raised at the next Revenue and Resources Committee in order to seek necessary finance for the project.

63. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor advised Members of the following :-

[a] A letter of resignation has been received from Councillor Sanjay Soni, who decided to leave due to personal and family commitments.

It was agreed that that the Mayor would send a suitable letter to Mr Soni, thanking him for his work with the Council.

[b] The Mayor reported on visits to SHAPE Headquarters NATO in Brussels, 10 Downing Street, and advised that she had now attended over 170 functions during the year, not including press interviews and the like.

[c] The Mayor advised that the Town Clerk had forwarded a letter to Wiltshire Council supporting the possible reopening of Wootton Bassett Railway Station, which had been a subject of discussion at the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday the 15th February 2011.

RESOLVED that the Mayors communications be noted.

64. WRITTEN REPORTS

To receive written reports from the following:-

Wootton Bassett Police – Inspector Chris Martin presented the Council with his report, noting that this was his first meeting, having taken up his position as Sector Inspector on the 1st January 2011.

Inspector Martin's report covered neighbourhood policing priorities, Battle of the Bands, the Ride of Respect, scheduled for Mother's Day, some smaller events including one by VW Vintage Vehicles to be held on the 20th of March.

The meeting thanked Inspector Martin for his report.

Wootton Bassett Town Council Vandalism/Crime Log Report

Member of Parliament – Written report from Mr James Gray.

Wiltshire Councillors – Written reports from Councillors Bill Roberts and Mollie Groom.

Area Board representatives – A copy of the Chairman's announcements from the meeting on the 2nd February 2011. She had a number of items pertaining to Wootton Bassett.

RESOLVED to note the above reports.

65. PLANNING COMMITTEE

Report on meetings of the Planning Committee held on Thursday 9th December 2010 [P/9/2010-2011], Thursday 20th January 2011 [P/10/2010-2011] and Thursday 3rd February 2011 [P/11/2010-2011]
Copies previously circulated.

RESOLVED the reports be adopted.

66. AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Report on a meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 6th January 2011 [A/5/2010-2011]. Copy previously circulated.

RESOLVED the report be adopted.

67. REVENUE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Report on a meeting of the Revenue and Resources Committee held on Thursday 27th January 2011 [R&R/5/2010-2011]. Copy previously circulated.

RESOLVED the report be adopted.

68. NOTICE OF MOTION

Notice of motion in the name of Councillor Bill Roberts.

“With the increasingly irresponsible parking on residential roads, particularly at junctions, which have resulted in a number of minor collisions this Council urgently requests the Wiltshire Council to undertake a review, or if one is already planned to advise the date to eliminate the possibility of more serious accidents and allay concerns of affected residents.”

Wiltshire Council had indicated that they hoped to undertake a review of parking in Wootton Bassett before the end of the financial year and so adoption of the above motion could act as a useful reminder that this work is still outstanding.

The Council instructions were sought.

It was suggested that the Notice of motion be amended to read as follows:-

“With the increasingly irresponsible parking on residential roads, particularly at junctions, which have resulted in a number of minor collisions this Council urgently requests the Wiltshire Council to prioritise a parking review for Wootton Bassett.”

Councillor Bill Roberts accepted this amendment.

RESOLVED [a] that the motion as amended be adopted, [b] the Town Clerk circulates advice received from Sergeant Martin Alvis detailing the police powers to manage motorists parking within ten metres of a junction, [c] in the letter sent to Wiltshire Council supporting information from the log books held at the Town Council be included to support this motion.

69. NOMINATION OF MAYOR ELECT

It is normal practice at the February Council Meeting in a non-election year to nominate a Mayor Elect for the forthcoming year. Election years are excluded as it is not clear whether the Mayor Elect would retain their seat at the May Election, or if the political composition of the Council might change.

The advantage of nominating a Mayor Elect is that it not only allows the incoming Mayor to plan their diary but also provides forewarning for those clubs, groups and organisations wishing to invite the Mayor to attend functions.

It is now the practice of the Council, confirmed in its Standing Orders, that the Deputy Mayor should normally become the Mayor.

The Council is asked to consider nominating the Deputy Mayor Councillor Paul Heaphy as Mayor Elect for the forthcoming Civic Year.

Members are also asked to note that with the Alternative Vote referendum scheduled for Thursday 5th May 2011, the Mayor making ceremony will now be held on Tuesday 3rd May 2011 at 7pm in St Bartholomew's Church.

Proposed by Councillor Mary Champion, seconded by Councillor Peter Roberts. RESOLVED that Councillor Paul Heaphy be nominated as Mayor Elect for the forthcoming Civic year.

Further RESOLVED to note the change of date for Mayor making.

70. NOMINATION OF DEPUTY MAYOR ELECT

The Council is asked to consider nominating a Deputy Mayor Elect for the forthcoming Civic Year.

At the December 2004 Council Meeting it became policy for the Deputy Mayor to normally become the Mayor in the following Civic Year. The appointment of Mayor and Deputy Mayor must still be made at the Annual Meeting and can therefore be changed at that time.

The Council was asked to nominate a Deputy Mayor Elect for the forthcoming Civic Year.

Proposed by Councillor Peter Roberts, seconded by Councillor Ernie Taylor and RESOLVED that Councillor Mike Leighfield be nominated Deputy Mayor Elect for the forthcoming Civic year.

71. QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

Councillor Chris Wannell has enquired whether the Council wishes to arrange any celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on Tuesday 5th June 2012, which has already been declared a bank holiday.

At present the Council has no plans for such a celebration and members were asked to consider whether they wish to ask the Events Working Party to investigate this further.

RESOLVED to ask the Events Working Party to investigate this matter further.

Further RESOLVED to invite the Grounds Maintenance Team to consider whether some floral celebration could be made to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

72. WILTSHIRE COUNCIL –WORK PLACE TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

Members were reminded that the Council decided to support the concept of a campus site arrangement for Wootton Bassett. It is now understood that Wootton Bassett has been identified as one of 5 possible pilots in Wiltshire Council's Cabinet papers for Tuesday 15th February 2011.

It is hoped that by the time of the meeting it should be possible to advise the Town Council of the outcome of the Cabinet decision.

The Town Clerk reported that at its meeting on Tuesday the 15th of February 2011 the Cabinet had supported the concept of a campus site arrangement for Wootton Bassett, and had confirmed it as one of the five pilot projects.

The Town Clerk also reported that a presentation would be made at the next Area Board meeting to be held on Wednesday 23rd March 2011 at Lyneham Primary School.

RESOLVED to note the above.

73. PRESS RELEASES

The Committee was asked to consider whether it would like any Press Releases issued in respect of the Committee Agenda items.

RESOLVED to issue Press Releases on the following;-

- Nominations for Mayor and Deputy Mayor Elect
- Notice of Motion
- Queen's Diamond Jubilee – Inviting residents and perhaps schools to bring forward their ideas.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.