

WINCANTON TOWN COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2020 ONLINE & LIVE STREAMED ON YOUTUBE

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 1

MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL PRESS: None.

PROPER OFFICER IN ATTENDANCE: Richard Tyzack Locum Clerk.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Shelbourn-Barrow (Chair), Tugday, Power, Ralph, Vagg, Thomas, Smith, Walters and Greening.

The Chair opened the meeting with a welcome. She reminded members about public participation. She read out the standing orders 3E and 3H that explain this Agenda item. She stressed that it is for a period of 3 minutes for each member of the public to speak. Questions are addressed to the Council and not individual councillors. You must not verbally abuse, bully, or harass a member of council.

She went on to say that the latest copy of the Agenda had not been sent out so after dealing with the first three items on the Agenda she would make a statement indicating what items on the Agenda would change. This is allowed by Standing Orders.

Moving on Councillors indicated they had received all papers for the meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

One member of the public attended for Public Participation. Chair noted Mr Ellard's comments. She responded by stating that the matter will be dealt with at the meeting 23rd November 2020.

0148 APOLOGIES

None.

0149 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Ralph, Greening and Thomas declared a financial interest in Agenda Item No 16.

0150 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

To receive and sign the minutes of Zoom Meeting held on Monday 26th October 2020 in accordance with standing order 12c. (pages 0041 0042 0043 0044 0045). Proposed by Councillor Greening to sign the minutes seconded by Councillor Thomas. Vote 9 FOR.

0151 AGENDA CHANGES

The Chair explained that according to Standing Orders 1g, and 1e amendments may be made to the Agenda provided the changes are made early in the proceedings. She reported the following change:

- Agenda item 13, Annual Community Awards, move back to next meeting 23rd November 2020 because of Data Protection. It will be held as a closed meeting.

Councillor Vagg proposed the above seconded by Councillor Thomas. Vote 9 For.

0152 PLANNING

Councillor Thomas reported application:

20/02744/FUL Erection of one dwelling and ancillary works at land north of Verrington Lane Charlton Musgrove. It is almost part of the development at Whiteball Garages. It is reported there is a pond shown on maps however the pond is no longer there. Neighbour concern raised over drainage and reinstatement of access.

Councillor Vagg asking whether a site visit was required.

Councillor Tudgay thought in this case it was not.

Proposed by Councillor Shelbourn-Barrow to make comment to South Somerset District Council that council notes the neighbour's comments and would expect the developer to take this into account. Vote 8 For 1 Against.

There were no decisions taken by South Somerset District Council to report.

0153 CHEQUE LIST

Councillor Shelbourn-Barrow noted that cheque 10871 should be separated out as Covid supplies and Community Fridge, to clarify any future doubt as the Fridge although purchased through the Council was funded by monetary donation. Councillor Ralph expenses were attributed to Zoom costs. Richard Tyzack Locum Clerk.

Proposed by Councillor Walters to accept the cheque list seconded by Councillor Power. Vote: 9 For. Councillors Vagg and Walters to sign the cheques.

0154 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN

Chair tabled a statement from the internal accountant that she had extracted the relevant figures from Sage onto the AGAR and cannot make the box 7 and 8 agree. It is acceptable to have a difference so long as the reason can be shown. She is confident that the bank balances are correct. But there are still two accounts to sight. The suggestion is to hire an experienced internal auditor. The estimated cost is between £700 and £800. However, protect £1000.

The external Auditor has been informed the 9th November 2020 extension date cannot be met and the further extension on the 13th November 2020. Somerset Association of Local Councils has been advised of the Councils position and the proposal to secure an experienced Internal Auditor to identify the variation in the AGARs.

Councillors had no questions at this stage.

The Chair went on to say that council needs to appoint an experienced Accountant to identify the discrepancy in the figures. Wincanton Town Council will be placed on a list of councils who have not submitted the AGAR for 2019/2020.

Proposed by Councillor Tudgay to allocate £1000 for an Internal Auditor. Seconded by Councillor Smith. Vote 9 For.

0155 FINANCE REPORT

Council noted the Finance Report for 2020. The plan is to have monthly and quarterly reports.

0156 PRECEPT

Council noted the Precept Schedule.

0157 PLANNING COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Proposed by Councillor Tudgay to accept the Planning Committee Terms of Reference but omit the names of councillors. Seconded by Councillor Ralph. Vote For 9.

0158 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR YOUTH OUTREACH TERMS OF REFERENCE AND PROPOSAL

Proposed by Councillor Ralph to approve the terms of reference. Seconded by Councillor Power. Vote 9 For.

Chair reported the proposal for youth engagement in the town for one month at a cost of £1150 or for three months for £3450. There was a further offer for a year. The use of a detached vehicle and costs. To support and enable young people under 25, to have a voice and be heard. Another idea to be explored was to have a youth council, workshops, webinars with parents and police to work closely with schools regarding anti-social behaviour.

Councillor Greening agreed it in principle a good proposal. He went on to say that he thought this channel of communication already exists. Where in the precept would this money come from? Councillor Greening suggested this for next year precept.

Councillor Vagg commented that it is not a good time to agree this as the town is locked down at present.

Councillor Tudgay echoed Councillor Greening comments. He thought there was scope for this even outside of the budget.

The Chair replied she thought that a skill set is required to communicate with youth. Noting all comments, she proposed.

Councillor Power requested that this proposal and meeting minutes be sent to all Councillors.

Chair responded.

Councillor Tudgay suggested bringing this back at a future meeting.

Councillor Greening suggested a 1-month trial.

Chair noted. This proposal will be deferred to a future meeting.

0159 ABSENCE MANAGEMENT POLICY

Proposed by Councillor Vagg to approve the absence management policy. Seconded by Councillor Walters. Vote 9 For.

0160 PERSONNEL TERMS OF REFERENCE

Proposed by Cllr Tudgay to adopt the amended Personnel Terms of Reference. Seconded by Cllr Ralph. Vote 9 For.

0161 WINCANTON TOWN CRIER

Chair refreshed Councillors on the proposal of a Town Crier. It is part of the towns history from the 1800's. It will help the town stand out in individuality. The residents were in favour of it. The role has been through the personnel committee and prior to that the Stakeholder Group. It is an unpaid role. There is a small Honorarium.

The incumbent would wear regalia and would have an agreed plan of activities to promote the town to increase visitors and its history. There will be a competition in early summer 2021.

Proposed by Councillor Power to approve Wincanton Town Crier Recruitment Plan. Seconded by Councillor Ralph. Vote 9 For.

0162 BADGER CULLING ON WINCANTON TOWN COUNCIL LAND

Chair appraised Councillors on the proposal by South Somerset District Council (SSDC) to refuse badger culling on SSDC land. Did Cllrs wish to support them and to refuse culling on Wincanton Town Council Land?

Councillor Vagg stated she is firmly against culling badgers.

Councillor Vagg proposed to support SSDC and refuse culling on town council land. Seconded by Councillor Smith. Vote 9 For.

0163 WINCANTON STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Chair reported the recommendations from the Stakeholder Group and approve Application for Wincanton Town Festival Lights. Due to take place in February half term 12th Feb 2021.

Councillor Tudgay asked for any contingency plans if still semi locked down.

Councillor Greening replied they will be Covid secure. There are limited financial consequences. Monies are ringfenced.

Councillor Tudgay questioned bringing people into town.

Councillor Greening said Gov guidelines will be followed.

Chair replied that grant funded items are refunded if an event does not take place.

Councillor Greening asked if Good Stuff fund will be in next year precept?

Chair replied she would like to continue the funding however this will be discussed further in the budget planning for 2021/22

Councillors Ralph, Greening and Thomas declared a financial interest were placed in the waiting room.

Councillor Power asked for clarification on grant monies given to Councillors.

Chair reported it has gone through governance for grants and standing orders requirement for councillors to declare an interest.

Councillor Vagg proposed £1000 be provided for a Festival of Lights in Wincanton. Seconded by Councillor Walters. Vote 5 For 1 Against. Motion carried.

0164 WINCANTON TOWN OFFER

Chair reported the Town Offer from November 2020 through to March 2021. Access to services in need. The main food bank and parcels will be offered through the community church. The wider offer is from CAB and other services for health and wellbeing.

The community fridge is part of our Wincanton Ecological Environment Charter to reduce food waste and landfill for all residents to access.

Councillor Tudgay proposed to approve Wincanton Town Offer. Seconded by Councillor Smith. Vote 9 For.

0165 WINCANTON TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC STATEMENT

Proposed by Councillor Greening to approve the 2nd Town Council Statement. Seconded by Councillor Thomas. Vote For 9.

0166 CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter on 4th November regarding the Town Meeting. Do the Town Council intend to organise the Town Meeting?

Reply:

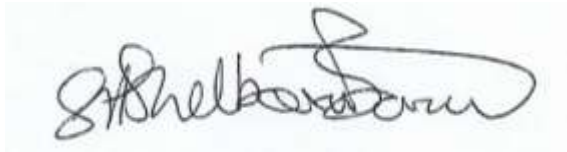
Proposed by Councillor Ralph that Council will not hold/organise the requested Town Meeting but will cover the cost. However, you are invited to attend the Annual Town Meeting in 2021 instead so that only one expenditure will incur. Seconded by Councillor Greening. Vote 9 For.

0167 ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION FOR NEXT AGENDA

Signage in marketplace.
AGAR
Finance report
Carpark Contract
Annual Community Awards

The meeting closed at 20:58

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Shelton', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Date: 7th December 2020