



WINCANTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2020 IN THE TOWN HALL

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Two

MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL PRESS: None

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Sam Atherton, Town Clerk

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Shelbourn Barrow (Chairman), Tudgay (Vice-Chairman), Eadington, Vagg, Hearne, Smith, Old, Rodgers, Greening, Hinks, and Power

COUNTY COUNCILLOR: County Councillor Groskop.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS: Councillors Colbert and Winder.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A North Street resident spoke about the patch of land at the bottom of North Street. Since it has been renovated, residents are unable to park there as cars from other areas of the Town are parking there. The Chairman explained that area is in the process of being transferred to the Town Council. The Clerk will inform the resident when Council will be discussing the land transfer.

A resident talked about the renovation work at the skate park. Vehicles are parking on the footpath, forcing people to push their prams over the mud area. The Clerk will speak to the contractors.

0818 APOLOGIES

Councillors Walters, Galitzine and Thomas.

0819 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

0820 POLICE REPORT

Council noted the Police report. The Clerk is awaiting a response to the request for regular meetings with the Police.

0821 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Monday 10th February 2020 (minute 0803-0817). Proposed by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Rogers, the minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

0822 PLANNING:

Application recommended for approval

20/00145/ADV Display of 3 illuminated fascia signs, 1 internally illuminated pylon sign and 1 non-illuminated directional sign. F J Chalk Ltd, Saxon Way. Proposed by Cllr Rogers, seconded by Cllr Vagg. Vote: Unanimous.

0823 VERBAL REPORTS AND FEEDBACK

County Councillor

Councillor Groskop confirmed the Somerset County Council budget has been approved, with no more cuts for 3 years. She also talked about climate change and how Somerset County Council will be working with Town and Parish Councils to discuss the policy.

Councillor Groskop talked about the introduction of 5G and informed Council to write to SSDC Democratic Services to express their opinion. Wincanton Primary School will shortly have their ofsted inspection. The Chairman asked Councillor Groskop about the introduction of 20mph outside schools in Somerset. Councillor Groskop advised Council to write to Somerset County Council's Highways department to state how much it is needed at Wincanton Schools. Councillor Groskop also talked about parking in general around the Town and suggested Council should contact the Highways department to determine a parking strategy for the Town.

South Somerset District Councillors

Councillor Colbert talked about how disorganised South Somerset District Council are, lack of communication with the Town Council regarding Churchfield car park sale and lack of public consultation. He also spoke about the effects of the transformation at SSDC, how the planning department is falling apart and the cost per day to hire agency staff. He has written to the leader of both the District and County Councils. Councillor Colbert talked about unification and how it would enhance the powers of the Town Council. He is pleased with the positive approach the Town Council have adopted for the regeneration plan. Finally Councillor Colbert spoke about the backlog of planning applications at SSDC.

Councillor Winder talked about the South Somerset Local Plan and how Wincanton has been affected by it. There is a lack of balance between housing and employment opportunities. Councillor Winder has written to the Member of Parliament to discuss why Wincanton has more applications for major developments than Yeovil. The Chairman asked the District Councillors how the Town Council can support Councillor Winder's complaint as there should be a policy to balance housing and jobs. Councillor Winder asked the Town Council to support his complaint by also writing to the Member of Parliament.

Chairman of the Council

The Chairman updated Council on the Wincanton Stakeholders meeting, the Wincanton for the Future phase 1 plan and the Good Stuff fund. The Chairman said the plan was draft and asked Councillors if they had any comments relating to named Councillors. The group are now looking at a Communications & Marketing plan to support the communication of the Good Stuff Fund from April as part of the marketing of the Town. The Chairman had met with a local developer to discuss the stakeholder group's plans for the Town. The Chairman informed Council a free stand has been given to the Town Council for the Business Expo 2020 event, which will be held at Wincanton Racecourse Thursday 23rd April 2020. The Chairman attended the Institution and installation of The Reverend Alison Way at the St Peter & St Paul's Church to present a map of the Town.

Council representatives to outside bodies

Councillor Rogers attended the Winibus coffee morning held in Bruton and also attended the Church event along with Councillor Hinks.

The Chairman reminded Councillors to contact Justin Robinson either by email or phone to talk about any training needs. The feedback event will be held the end of March.

0824 CHEQUE LIST

On a proposal from Councillor Eadington and seconded by Councillor Tudgay, the cheque list was approved. Councillors Hinks and Tudgay will sign the cheques Tuesday 25th February 2020.

0825 CIVIC AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Council noted the events list for the next financial year, April 2020. The Chairman asked for clarification on the date of the afternoon tea event for the VE celebrations, Christmas celebrations and Market Town Investment Group meeting alongside civic events in the Town.

0826 WINCANTON FOR THE FUTURE

Councillor Galitzine did not have an update for Council on the meeting for the SSDC Regeneration Stakeholder Group. Council agreed when the agenda is released for the next meeting, Council will submit any questions they have to Councillor Galitzine to take to the meeting. On a proposal from Councillor Tudgay, seconded by Councillor Vagg, Council voted unanimously to adopt the terms of reference for the Good Stuff Fund. On a proposal from Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor

Smith, Council agreed the phase 1 for the Wincanton Stakeholder Group. Councillor Old abstained from voting. The Chairman talked about the Good Stuff Fund application process and a new email for applications and correspondence will be created for the Town Council website, for all applications, enquiries for the Wincanton for the Future Stakeholder Group to access. The Chairman asked Councillors if they required any further information from the Stakeholder Group and stated the group are clear on the parameters of spending public money. Any groups that receive funding from the Good Stuff Fund will be held to account on how they money was spent and if not spent, it will be returned.

0827 RESERVES POLICY

On a proposal from Councillor Tudgay, seconded by Councillor Smith, Council voted unanimously to adopt the Reserves Policy.

0828 WEEP (Wincanton Environmental Ecological Plan)

The Chairman stated the Terms of Reference are now in place and talked about the actions from the last meeting. Councillor Greening, Tudgay and the Clerk had met with the One Planet Wincanton representative to talk about the re-wilding of the picnic area at Carrington Way and adjacent to the path at Coneygore. The representative will submit her plans shortly. They also discussed disability access for the picnic area. Councillor Tudgay briefed Council on the accessibility of the picnic area and costs to improve it, asking Council to keep it in mind as a long term project. The Chairman talked about the old allotment site at Overton and as the criteria for Somerset County Council's Climate Fund is not known yet, that area of land may be suitable for a funding application. The Chairman stated the importance of developing project proposals, so when funding is available the bids can be submitted.

0829 POLICY ON COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

On a proposal from Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Power, Council voted unanimously to adopt the new policy.

0830 CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND

After discussion, Councillor Greening proposed that Council become members of the Campaign to Protect Rural England. This was seconded by Councillor Vagg. Vote: unanimous.

0831 CORRESPONDENCE AND CLERKS REPORT:

Email confirming the Climate Emergency Community training at the Town Hall Tuesday 25th February 2020.

Email confirming Somerset County Council Road show will be in Wincanton 16th May 2020.

Confirmation the Clerk will attend the LGR Event in Frome, Thursday 5th March 2020.

The Clerk asked if the Christmas Working Group had a date for the first meeting. The group will meet soon to discuss Christmas decorations for 2020.

0832 ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

None.

The meeting ended at 20.25pm

Signed

Dated: 9th March 2020