



WINCANTON TOWN COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 26th APRIL 2021 ONLINE VIA ZOOM AND LIVE STREAMED ON YOUTUBE

In Attendance:

Town Councillors: Shelbourn-Barrow (Chair), Greening (from 0232 b.) Power, Ralph, Smith, Thomas, Tudgay, Vagg and Walters

County Councillor: Anna Groskop

Locum Clerk: Patrick Pender-Cudlip

One member of the public

The meeting started at 19:01.

The Chair welcomed everyone and explained that the Annual Parish Meeting scheduled for 18:00 had been postponed because the notice given was not in accordance with the legislative requirements. All Councillors present confirmed that they had received the supporting papers before the Council meeting.

19:04 – The Chair allowed a public open session.

A member of the public expressed gratitude for the time and effort invested by Councillors in a very difficult year, even if this was not fully appreciated by all residents.

19:05 – After thanking the member of the public for remarks which were much appreciated the Chair brought the public open session to a close.

19:06 – a member of the public left and the meeting proper started

0230 APOLOGIES

No apologies had been received by Councillors or the locum Clerk but the Assistant Clerk would check whether any apologies had been sent to the Council offices but had not yet come to light.

0231 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

0232 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a. To note the minutes of the previous meeting of the Full Council

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor Smith and unanimously agreed to approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting of 22nd March, as presented.

19:10 Councillor Greening joined the meeting

b. To note the draft minutes from the Planning Committee meeting held on 8th March 2021.
Noted

c. To note the draft minutes from the Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 10th March 2021.
Noted.

0233 TO REVIEW ACTION POINTS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

- a. To order and collect new equipment from Hunts Forestry (action point 21022/7)
Councillor Tudgay agreed to follow this up. He reported later in the meeting (at 19:16) that two of the three pieces of equipment had been delivered and only the strimmer was still awaited.
- b. To arrange repair of tarmacked area of Multi User Games Area (MUGA).
Councillor Tudgay reported that the Works Supervisor had confirmed that the work had been completed to a satisfactory standard.

0234 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Councillor Anna Groskop had circulated her written report previously. She informed the Council of a telephone call she had received from a resident concerned about the dangers faced by school children crossing the increasingly busy road Silver Street/The Batch near Travis Perkins. She had reported the problem to Somerset County Council Highways Department (Highways) and suggested that an expression of concern by the Town Council might help. Councillors discussed the problem and agreed to explore possible solutions with Highways and to pass on the information to the schools so that parents could be made aware.

Action 210422/1: Locum Clerk to contact Highways, Councillor Greening to contact schools

0235 COUNCIL MATTERS

- a. To note Annual Report 2020/21
It was explained that the Annual Report had not yet been presented because the Annual Parish Meeting had been postponed.
RESOLVED: It was proposed by Councillor Tudgay, seconded by Councillor Ralph and agreed unanimously to postpone the noting of the Annual Report until the date of the Annual Town Meeting had been confirmed.
- b. To reinstate and confirm the membership of the Car Parking Committee.
It was explained that Councillors Smith, Thomas, Vagg, Power and Shelbourn-Barrow are currently listed as Committee members and that if the Committee were reinstated its membership would be reviewed at the Annual Meeting of the Town Council on 4th May.
RESOLVED: It was proposed by Councillor Shelbourn-Barrow, seconded by Councillor Thomas and agreed unanimously to reinstate the Car Parking Committee with its current membership.

0236 FINANCE

- a. To approve the April 2021 payment list and agree two Councillors to sign cheques.
RESOLVED: It was proposed by Councillor Tudgay, seconded by Councillor Power and agreed unanimously to approve the payments list.
It was agreed that Councillors Walters and Vagg would sign the cheques.
- b. To consider Grant applications for approval.
Grant application letters eligible for approval had been received from MHA South Somerset, The Balsam Centre, Wincanton Recreational Ground (sports ground), Wincanton District Museum and History Society, South Somerset Community Accessible Transport, Wincanton District Gardeners, Wincanton Over 70s Christmas Lunch, and Wincanton War Memorial Hall. A grant application for South Somerset Citizen's Advice was ineligible on account of being submitted too late.
RESOLVED: It was proposed by Councillor Powers, seconded by Councillor Walters and agreed unanimously to approve the eligible grant applications.
- c. S106 and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payments – to consider and agree actions.
The Town Council has asked the District and County Councils to clarify details of potentially available S106 and CIL grants so that the formal documentation can be completed.
RESOLVED: It was proposed by Councillor Ralph, seconded by Councillor Tudgay and agreed unanimously that this item be referred to the Finance Committee to consider at its meeting so that it could make recommendations for the Full Council to consider at its next meeting.

0237 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

To consider the exclusion of the press and public for the remainder of the meeting under the Public Bodies Admissions to Meetings Act 1960, Section 1 (2) on the grounds that discussion of the following business is likely to disclose confidential information relating to residents or business activity.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Councillor Ralph, seconded by Councillor Tudgay and agreed unanimously that members of the public and press be excluded.

19:35 – The meeting was closed to members of the public and press.

0238 CAR PARK COMPENSATION AGREEMENT

Councillors discussed costs, funding and legal advice.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Councillor Tudgay, seconded by Councillor Thomas and agreed unanimously that the Council would take further legal advice and then respond to South Somerset District Council

Action 210422/2: Locum Clerk to contact SSDC.

0239 UNITY TRUST BANK

It was agreed that the locum Clerk would have access to arrange for the Council's bank accounts to be transferred to the Unity Trust Bank with all possible speed and to close the Nat West bank account.

0240 THE FLAG INCIDENT

In the course of a detailed discussion Councillors emphasised the paramount importance of mutual respect and courtesy in dealings between Council staff or members and members of the public, and also the Council's duty of care to its staff.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor Smith and agreed unanimously that the Council would publish a communication statement emphasising the importance of courtesy and mutual respect in all dealings between Council members or staff and members of the public, and noted that the incidents have been reported to the Police.

Action 210422/3: Councillor Ralph to prepare a Communication statement on behalf of Council. Councillor Shelbourn-Barrow to contact the Police for an update.

0241 BANKING CONFIDENTIALITY

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor Thomas and agreed unanimously that the Council would investigate a serious breach of banking confidentiality and report to the Ombudsman.

Action 210422/4: Locum Clerk to pursue the matter with Natwest Bank and the Banking Ombudsman.

0242 ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- a. Planting scheme for the roundabout near Morrisons.
- b. Refuse bins for the skatepark and recreation field, to be considered by the Open Spaces Committee
- c. Risk Assessment for return to Council meetings in the Town Hall Chamber.
- d. The resumption of face-to-face meetings.

The meeting finished at 20:57