

OLNEY TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting of Olney Town Council held via MS Teams Monday 8th June 2020 at 7.00pm

Present: Jeremy Rawlings, Deirdre Bethune, Stephen Clark, Paul Collins, Desmond Eley, Joanne Eley, Peter Geary, Graham Harrison, Malcolm Messenger, Dr Sally Pezaro, Colin Rodden, Chris Tennant.

In attendance: Andrea Vincent (Town Clerk), Sarah Kennedy (Deputy Town Clerk)

Cllr Rawlings notified everybody that the meeting was being recorded to assist with the production of accurate minutes.

Public Forum:

The Town Clerk presented a query from a member of the public who had asked if local retailers around the Market Place could use the inner Market Place as an outside retail area. There was some discussion, however it was explained that public items are not to be discussed at meetings if they are not on the agenda.

Resolution: It was decided that this item can go on the next Recs & Services meeting (date TBA).

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Whitworth – IT issues

Cllr Sally Pezaro - noted that she will try to join the meeting later.

Cllr Tennant – IT issues (joined the meeting later)

2. Declarations of interests on items on the agenda

NB During the meeting if it becomes apparent that you have an interest in an item being discussed this must be declared immediately.

Cllr Rawlings declared an interest in Item 5 as the company he is employed by had provided a quote for the proposed IT equipment for Olney Town Council office. It was agreed that he would step down for Item 5 and if Cllr Pezaro, as Deputy Mayor, wasn't present at the time Cllr Clark would present that item.

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Resolved: Agreed

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 4th May 2020

Changes to Item 9 required - Cllr Rodden requested Item 9 is amended include his name as he also proposed changes to the Agenda and Minute policy.

Resolved: To make above changes then agreed.

4. To receive the Town Clerks report

Each item on the report was discussed.

Resolved:

Staffing: Council agreed that the 2 jobs (FT Groundsman and PT Caretaker) can now be advertised, and the Cleaning Contract will be put out to tender.

Covid 19 Plan: It was resolved to ask the Covid 19 group for a progress report.

Landscaping: Complaints noted over the misuse of the Recreational area. Recs & Services to work with the police and JUG to formulate a plan and Town Clerk to contact Environmental Health with regards to the fields and surrounds containing human faeces.

Rugby Club: It was noted that we would be speaking to The Rugby Club regarding the arrangement of ongoing work the Council carries out for them. Cllrs are aware of 3 planning applications submitted by the Rugby Club and it was resolved that there would be a Teams Planning Meeting arranged to look specifically those 3 planning applications on Monday 15th June at 7pm.

5. To review IT equipment quotes for the office

Cllr Clark took over the meeting and Cllr Rawlings stepped down for this item (Cllr Pezaro was not present at this point).

Resolved:

It was stated that the purchase of IT equipment was in the budget for 2020/2021.

It was agreed that we would purchase equipment from Amazon. This was proposed by Cllr Collins and seconded by Cllr D Eley.

6. To agree position statement re Dickens

Discussion took place regarding the best way to move forward.

Resolved: The position statement is that in principal we will have a much smaller local event. The final decision as to whether this will be able to take place will be made in September.

7. To review the schedule of payments

Cllr Collins highlighted that the annual precept, half of which was paid to Olney Town Council in April, hasn't been included as 1/12 of the profit and loss for May 2020 so the outcome is not quite as bad as it appears.

Cllr Collins highlighted the need for the budget for 20/21 to be revisited.

Town Clerk is investigating the possibility of any available grants because of the deficit caused by Covid.

Resolved: Approved

8. To receive reports for Chairs of Committees and attendees of external meetings

The Council expressed thanks to Allotment Association for the maintenance of the paths in the allotments.

The Market Place toilets were discussed. The meeting was reminded that at the last Recs & Services meeting (10th February 2020) that it was agreed that feedback would be obtained from retailers as to what their position would be to provide the use of their facilities, if the toilet block on the Market Place were to be closed permanently.

The Rest of the report was noted.

The next Olney Town Meeting is scheduled for 6th July 2020 @ 7.30pm