

**LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING**

**28 JANUARY 2019 AT 1930 HOURS**

Present: Councillors

- A Brandham
- S Cotter
- A Dodwell
- T Morris
- C Palmer
- C Perham
- G Perham
- D Bowater
- K Ferguson
- S Rahman
- E Wallace
- K Cursons
- S Ward
- J M Freeman
- F Kharawala
- S Jones
- C Chambers
- R Berry
- B Spurr

Also in attendance:

- M Saccoccio (Town Clerk)
- S Sandiford (Head of Democratic and Central Services)
- Ian Haynes, (Head of Grounds and Environmental Services)
- J Bradley (Stockton Bradley Associates)

Members of the Public: 6

**274 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received and were accepted from Councillor D Peham.

**275 DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Members were asked to declare any interests, and the nature of those interests, that they might have in any of the items under consideration at the meeting.

Councillor C Palmer declared a personal, non-pecuniary interest in agenda items relating to the Friends of Leighton-Linlade in Bloom.

**276 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor C Palmer advised Council that since the last meeting at the end of September, he had attended 58 engagements as Town Mayor, of which two thirds had taken place within the town and one third outside the parish.

Highlights included the magnificent Remembrance Day parade and commemorations, the presentation of a Youth Promise grant cheque to the Naval Cadets, the Living History Day and Christmas Festival community events, the Christmas lunch for older people organised by the young people at the Teenage Advice and Information Centre, two excellent productions held at local schools, the opening of a store at the Grovebury Road trading estate and many Christmas carol services. Events outside the town had included a number of Civic Services and events held by Mayors of neighbouring towns.

The Mayor advised that he had hosted several charity fundraising events and thanked all those who had supported him in organising and attending these. To date, over £5,500 had been raised for this year's chosen charities. Forthcoming fundraising events included a quiz night, a joint quiz with KidsOut, a Spring Fayre to be held at Astral Park and a bingo night. It was also noted that the annual Civic Service would be taking place at St Barnabas Church on Sunday, 24 February at 3pm.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor D Bowater, reported that he had attended the ceremonies for Armistice Day in the French twin town of Coulommiers.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Bowater for deputising for him when required and to fellow councillors for their support.

**277 LEADERS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor E Wallace thanked the Mayor for his continued efforts on behalf of the Town and local charities.

Councillor Wallace highlighted the Youth Promise grant scheme, which had allowed for £150,000 of grant funding to be distributed to a number of local organisations providing activities for young people. The aim of the funding was to increase capacity for youth provision in the town and as the delivery phase was now underway, it would be exciting to see the results and the impact of the grant funds.

Councillor Wallace expressed thanks to everyone at the Town Council for their efforts in ensuring that despite the growth of the town, services could continue to be delivered effectively and within budget, allowing the precept to remain unchanged in 2019-2020, for the seventh consecutive year.

Councillor J M Freeman spoke to Council regarding the recent sad loss of Mrs Maureen Brown, who along with her husband Paul had given the Town Council much support through the Leighton Buzzard and District Historical and

Archaeological Society. It was agreed that the Town Clerk should write to Mr Brown on behalf of the Council to express its thanks and condolences.

## 278 QUESTIONS

(a) A member of the public and representative of the Croquet Club addressed Council regarding the potential refurbishment of the sports and community pavilion at Pages Park. The Club had been formed in 2000 and had grown steadily, with now over 50 members of all ages, seven of whom were in the top 300 players in the country. The Club provided refreshment and tuition to visitors and hosted other clubs for competition purposes. The Club hoped that the proposed refurbishment would help address a current lack of adequate facilities at Pages Park.

Two members of the public and representatives of the Pages Park Play Café spoke to thank the Council for its support over the last 18 months, in allowing their vision of a safe, fun, welcoming environment for children and families to become a reality. It was felt that the Play Café had brought the building to life, as evidenced in the broad range of daily customers. This increased usage had in itself led to an increase in other bookings for the facility, such as birthday parties.

Members of the public were thanked for attending the meeting.

(b) No questions had been received from Councillors

## 279 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Council received the draft minutes of the previous Council meeting held on 24 September 2018 for consideration.

Minute reference 266 (Committee minutes): it was noted that disappointingly, development of land south of the High Street no longer appeared to be a priority for the local authority.

Minute reference 273 (Town Council Matters): it was anticipated that the funds allocated for legal matters should be sufficient to cover costs.

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 24 September 2018 be approved as a correct record and were signed accordingly.**

## 280 COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council received the draft minutes of Committee meetings held since the Council Meeting on 24 September 2018.

**RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the following meetings**

**(a) Planning & Transport Committee 3 October 2018**

- (b) Cultural & Economic Services Committee 15 October 2018**
- (c) Planning & Transport Committee 24 October 2018**
- (d) Planning & Transport Committee 14 November 2018**

Minute reference 421/P: it was noted that the planning appeal by Paul Newman Homes on land at Valley Farm had been dismissed and was hoped that the Aylesbury Vale draft Local Plan would be approved, so that the land would be clearly designated Green Belt.

- (e) Policy & Finance Committee 19 November 2018**
- (f) Partnership Committee 29 November 2018**
- (g) Grounds & Environmental Services Committee 3 December 2018**
- (h) Cultural & Economic Services Committee 10 December 2018**

Minute reference 150/CE (Heritage Trail): Council gave consideration to the recommendations in respect of funding for a Heritage Trail. On being put to the vote, recommendations were carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) that option A be endorsed.**
  - (ii) that a set-up budget of up to £40,000 (to include any contingency) be allocated to the project utilising the ringfenced budget (£122,000).**
  - (iii) that the first year's running costs of £7,000 for financial year 2020/21, be allocated from the same ringfenced budget (£122,000).**
- (j) Planning & Transport Committee 12 December 2018**
  - (k) Planning & Transport Committee 9 January 2019**
  - (l) Policy & Finance Committee 21 January 2019**

Minute reference 444/PF (Calendar of Meetings 2019-2020): Council gave consideration to the proposed Calendar of Meetings for the municipal year 2019-2020. On being put to the vote, the recommendation was carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED to approve the Calendar of Meetings for 2019-2020.**

**281**

**STANDING ORDERS**

Council received and considered a report recommending proposed amendments to Standing Orders, as agreed by the Standing Orders Task and Finish Group and the Policy and Finance Committee. Proposed amendments were primarily to incorporate references to new legislation since 2015 and to alter the format/numbering to reflect the NALC Model Standing Orders.

It was noted that on being proposed and seconded, the item would stand adjourned until the next meeting of Council, at which time, if approved by a vote, the changes would take effect. On being put to the vote, the recommendations were carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED that in accordance with Standing Order 28 (b), proposed changes to Town Council Standing Orders would stand adjourned without discussion until the next meeting of Council on 29 April 2019.**

## **282 BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2019-2020**

Council received a report and a proposed budget for the financial year 2019-2020 and was asked to approve this budget and set the precept for 2019-2020. It was noted that the proposed budget had been reviewed by all Town Council standing committees and was recommended for approval by the Policy and Finance Committee. The proposed budget would leave the precept paid by the taxpayer unchanged for the seventh consecutive year.

It was proposed and seconded that the budget be approved and no change be made to the previous year's precept of £149.58 for a Band D equivalent. On being put to the vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED to approve the budget for 2019-2020.**

**RESOLVED to approve a precept of £2,162,328 for 2019-2020, the proposed band D dwelling amount being unchanged at £149.58 for the 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.**

## **283 TOWN COUNCIL OBJECTIVES 2019-2024**

The Town Clerk gave a verbal presentation regarding proposed Town Council objectives for the next five years. It was noted that many of the objectives contained within the three year plan for 2015-2018 had been achieved or were ongoing. On undertaking the residents' survey in Autumn 2018, one of the aims had been to seek views on proposed objectives for the next five years. These were focussed on four main, overarching themes relating to efficiencies, growth, vitality of the town and town centre, and great open spaces.

It was noted that the proposed five year plan would be a living document and could be amended and added to by the new Council administration after May 2019. In the meantime however, the plan would provide direction to the Town Council beyond the fulfilment of its day to day duties and services.

Council received a written draft of the five year plan and objectives for 2019-2024 for consideration. On being put to the vote, approval of the plan was agreed unanimously.

**RESOLVED to endorse the Five Year Plan and Objectives for 2019-2024.**

## **284 RISK REGISTER ACTION PLAN**

Further to the recommendation made by the Policy and Finance Committee on 21 January 2019 (minute reference 443/PF), Council received and was asked to consider endorsing the Risk Register Action Plan for 2019-2020. It was noted

that there were only two areas requiring action; one was ongoing from the previous year and the other was in the process of being addressed.

**RESOLVED to endorse the Risk Register Action Plan for 2019-2020, to be signed by the Town Mayor and the Responsible Financial Officer.**

## **285 TAXI RANK**

Council received a report regarding the town centre taxi rank and considered the recommendations contained therein. A number of Councillors expressed frustration at the length of time that the relocation of the taxi rank had been discussed over the years and the lack of a solution. Whilst there was felt to be merit in continuing to seek a way forward, the clear view was that no Town Council funds should be spent on a matter which might then not proceed any further.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk should write to the Chief Executive, Leader and appropriate Portfolio Holder at Central Bedfordshire Council to express the Town Council's ongoing concerns and frustrations at the delay in reaching a resolution on the matter of the town centre taxi rank, which was felt to currently be adversely impacting on the town centre and a matter of concern in relation to public safety, particularly on market days.

**RESOLVED that -**

- (i) the Town Council agrees that in partnership with Central Bedfordshire Council a review and feasibility study be carried out into the merits of relocating the taxi rank;**
- (ii) Central Bedfordshire Council as highways and licensing authority project manage on behalf of the Town Council.**

## **286 REPORT FROM CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS**

A brief verbal update was given in relation to funding being provided to local schools as a result of the sugar tax. Discussion also took place regarding the issue of capacity of local GP practices and the potential for establishing a health hub in the future.

## **287 HONORARY BURGESS NOMINATIONS 2019**

Council received and considered a nomination for the 2019 Honorary Burgess award, as recommended by the Grants & Awards Sub-Committee on 5 November 2018 and the Policy and Finance Committee on 21 January 2019. On being put to the vote, the recommendation was carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED to award the Title of Dignity of the 2019 Honorary Burgess of Leighton-Linslade to Peter Hailes, in recognition of his years of voluntary service to the community.**

**288 CORPORATE BEHAVIOURS**

Further to the Personnel Sub-Committee meeting held on 7 January 2019, Council received a report regarding corporate behaviours and considered recommendations contained therein.

**RESOLVED to defer further consideration to a later date.**

**289 POLICE CRIME COMMISSIONER**

Council received and considered correspondence dated 22 January 2019 from the Police Crime Commissioner. A number of Councillors spoke and it was widely agreed that the proposal put forward by the Commissioner should be declined.

**RESOLVED to delegate authority to the Town Clerk to reply to the Police Crime Commissioner on behalf of the Council.**

**290 APPOINTMENT OF OUTSIDE BODIES**

A request had been received from Councillor C Chambers to stand down as the appointed representative to the Carnival Committee.

**RESOLVED to appoint Councillor S Ward as the Town Council representative to the Carnival Committee for the remainder of the 2018-19 municipal year.**

**291 APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES**

No changes were made to committees.

**292 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED that, under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded on the grounds of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, which involves the likely disclosure of exempt information. The public and press to withdraw from the meeting during consideration of detailed discussion regarding Pages Park Pavilion.**

**293 PAGES PARK PAVILION**

Council received a brief verbal presentation regarding the proposed refurbishment of the pavilion building at Pages Park. The project had been included within the five year financial plan for some time and the condition of the building necessitated action. The project had been discussed in detail by the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee and a recommendation to release the funds had been put forward to Council by the Policy and Finance Committee on 21 January 2019.

A number of views were expressed and questions asked. Council sought clarification regarding the tendering process and the marketing plan for the refurbished facility. It was suggested that the recommendations made by the Policy and Finance Committee be approved, subject to satisfactory clarification on these two points. It was agreed that two additional Councillors join the existing Astral Park Task and Finish group to review these two matters. On being put to the vote, the proposal was carried (fifteen in favour, one against, two abstentions).

**RESOLVED** that, subject to approval by the Astral Park Task and Finish group of the tendering process and the marketing plan for Pages Park Pavilion, the following expenditure be approved from the Future Projects budget, as outlined within the five year financial plan, for the full refurbishment of the Pages Park Pavilion:

<b>i) Preliminary</b>	<b>£15,000.00</b>
<b>ii) Internal alternations</b>	<b>£131,290.00</b>
<b>iii) External alterations</b>	<b>£43,740.00</b>
<b>iv) Drainage</b>	<b>£30,600.00</b>
<b>v) Mechanical and Electrical</b>	<b>£107,200.00</b>
<b>vi) Decorations</b>	<b>£11,400.00</b>
<b>vii) Ancillary</b>	<b>£11,450.00</b>
<b>viii) Contingency</b>	<b>£10,000.00</b>
<b>Minus external funding secured already</b>	<b>£30,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£330,680.00</b>

The meeting closed at 2129 hours.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A CORRECT AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28 JANUARY 2019.

Chair

29 APRIL 2019