

CALNE TOWN COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held in the Large Hall on Monday 15 September 2014

PRESENT:

Councillor Ms H E Canfer – Town Mayor
Councillor H R Marshall – Deputy Town Mayor
Councillor Mrs G J Ansell
Councillor Mrs M J Baggs
Councillor C M R Boase
Councillor D I Conway
Councillor D J Davies
Councillor R C MacNaughton
Councillor T W B Rounds
Councillor D F Short
Councillor M J Stebbing
Councillor A J Trotman
Councillor P A B Venton
Councillor D L Warnett
Councillor G P Widger

IN ATTENDANCE:

Reverend S King
Sergeant B Huggins – Wiltshire Police
Mr A Lawton – Gazette & Herald

OFFICERS:

Mrs L Roberts - Town Clerk

45/14 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from the Councillor Denley, Councillor Hill, Councillor Redmond and Councillor Dr Reid.

46/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Trotman and Councillor Boase declared an interest in Agenda item 8.1 as members of the Heritage Centre Committee. They would take part in the debate. Councillor Trotman however declared that he would not vote.

47/14 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 7 July 2014, having previously been circulated, were signed by the Town Mayor as a correct record.

48/14 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

48.1 *The Opening Church Service for the Calne Music & Arts Festival* – members were requested to note that the Opening Church Service would be held on Sunday 5 October 2014.

48.2 *Remembrance Service* – it was noted that the Remembrance Services would take place on Sunday 9 November 2014.

49/14 POLICING IN CALNE

49.1 *Police Report* – Sergeant Huggins introduced himself to members. The report, which is attached to and forms part of these minutes, was noted.

50/14 REPORT FROM UNITARY COUNCILLORS

Unitary Councillors updated members on the following:

- Councillor Trotman advised that the appeal against 125 houses at Sandpit Lane would take place soon. He was not sure what the outcome would be.
- Councillor Ansell reported that the Air Quality Working Group were launching their Clean Air Campaign. Councillor Ansell added that they were disappointed at the response from local schools, especially as there was a big push currently to promote healthy living.
- Councillor Marshall reported that it is hoped that the Skatepark enhancement will begin on 20 October.

51/14 COMMITTEE MINUTES

51.1 *Town Development and Planning Committee*

It was proposed by Councillor Rounds, seconded by Councillor Mrs Baggs and

RESOLVED that, the Firework Event next year should be held on Friday 6 November 2015.

It was proposed by Councillor Short, seconded by Councillor Boase and

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Town Development and Planning Committee meetings held on 8 July, 29 July and 19 August 2014 be received.

51.2 Amenities Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Widger, seconded by Councillor Boase and

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 1 September 2014 be received.

52/14 REPORTS FROM OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

52.1 Calne Heritage Centre - Rent Review

It was proposed by Councillor Widger and seconded by Councillor Baggs and

RESOLVED that the rent for the Heritage Centre Lease should remain at a peppercorn.

Councillor Warnett fully endorsed the proposal but asked that the financial implications of such an arrangement were reported to Council.

52.2 Borrowing Approval – the letter advising that borrowing approval (for the Campus Project) had been extended for a further 12 months was noted.

52.3 Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth

It was proposed by Councillor Warnett, seconded by Councillor MacNaughton and

RESOLVED that the Town Council should participate in the ‘Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth’ on 9th March 2015.

52.4 Strengthening Our Fire and Rescue Service: A Briefing of the Options

Councillor Marshall urged all Councillors to attend the seminar on 14 October 2014 so that they could understand the issues involved and do everything possible to retain our own fire service.

52.5 Calne Culture and Tourism Working Group ‘Our Place’ Initiative

The update was noted and it was reported that it was an excellent initiative and that the tourism group should be exploring ways to work with the ramblers association as well as looking at ways to attract high class accommodation opportunities in Calne.

53/14 ACCOUNTS

53.1 *Accounts Paid*

The Accounts Schedules dated 30 June 2014 (Petty Cash), 30 June 2014 (Manual Cheques), 10 July 2014 (Petty Cash), 14 July 2014, pages 1445-1446, 14 July 2014, pages 1447-1453, 18 July 2014 (Petty Cash), 28 July 2014 (Manual Cheque), 31 July 2014 (Petty Cash), 31 July 2014, pages 1463-1465, 31 July 2014, pages 1466-1467, 19 August 2014 (Manual Cheque), 28 August 2014, pages 1478-1481, 29 August 2014, pages 1483-1489 were noted and approved.

53.2 *Annual Return and Notice of Conclusion of the Audit*

The Town Clerk advised that she had taken up again with Grant Thornton the External Auditors the fact that their comment regarding noting the powers used for expenditure was unjustified and that the Town Council's Financial Regulations do not specifically include a check as to whether all payments made are legal and within the powers of the Council, this is not necessary as the Council has the General Power of Competence, the power of first resort. The Auditors have now made a note to this effect but will not remove the comment as they suggest the General Power of Competence does not cover illegal acts or all expenditure. The Town Clerk advised there is obviously a misunderstanding of their interpretation of the power as the power covers all expenditure of a Council unless it is illegal. The Town Clerk added that this fact will be taken up with the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks.

It was proposed by Councillor Ansell, seconded by Councillor Marshall, and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to note and approve the Audit of the Annual Return 2013-14 and to note that the comment concerning whether payments are legal and within the power of the Council, is not applicable, as the Council has the General Power of Competence.

54/14 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

54.1 *Britain in Bloom Working Group* – The Minutes of the meetings held on 7 July and 11 August 2014 were noted by members.

54.2 *Calne Community Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group* – The Minutes of the meetings held on 2 April, 1 May, 22 May, 12 June, 3 July, 24 July, 31 July, 7 August and 21 August 2014 were noted.

54.3 *Calne Community Safety Forum* – The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2014 were noted by members.

54.4 *Calne Environmental Network Newsletter* – The July/August 2014 newsletter was noted.

- 54.5** *Calne Heritage Centre Trust* – The Minutes of the meetings held on 21 January and 18 March 2014 were noted.
- 54.6** *Calne Leisure Centre – Town Council’s Representatives* – the response from Calne Leisure Centre was noted.
- 54.7** *Castlefields Canal and River Park Association* – The Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17 July 2014, together with the Chairman’s Report for 2013/14 were noted.
- 54.8** *Focus on Five Group* – The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 May 2014 were noted.
- 54.9** *Friends of Calne Heritage Centre* – The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 23 April 2014 were noted by members.
- 54.10** *Renewable Energy Steering Group* – The Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2014 were noted.
- 54.11** *Town Events Working Group* – The Minutes of the meeting held on 29 July 2014 were noted.
- 54.12** *Town Hall Working Group* – Minutes of the meetings held on 19 May and 1 September 2014 were noted.

55/14 CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

It was

RESOLVED that in view of the Confidential Nature of the business about to be transacted, that the public and press be excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.