

Calne Town Council
Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on
Tuesday 26th September 2017 in the Large Hall of Calne Town Hall.

PRESENT: Councillor Tony Trotman – Town Mayor
Councillor Glenis Ansell
Councillor John Bennett
Councillor John Boaler
Councillor Declan Boore
Councillor Heather Canfer
Councillor Terry Couchman
Councillor Jon Fisher
Councillor Alan Hill
Councillor Robert MacNaughton
Councillor Robert Merrick
Councillor Tom Rounds
Councillor Ian Thorn
Councillor Greg Widger (arrived at 20:05)

IN ATTENDANCE: Reverend R Kenway

OFFICERS: Jeannette Young – Acting Town Clerk
Stuart West – Head of Operations
Mark Edwards – Business Support Officer

ALSO PRESENT: 50 members of the public

Welcome by the Town Mayor.

The Openness of the Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 permits the audio and visual recordings and photography of the Council and Committee meetings. The meeting was notified that the Town Council would be recording the meeting this evening.

The Town Mayor, Cllr Trotman, reminded the meeting that Standing Order 9 f and 9 g gave instruction as to the type of questions, which could be received.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Mr Paul Cook – spoke about how much land at The Grove is used by many people every day and what a shame it would be if it were lost to development. Mr Cook raised concern about possible other uses and asked that it should be kept for all the community to use. It is one of the last pieces of ground owned by Calne.

Mrs Coombs – raised the issue that the land was given to the people of Calne for recreational or sports use. Asked that if the land was gifted were there covenants in place and asked that the Town Council please find out.

Mr Davies - asked that it was kept as recreational space and shared concern about the building if not properly maintained.

The Town Mayor – Cllr Trotman updated the meeting that a site visit had been completed with the Agent and it was agreed that Item 14 would be brought forward to allow the members of the public to hear the discussion.

The Rev Kenway gave prayers.

53/17 TO ELECT A PROPER OFFICER

It was proposed by The Town Mayor, Cllr Trotman, seconded by Cllr Ansell and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to elect Jeannette Young as Proper Officer for this meeting

Members were reminded that whilst Jeannette Young has agreed to assume the role of Proper Officer for this meeting, she is in the process of becoming CILCA trained but has no legal or financial qualification in this sector. Jeannette may be unable to answer some questions from members at this meeting however; she will take any unanswered questions away, seek advice and/or guidance and respond as soon as practicable.

54/17 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Macgregor-Fairlie, Cllr Jones, Cllr Marshall – Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr Conway & Cllr Riley.

55/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None recorded

56/17 MINUTES

Proposed by Cllr Boore, seconded by Cllr Merrick and

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 10 June 2017, having previously been circulated, were signed by The Town Mayor, Cllr Trotman as a correct record at the end of the meeting.

57/17 TOWN MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

58/17/1 Town Criers Event - 30th September 2017- Town Criers from across the country will descend upon Beach Terrace, to cry their Home Town Cries. The event will start with a precession 11am, and afternoon Cries start at 2:45pm.

58/17/2 Bonfire Night at Beversbrook – Friday 3rd November – tickets are now on sale.

58/17/2 Shared Estate – Following a meeting with the Police & Crime Commissioner the Town Council is asked to consider the possible alternative locations for local policing teams to have welfare facilities in local communities. The Police and Crime Commissioner has made it clear that no changes will be made until suitable alternatives are in place.

58/17/3 First World War – tree-planting 2018 – to notify members and ask for suggestions of sites for investigation.

58/17/4 Summons – Members were reminded of the summons to attend or arrange a substitute for council meetings.

58/17 THE GROVE

Cllr Thorn said thank you to the local residents for attending the meeting and expressed a wish to find an alternative to housing on the site. Cllr Thorn went on to say that residents were considering the site as a potential village green and looking at the Commons Act 2006. Cllr Ansell said that The Grove was an intrinsic part of Calne History and was saddened by the loss of the youth facility. Cllr Boaler asked if the working group include members of the Public. Cllr Couchman asked about the setup of a working party. Cllr Fisher asked that the community is involved and community groups were asked for expressions of interest.

It was proposed by the Town Mayor – Cllr Trotman, seconded by Cllr Boore and

RESOLVED to request that the first action of the Strategic Steer Working Group is to consider a business case for The Grove.

59/17 SETUP OF A STRATEGIC STEER WORKING GROUP

A discussion took place about the purpose of the group. Cllr Ansell said that the group would look at a raft of issue and how the town developed. It was requested to include the Management Accountant in the membership of the group. Cllr Rounds said that there was previously a Town Strategic Planning Committee but this had stopped.

It was proposed by the Town Mayor – Cllr Trotman, seconded by Cllr MacNaughton and

RESOLVED to setup the strategic working group and adopt the draft terms of reference with membership of Town Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr Canfer, Cllr Widger, Cllr Boore, Cllr Fisher, Cllr Thorn, Cllr Couchman, Cllr Boaler & Cllr Ansell. The first business of the group would be to consider a business case for The Grove.

Cllr Bennett abstained from the vote.

60/17 POLICING IN CALNE

The Town Mayor, Cllr Trotman welcomed the report however expressed concern about the resource levels, contingency and that the area CCTV van was not seen in use in Calne. Cllr Merrick reported a number of burglaries and thefts from business had occurred in the last 48 hours. Cllr Ansell asked that Police consider sharing their estate with the Council. Cllr

Rounds asked about the location of the bikes donated to the Police. A discussion then took place about the need for a public meeting in a suitable venue.

It was proposed by Cllr Boaler and seconded by Cllr Thorn and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to request that the Police & Crime Commissioner & Chief Constable arrange a public meeting in Calne to discuss future policing. The use of John Bentley School as the meeting venue was suggested.

61/17 REPORT FROM UNITARY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Rounds – Calne North – Waste Strategy Consultation is open and members and residents are encouraged to complete. The Independent Examiner has submitted their report on the Neighbourhood Plan which is being considered by the steering group. A consultation on revising Parking Charges will be published shortly.

Cllr Thorn – Calne Central – updated the meeting with concerns expressed by residents about parking and mud on roads on Prince Charles Drive. The proposed development at Woodroffe Square has been called in for a decision to the Wiltshire Council Planning Committee and that Wiltshire Council is planning to apply the transfer of assets in a single project.

The Town Mayor, Cllr Trotman, Calne Chilvester and Abberd – reported that 11 or 12 applications are expected by to be considered by the Northern Area Planning Committee in relation to land at Lower Compton and Low Lane.

62/17 COMMITTEE MINUTES/WORKING GROUP MINUTES

62/17/1 Amenities Committee – It was proposed by Cllr Widger and seconded by Cllr Bennett and RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the meeting on Monday 4th September (draft)

62/17/2 Policy & Resources Committee – It was proposed by Cllr Widger and seconded by Cllr Ansell and RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the meeting on Tuesday 20th June

62/17/3 Town Development & Planning Committee – It was proposed by Cllr Ansell and seconded by Cllr Boaler and RESOLVED to receive the minutes of meetings held on Wednesday 12th July, Wednesday 9th August, Wednesday 23rd August and Wednesday 13th September (draft)

62/17/4 Calendar of Meetings - it was proposed by Cllr Ansell, seconded by Cllr Rounds and RESOLVED to approve the amended calendar of meetings.

62/17/5 Draft notes of **Town Events Working Group** meeting on 9th August 2017 were received.

RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee - 20th June 2017 (Draft)

63/17 CALNE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

Members received a verbal presentation by the new chair of the Community Safety Forum, Cllr Ansell. Under its Terms of Reference the forum addresses community crime and safety relating to the community area of Calne and seeks to find and promote partnership solutions to identified problems.

The Forum meets bi-monthly and works in partnership with the local policing team, Licensing, CCTV, Highways, CARP, the Mens Shed and CAB, and also has representatives from local businesses, schools and community groups.

Cllr Ansell recorded a thank you for the outgoing chair, Ross Henning and to Karen Boswell for all support and hard work over recent months.

A copy of the presentation will be circulated to members.

64/17 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE GOVERNANCE & POLICY WORKING GROUP

Cllr Ansell introduced the recommendations on behalf of the working group and expressed disappointment about attendance at meetings this early in the administration and note the revised recommendation from Policy & Resources Committee. The second recommendation was to allow the working group an opportunity to review standing orders and report back.

It was proposed by Cllr Ansell, seconded by Cllr Widger and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED approve that Members arrange where possible a substitute to cover planned absences from meetings. In relation to the Town Development & Planning committee substitution, this should be a member from the ward.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Full Council agree that no changes to existing Standing Orders are made pending a review by the Governance & Policy Working Group

65/17 MOTIONS WITH NOTICE

65/17/1 Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr Boaler put forward the following motion “ Continuing the process of improving the openness and accountability of Calne Town Council: We propose that all current working groups be re-designated as subcommittees, in order that they be fully minuted and open to the public, and that, in future, all working groups that shall be formed be clearly limited by time and task.”

Cllr Widger raised a concern that this proposal may create work for officers. Cllr Rounds raised the issue of time limiting and how this would not have worked for the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Fisher advised that a committee can include a non councillor and reminded members that we are here for the public not above the public.

The motion was lost.

65/17/2 Cllr Merrick, second by Cllr Ansell put forward the following motion “Members change Working Groups and Committees every two years to give enough time for projects to be put into action and to be able to see results”

Members noted that current standing orders limit the term of office. The Town Mayor – Cllr Trotman asked Cllr Merrick if he was happy to amend his motion to allow this request to be considered by the Governance & Policy & Working Group. Cllr Merrick confirmed his willingness for the amendment

It was RESOLVED to refer the request to the Governance & Policy Working Group to consider.

65/17/3 Cllr Boore, seconded by Cllr Ansell put forward the following motion “I wish to propose that the Council protest at the threatened closure of Calne Police Station. We request that it remain open.”

Cllr Bennett raised the importance of the invite to the Police & Crime Commissioner to hold a Public Meeting. Cllr Thorn talked about the need to keep pressure on the constabulary and oppose the closure of the Police Station. Cllr Ansell stated that closure should not take place. Cllr Boaler stated that he was very concerned with the level of policing against the cost of running a building that was not open.

The motion was carried

Two members abstained from the vote.

65/17/4 Cllr Rounds, seconded by the Town Mayor – Cllr Trotman put forward the following motion. “To create a Transport Strategy Steering Group and appoint two Councillors to chair and lead. Their task will be to investigate the strategy report along with interested stakeholders and report to Council with findings”

A discussion took place about the background to the Community Transport Strategy Group. Agreement was reached to amend the motion to allow two town councillors to be nominated to the group.

It was RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Bennett and Cllr Widger to the Calne Community Transport Strategy group.

1 member abstained from the vote.

65/17/5 Cllr Rounds, seconded by the Town Mayor – Cllr Trotman put forward the following motion “To create a working group to consist of one unitary councillor and one Town Councillor to focus on the adoption of Calne Town Centre Master Plan .The Chair of this group will be expected to report back to TD&P”.

Cllr Rounds explained the relevance of the group to the Neighbourhood Plan and the need to take back governance and control of the masterplan. A discussion took place about membership and nominations were put forward.

It was **UNANIMOUSLY** RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Rounds, Cllr Thorn, Cllr Ansell and Cllr Boaler with The Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor to the working group and adopt the amended Terms of Reference.

In line with Standing Order 1b the meeting was adjourned and would be reconvened

Meeting Closed at 22:00