

Calne Town Council
Minutes of the Extraordinary Town Council Meeting held on
Monday 13th November 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 David Conway
Councillor Ian Thorn
Councillor Greg Widger
Councillor Tom Rounds

OFFICERS: Jeannette Young – Acting Town Clerk
Mark Edwards – Business Support Officer

One member of the public was present.

The Town Mayor – Cllr Trotman welcomed everyone to this Extraordinary Full Council meeting.

77/17 TO ELECT A PROPER OFFICER

Councillor Hill asked the following question:

Could I please ask how much longer this situation regarding our lack of a suitably qualified Proper Officer will continue? For about a year now, at each of our Council meetings we have elected Jeannette, or on at least one occasion Mark Edwards in Jeannette's absence, as our Proper Officer for that meeting and each time we hear a statement to the effect that the officer is not qualified to undertake the role. I am very concerned that there are significant Governance issues here that put this Council at considerable risk if any of our decisions were to be challenged. I freely acknowledge that both Jeannette and Mark work extremely hard in their respective roles as officers of this Council and I am not in any way being critical of their efforts; however, as well as being concerned regarding the risk to the Council, I also believe that the position we put them in is untenable and unacceptable. Chairman, I have asked this question before in Council as Minuted, but I have not received a response. I request that my question is recorded in the Minutes, please.

Cllr Merrick advised that the Full Council had approved the recommendation that the current arrangements would be in place until January 2018. The Personnel Sub Committee would then consider options and make a further recommendation.

Cllr Bennett stated that this was not an issue and that the current situation could continue for as long as required. Cllr Rounds advised that this situation had rumbled on since the last Council and that the Council was working against the staffing review. Cllr Widger asked that the recruitment process was an open opportunity. Cllr Ansell stated that Jeannette Young has worked diligently and seen the Town Council through difficult times.

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

RESOLVED to record a vote of confidence in Jeannette Young as Acting Proper Officer

A recorded vote was requested and recorded

COUNCILLORS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTENTION
Cllr Ansell	X		
Cllr Bennett	X		
CllrBoaler	X		
Cllr Boore	X		
Cllr Canfer	X		
Cllr Conway	X		
Cllr Couchman	X		
Cllr Fisher	X		
Cllr Hill			X
Cllr Jones	ABSENT		
Cllr MacNaughton	X		
Cllr Marshall	ABSENT		
Cllr Merrick	X		
Cllr Riley	ABSENT		
Cllr Rounds	X		
Cllr Thorn	X		
Cllr Trotman	X		

Cllr Widger			
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It was proposed by the Town Mayor - Cllr Trotman, seconded by Cllr Ansell and

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.

78/17 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received Cllr Marshall – Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr Jones and Cllr Riley.

79/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Conway - Recreation Club - representative of the Rugby Club - would not take part in any discussion or vote

80/17 MINUTES

Cllr Hill asked the following question:

This Council does not hold the General Power of Competence which ordinarily would enable us to make resolutions and conduct our business. In the absence of such power it is required within the Local Government Act that our Minutes should reflect the piece of statutory legislation that supports each resolution of this Council; these Minutes do not comply with that requirement and I will not support them. I believe that this failing raises important Governance issues and constitutes a significant risk to the Council. I have raised this matter before as Minuted, but Council has failed to acknowledge or address the issue. I request that my comments be recorded in the Minutes of this meeting.

Jeannette Young advised that the declaration was made at the Annual Meeting that the Town Council does not have the General Power of Competence and was acting under wellbeing powers.

It was proposed by Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr Fisher and

RESOLVED to confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 26th September 2017 which reconvened on 3 October 2017.

81/17 VACANCY

The meeting noted the resignation of Cllr Michael MacGregor-Fairlie and that an election had been called for by 10 electors in the North Ward. Wiltshire Council will confirm the date of the election and nomination process.

82/17 ELECTION OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR

Following the sad resignation from the office of Deputy Town Mayor by Cllr Howard Marshall. Members were asked to elect a new Deputy Town Mayor.

The nomination for Cllr Widger was withdrawn.

It was proposed by Cllr Boore, seconded by Cllr MacNaughton and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to elect Cllr Ansell as Deputy Town Mayor for 2017/2018

The Town Mayor invested the newly elected Deputy Town Mayor with the badge of office. The newly elected Deputy Town Mayor read and signed the Statutory Declaration of Office which the Acting Town Clerk countersigned.

The Deputy Town Mayor – Cllr Ansell thanked the Council for her nomination and election but was saddened that it had come about through Cllr Marshall standing down.

83/17 ANNUAL RETURN AND NOTICE OF CONCLUSION OF AUDIT

The Annual Return and Notice of Conclusion of the Audit from Grant Thornton was received and noted.

Grant Thornton have agreed that; in their opinion the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no other matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislative and regulatory requirements have not been met. Therefore they certify that they have completed their review of the Annual Return and discharge their responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 for the year ended 31 March 2017.

84/17 CHANGE TO CALENDAR OF MEETINGS:

The meeting noted the change of date of the Policy & Resources Committee to accommodate the Public Meeting with the Police & Crime Commissioner.

85/17 POLICING IN CALNE

It was noted that the Public Meeting took place on 6th September and was attended by approximately 60 people. Cllr Trotman welcomed the news that one additional PSCO was due to join the team and an existing PSCO was due to return from maternity leave in January 2018.

The Deputy Town Mayor - Cllr Ansell asked that shared use of the Police Station should be further investigated and that pressure needed to be maintained to ensure that priority and resources were allocated to Calne. Cllr Hill agreed that we all need to keep plugging away and talked about the success when the Police Station was temporarily located within the Town Hall.

86/17 WORKING GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

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

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to approve the Terms of Reference for the Sports Facilities Working Group and the Recreation Club Working Group

87/17 CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

It was proposed by Cllr Rounds and seconded by Cllr Hill and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED in view of the sensitive nature of the business to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw.

Meeting Closed at 19:40

88/17 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL

It was proposed by Cllr Bennett and seconded by Cllr MacNaughton and

RESOLVED to confirm, as a true record the Confidential Minutes of the Town Council meeting on 3rd October 2017.

89/17 RECREATION CLUB

The Market Rent Review was considered and agreed that the Town Council would write to the Recreation Club

90/17 BEVERSBROOK

The legal advice was considered and agreed that the Council would write to Wiltshire Council

Meeting closed at 20:05

Signed:

Dated: