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WINSLOW TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the MEETING of COUNCIL

Thursday 11th. April 2024, at 7.00pm, in the Council Offices, High Street, Winslow. MK18 3HF

Present: Cllrs. Bishopp (Chair), Castle, Cawte, Hamley, Keys, Onley, Slevin, van de Poll, and Wiseman.

Absent: Cllrs. Cornell and Goss. Apologies accepted.

Clerk: C Loch Deputy Clerk S Carolan

In attendance: Buckinghamshire Cllr. B Stanier. Buckinghamshire Cllr. P Gomm representing the Community Board. One members of the public and no press were present. Apology from Buckinghamshire Cllrs. Chilver.

24/28 Declarations of Interest in matters to be discussed:

Cllr. Bishopp – Winslow Bowls Club

Cllr. Wiseman – Lions

24/29 Minutes of Meetings held 7th. March 2024:

RESOLVED that the minutes be signed as a true record.

Matters Arising:

None

24/30 Items Deferred from Previous Meeting: If not addressed elsewhere on the agenda

None

24/31 Administration, Finance and Payments for Signature:

Authorisation of payments: Members considered the payments listing totalling £76,225.01 and RESOLVED to approve the listing for electronic payment.

Bank Mandate: Members considered the proposed Unity Trust bank account and RESOLVED that Cllr. M Onley be added as an authorised signatory.

Grants: It was RESOLVED that Cllrs. Van de Poll and Keys be delegated to approve the final grant for the Guide Hut fire door when all information was available.

Committees. Following the resignation of Cllr Cawdell, it was agreed that the appointment of replacement councillors to the Development and Amenities Committees be deferred until the Annual Meeting in May.

Precept: The Clerk reported that the first tranche of the 2024-25 precept had been received. The total 2024-25 precept as approved by Council for submission to Buckinghamshire Council was £349,655.

24/32 Correspondence Received: If not addressed elsewhere on the agenda

Winslow Lions: The Lions club had written to ask WTC to underwrite any loss that might be made on the annual fireworks display. It was not anticipated that it would be significant, and the display was a much appreciated community event. Members agreed that once the figures were finalised Council would look favourably on a request to assist in covering any loss.

24/33 Reports from Outside Bodies

AVALC. No items were reported.

Rogers Educational Trust: No items were reported.

24/34. Committees

Amenities:

Members heard that the Committee had recommended signing the Devolution contract but on the grounds that it would be reviewed and various issues taken up with Buckinghamshire. Work required under the contract could only be done if there was sufficient budget as Buckinghamshire Council had made no allowance for increased costs or any additional works. The key item was maintaining the grassed areas and the Committee would look into having a permit to work on the Highway rather than operating under the current contract.

The Clerk was authorised to sign the contract on behalf of the Council.

Development:

The concerns over the lack of communication from Buckinghamshire Council were raised again. With communications not even being acknowledged, let alone responded to, as well as various instances of WTC input being totally ignored, it was RESOLVED that Cllr van de Poll would join with Buckingham Council to write to M Tett to raise the issues. Bucks Cllr Gomm was also willing to raise the matter on behalf of WTC as he was currently dealing with similar complaints from other parties.

Events:

As Buckinghamshire Council would no longer be supplying a Christmas tree for the Market Square, alternative solutions were considered. If possible, an alternative solution would be decided in conjunction with organisations in the community but as this could be difficult to organise in the short term, it was RESOLVED that Council would, if necessary, fund a tree for the current year. The Buckinghamshire Consultation on Street Trading Licencing Proposals was raised and discussed with Bucks. Cllr Stanier. He undertook to raise concerns over the Farmers Market as well as non-commercial events held on Council property. A summary of WTC concerns would be sent to Cllr Stanier as well as being posted to the consultation web site.

Finance & Resources: There had been no further meeting.

Members considered a request from the Winslow Bowls Club for permission to build new changing rooms with s106 funding. The proposal was to site the replacement changing rooms on the existing patio area as the existing provision was too small and did not meet accessibility requirements.

Cllr. Bishopp having declared an interest withdrew from the meeting.

Having discussed the proposal, it was RESOLVED to support the project in principle so that the preliminary work of planning and costing could be progressed.

Cllr Bishopp returned to the meeting.

The Clerk reported that the Estates Assistant had resigned. Having considered the matter, it was RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorised to progress recruitment of a replacement and until a new person was found utilise assistance from the devolution or other local contractor.

24/35 Reports from Buckinghamshire Councillors

Bucks Cllr. B Stanier explained that the Buckinghamshire Council tax had increased by 2% to cover the increased cost of social care. Bucks had received extra money from central government for pothole repairs.

Community Board Matters

Buckinghamshire Cllr. P Gomm reported that the new financial year had started for the Community Board. Funds available for grants had been reduced significantly to £56K and of this some £20k had already been spoken for. He would report more fully on the work of the Community Board at the Annual Town meeting.

24/36 Current Strategic Issues**East west Rail**

It is now possible that services on the line may not be operating until Sept 2025. Some night work will start soon for testing purposes. Furze Lane is expected to be closed during the school summer holiday to enable repair to the road surface and to decant from the works site,

Community Facilities.

There are continuing discussions with the Sports Club. It could prove most cost effective to adopt a demolish and rebuild scheme for the pavilion and architects will be engaged to advise. The basic scheme remains unchanged.

E V Charging.

The draft contractual documentation has been received and is being finalised with EZ Charge. The scheme is expected to become operational in October 2024.

Winslow Centre Development /Sports Hub.

No further information was available.

Items for Information:

The next meeting, the Annual Council Meeting would be held on Thursday May 16th. The Annual Town Meeting would be on Thursday April 25th at 7.30pm.

Meeting Closed 20.21 pm.

Signed: (Chair) at Meeting (date)