

## **WINSLOW TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES of the MEETING of COUNCIL**

Thursday 16th. May 2024, at 7.00pm, at 28 High Street Winslow MK18 3HF

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

**Absent:** Cllrs Goss, Hamley and Monger. Apologies accepted.

**Clerk:** C Loch: Deputy Clerk S Carolan

**In attendance:** Bucks Cllrs. J Chilver and Stanier. Bucks Cllr. P Gomm for the Community Board. Two members of the public were present. No press attended.

#### **24/37 Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman:**

Nominations for the offices of Chairman and Deputy Chairman were taken and members having voted it was RESOLVED that Cllr. Colin Bishopp be elected Mayor and Chairman and Cllr. Gordon Wiseman be elected Deputy Mayor and Vice Chairman. Both Councillors declared and signed their acceptance of office.

#### **24/38 Declarations of Interest in matters to be discussed:**

None.

#### **Consideration of Applications for Dispensation:**

Members Resolved to approve a dispensation until the Annual Meeting of 2025 (unless a prior election is called) for members to speak and vote on matters related to the setting of the Precept, East West Rail line, and proposed Community Facilities.

#### **24/39 Minutes of Meetings held 11th. April 2024:**

RESOLVED that the minutes be signed as a true record having clarified that in respect of the proposed letter to M Tett, the intention was to compose a letter only.

**Matters Arising:** None

#### **24/40 Administration, Finance and Payments for Signature:**

**Authorisation of payments:** Members considered the payments listing totalling £14,686.52 and RESOLVED to approve the listing for electronic payment.

#### **Annual Town Meeting:**

There were no matters raised at the meeting that required further consideration by Council.

Bucks Cllr. Stanier left the meeting to attend another Annual Council Meeting.

**Buckinghamshire Council:** Having considered a draft letter to M Tett be sent jointly with Buckingham Town Council to M Tett of Buckinghamshire Council, it was RESOLVED not to send a letter but to consider arranging a meeting which would be a more positive approach to resolving any issues.

Cllr. Van de Poll expressed his disappointment with the decision and resigned from Winslow Town Council with immediate effect. He then left the meeting.

#### **Annual Return:**

Internal Audit. The internal audit report had been circulated. No issues or recommendations had been raised and it was RESOLVED to reappoint Audit Solutions for the year to 31<sup>st</sup>. March 2025.

Annual Governance Statement: Having considered the audit report and statement it was RESOLVED that it be approved for signature and submission.

Annual Accounting Statement: The Accounting Statement was considered, and it was RESOLVED that it be approved for signature and submission.

#### **24/41 Correspondence Received:** If not addressed elsewhere on the agenda

None

#### **24/42 Reports from Outside Bodies**

**AVALC.** There were no matters to report.

**Rogers Educational Trust:** The next meeting would be in June or July.

#### **24/43. Committees**

**Amenities:**

Members noted the need to install hoggin in front of the new bench in the TPA. There had been a contractor issue, but a quote was in hand and if approved by Amenities on 23<sup>rd</sup> May would be installed as soon as possible.

**Development:**

The appeal against the refusal of an application for permission to convert a garage belonging to 38 High St. was noted. There had been a very unsatisfactory pruning of trees overhanging from the Winslow Hall garden whose presence was relevant to the refusal. Development is reporting this action to BC Enforcement

**Events:**

The process of engaging with community organisations to find an alternative to the Christmas tree for the Market Square had begun. A tree would no longer be provided by Buckinghamshire Council.,

**Finance & Resources:**

The Acoustic project to reduce noise in the Public Hall and the St. Laurence Room was discussed and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk be approved to make an application for s106 funding.

**24/44 Reports from Buckinghamshire Councillors**

Buckinghamshire Cllr. Chilver reported that Buckinghamshire Council had held its Annual Meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Drain covers in Sheep St. were now being repaired by the relevant utility companies and Buckinghamshire Council had also cleared the drains. Work on the flooded area of the A413 near Addington was awaiting the area to dry out. He noted that Little Horwood Road would be closed for 4 days at the end of the month. The on-road parking restrictions for Greyhound Lane were expected to be in place in July/September.

Rubbish at the previous bank site was raised. There had been a limited response to an enforcement order and this would be followed up.

**Community Board Matters**

The Bowls Club Open Day was noted. The Dementia Bus Day had been very successful and also served to promote the local library. Further events such as a day for the Medical Detection Dogs would also help to focus on how the library served the local community. The Community Board was working with the Sports Club on new facilities. The Wednesday market would soon see local independent traders attending. They would be assisted by having gazebos and tables provided in a central area.

It was requested that when organising activities at the Library the Buckinghamshire Council Community Access point also be promoted.

The Street Trader Licencing Consultation was raised. Cllr Bishopp had attended a consultation meeting with Bucks, and it had been made clear to Buckinghamshire Council that if they were to introduce the totally unsatisfactory proposals then it would almost certainly be the end of most community events and markets.

**24/45 Current Strategic Issues**

**East west Rail**

Members expressed their appreciation to EWR for the various items which had been generously donated to community causes.

**Community Facility**

Discussion with the Sports Club now focussed on finalising a brief and selecting a firm to plan and manage the project.

**Winslow Centre Development /Sports Hub.**

There had been no further progress, but members expressed their concern that it was held up by what seemed a fairly minor technical issues with the DfE. While the town so urgently needed facilities for teenagers and to have the now derelict central site developed. It was requested that the project manager attend a meeting where relevant correspondence could be considered so that WTC councillors could see the detail and better understand the problem.

## 24/46 Business of the Annual Council Meeting

**Meeting Dates:** It was Resolved that the existing Committee structure would continue, and Committees would meet as follows. While meeting dates would be scheduled, meetings would only be called if business required it.

Council	First Thursday of each month.	7pm
Amenities	Third Thursday of each month.	7pm.
Development	Tuesday every three weeks.	7pm
F & R	Third Tuesday of June, Sept, January and March.	7pm
Events	Third Monday of the month.	10am
Precept Meeting.	To be held as part of the December Council meeting.	

The Annual Town Meeting would need to be scheduled to fit in with the 2025 elections and the date would be set in due course.

### Membership of Committees:

It was RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders on the appointment of Committee Chairs to allow them to be elected at the next committee meeting with the exception of the Amenities Committee for which members RESOLVED that Cllr. Keys be elected as Chair. Members noted that Committee membership may need revision in view of the absence of Cllr. Monger and the future appointment of a Councillor to replace Cllr. Van de Poll.

**Amenities:** J Keys, W Castle, R Hamley, M Onley, G Wiseman.

**Development:** T Cawte, C Bishopp, R Slevin, and G Wiseman.

**Finance & Resources:** C Bishopp, R Slevin, Cornell, G Wiseman, J Keys.

**Events:** M Onley, T Cawte, R Hamley, C Cornell, L Monger.

Non-Councillors: O Rhodes, K Moore.

**Community Facilities Steering Group:** C Bishopp, R Slevin, R Hamley.

### Representation on external bodies and reporting arrangements.

RESOLVED that representation be as follows:

#### Council

CAAV	C Bishopp
Rogers Education Trust	G Wiseman
Aylesbury Vale Association of Local Councils	R Slevin.
Winslow and Villages Community Board	L Monger

#### Amenities

Winslow Charities: G Wiseman, T Cawte

#### Development:

Winslow and District Community Bus: T. Cawte

North Bucks Parishes Planning Consortium: L Monger

#### Finance and Resources

Winslow Sports and Social Club	R Hamley J Keys
Winslow Public Hall	R Slevin

Members re-affirmed their awareness of and commitment to the Code of Conduct and the obligation to ensure that Disclosure of Interest documents were current.

The Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Policies of the Council were considered. It was RESOLVED that Cllr. Bishopp would work with the Clerks to review the standing orders and Terms of Reference for Committees. Policies would be updated for the web site. Dignity at Work, Biodiversity and Document Retention policies would be drafted for approval.

The Asset Register and Financial Risk schedules had been subject to audit and would be further reviewed by the Finance and Resources Committee for the current year. It was noted that a professional reinstatement revaluation of the public hall and 28 High St had been obtained.

The following were also considered and approved.

- Subscriptions
- Annual Rents
- Charges

**Councillor and Chairman's Allowance and Expenses:**

RESOLVED to leave existing arrangements unchanged but the Chair declined to accept any allowance.

**General Power of Competence:** Members considered the General Power of Competence as provided in the Localism Act 2011 and having confirmed eligibility in that two thirds of Members have been duly elected and the Clerk being suitably qualified RESOLVED that the Council was eligible to adopt the power for a further year.

**Items for Information:**

The next meeting would be held on Thursday July 4<sup>th</sup>.

The Clerk advised that Buckinghamshire Council had advised that they would be doing weed spraying in limited high footfall areas, the first in the near future and the second in August.

Meeting Closed 20.39 pm.

Signed: ..... (Chair) at Meeting ..... (date)