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## **WINSLOW TOWN COUNCIL**

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

Thursday 5th. December 2024, at 7.00pm, at 28 High Street Winslow MK18 3HF

**Present:** Cllrs. Wiseman (Chair), Castle, Cawte, Cornell, Hamley, Ives, Keys, Monger, Onley and Slevin.

**Absent:** Cllrs Goss. Apology accepted.

**Clerk:** C Loch:

**In attendance:** Bucks. Cllr. J Chilver. One member of the public was present. No press attended.

#### **24/86 Declarations of Interest in matters to be discussed:**

None.

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

None

#### **24/87 Minutes of Meetings held 7th. November 2024:**

RESOLVED that the minutes be signed as a true record.

**Matters Arising:** None

#### **24/88 Administration, Finance and Payments for Signature:**

**Authorisation of payments:** Members considered the payments listings for October totalling £43,611.04 and RESOLVED to approve the listing for electronic payment.

**Newsletter:** Members considered a suggestion to publish a regular newsletter. The Parish News had expressed an interest in the Council incorporating a newsletter into their publication at regular intervals although members were concerned at the relatively low circulation. This and other options would be considered.

**Co-option:** Members noted that in respect of the current casual vacancy no election could be called as it was within six months of a scheduled local election. The statutory advertisement had been published and Council would consider the matter again at its next meeting, but co-option so close to the scheduled local elections was not considered desirable.

**Standing Orders and Financial Regulations:** The Clerk reported that these documents should now be updated, and it was Resolved that this would be done using the NALC templates.

**Grants:** Members considered a recommendation from the Finance and Resources Committee to award a grant of £4,000 to the CAB, £2,448 to the Public Hall Trust and also to provide a grant to the Public Hall Trust to fund work required on the sewerage system

**Parking:** As this item needed to be considered in the context of the Budget, Members agreed to deal with it before the Budget agenda item.

Members considered a draft consultation paper on parking charges in the Winslow Public Hall car park and recommendation on town centre parking charges which had been previously circulated.

It was resolved that the consultation about proposed charges for the Public Hall car park be made public within the next week with responses requested by January 5<sup>th</sup>. Responses would then be considered at the January Council meeting on January 9<sup>th</sup>.

For Market Square, it was RESOLVED to ask Buckinghamshire Council to allow free parking for the first hour on weekdays, and for any duration on Sundays. The estimated cost to WTC for this would be in the order of £8000 per year (plus £900 set-up charge) on the basis of Buckinghamshire Council's calculation method. WTC ask for this to be effective as soon as possible (and no later than 1 April 2025). This cost would be within the provision for parking support included in WTC's 25/26 provisional budget.

For Greyhound Lane it was RESOLVED that for the time being not to offer to pay Buckinghamshire Council for any parking. Members noted significant uncertainties in Buckinghamshire Council's estimated cost of any such provision and asked Cllr. Slevin to continue discussions with Buckinghamshire Council to achieve greater clarity to allow the matter to be considered again at a later date.

It was also RESOLVED that, in order to mitigate the probable displacement of parking from the two main car parks once charges are applied, Buckinghamshire Council should be asked how best they (or our two councils) can undertake an informal consultation immediately about the possibility of implementing residents' parking arrangements on the streets (or parts of streets) listed in the Appendix to the circulated paper if there is sufficient support for doing so from residents of those streets. Should the proposals be supported by sufficient residents then an implementation timetable will need to be set, bearing in mind that

the need for these measures will be triggered by the imposition of charges in Greyhound Lane car park from 1 April 2025.

Members were concerned about the formula which Buckinghamshire Council was suggesting for calculating payments that WTC should make to Buckinghamshire Council for any reduction in parking charges and asked Cllr. Slevin to continue discussions with Buckinghamshire Council to seek a formula that would be more equitable to both councils, as well as to resolve other matters of detail in relation to parking arrangements in the town.

Members also raised the issue of the proposed high and inappropriate tariff of parking charges which Buckinghamshire Council has set for the station car park. They noted the adverse impact that these would have on parking in the town, on the attractiveness of the new train services from Winslow and almost certainly on any revenue stream to Buckinghamshire Council. Buckinghamshire Councillor John Chilver was asked to take this up with his council at the highest level.

**Budget.** Having considered the previously circulated draft Budget and discussed some suggested amendments, it was RESOLVED to approve a Budget of £388,384 for the year 2025-26 and the Clerk was authorised to submit the Precept request.

**24/89 Correspondence Received:** If not addressed elsewhere on the agenda

**Internal Audit:** The Clerk reported that the interim Internal Audit Report had now been received and no issues had been raised.

#### **24/90 Reports from Outside Bodies**

**AVALC.** There had been no further meetings.

**Rogers Educational Trust:** There were no matters to report.

#### **Winslow Association of Business and Community:**

A meeting had been held earlier in the evening. The drive to improve the town centre to attract more retail footfall was highlighted and initiatives such as planters and or hanging baskets was noted. The Council agreed to support this initiative, and the Clerk would allocate £3,000 towards funding in the current year.

#### **24/91. Committees**

**Membership of Committees:** Members considered membership of committees in view of the casual vacancy and agreed that no changes were required before the annual meeting.

#### **Amenities:**

Members were informed of a recent meeting with the Highways Devolution Officer to discuss various points on the Devolution Agreement and renewal. It had been a very worthwhile and helpful meeting and it was RESOLVED to renew the agreement for a further year. It was noted that the Council could still opt out until March 31<sup>st</sup>.

The Clerk reported that the Public Hall car park barrier had again been damaged. It was agreed that if possible, the barrier should be removed rather than be left open and a quote obtained for repair. The barrier would not be used until a solution was in place.

#### **Development:**

The matter of Community Governance was ongoing and there was nothing further to report at this stage.

#### **Events:**

Members heard that the Christmas Fair has been very successful with some 120 volunteers assisting overall. The Fair continued to grow and plans for a different approach with holding it on a Saturday were being considered. It was RESOLVED to continue with a real tree in the Square for the coming year.

#### **Finance & Resources:**

The Trustees would meet on December 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss the revised Trust Deed. The Committee had also recommended purchase of an electric van to replace the existing van at a net cost of up to £12,000. It was RESOLVED to authorise the purchase.

**Biodiversity Steering Group:** It was reported that there were plans to produce two pamphlets on Tree Planting and Hedge Planting as well as a newsletter to introduce the work of the group to residents. A spend of up to £1,200 was approved as a new project.

#### **24/92 Reports from Buckinghamshire Councillors**

Buckinghamshire Councillor J Chilver reported that the damaged pavement in Market Square and Mill Close drain had been repaired. Replacement bollards outside the Co-op were scheduled to be done before Christmas. The reported abandoned car in Lowndes Way was not in fact abandoned and was a matter for DVLA. He also confirmed that the DfE had deregistered the Winslow Centre site for educational purposes but was not expecting any further progress before the new year.

**Community Board Matters**

The new Winslow and Villages Community Board Manager was Andy Chapman. The Board would aim to support the town on matters such as the Wednesday market and VE Day celebrations in the coming year. It would also contribute to the new stand at the Sports Club.

**24/93 Current Strategic Issues**

**East West Rail**

Consultation on the full Oxford to Cambridge scheme was underway and included matters such as discontinuous electrification, a passing loop near Claydon junction and turning trains at Didcot rather than Oxford. Test trains and driver training running recently and this was expected to increase in the new year,

**Community Facilities Phase II; Recreation Ground Project.**

There would be a further meeting with the Sports Club and PCMS on December 11<sup>th</sup>. The Amenities Committee had now completed a specification for the playground sufficient for obtaining Expressions of Interest to be placed on the Gov.UK contracts finder. A short list of suppliers would then be drawn up from responses received as well as a number of concepts already in hand.

**E V Charging:**

Confirmation of the power supply from National Grid was still awaited before the project could proceed.

**Winslow Centre Development /Sports Hub.**

No further information was available.

**Items for Information:**

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday January 9th.

Meeting Closed 20.59 pm.

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