

BANBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Banbury Town Council held on Tuesday, 26 June 2018 at 6.30pm in the Town Hall, Banbury.

Present: Councillor Hussain (Town Mayor)
Councillors: Beere, Bell, Cherry, Clarke, Dhesi, J. Donaldson, L. Donaldson, Fatemian, Harrison, Ilott, Kilsby, Mallon, Mephram, Milne Home, Ross, Turner and Wren.

Officers: Mark Recchia (Town Clerk)
Mark Hassall (Deputy Town Clerk & RFO)

C.11/18 Apologies for Absence

None.

C.12/18 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Cherry declared a personal interest, as the Council's representative on The Hill Management Committee, in the Resolution Moved on Notice pertaining to The Hill (Minute C.21/18 below refers), and remained in the meeting during the discussion and voting thereon. Councillors Clarke, J Donaldson and Ilott also made personal interest disclosures in respect of The Hill, as Executive Members of Cherwell District Council, and remained in the meeting but abstained from voting on the matter.

C.13/18 Minutes of the Last Meeting

It was proposed by the Town Mayor, and **WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 May 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

C.14/18 Communications

The Town Mayor's communications had been circulated to those present.
IT WAS RESOLVED that the Communications be noted.

C.15/18 Questions - Elected Members and Members of the Public

There were no questions from Elected Members or members of the public.

C.16/18 Approval of Accounts and Annual Return 2017/18

The Resources Committee at their meeting on 12 June 2018 (Minute R.9/18 refers) considered a copy of the Annual Return and the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2018 (unaudited).

With regard to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2017 the RFO drew Members' attention to changes needed to the Budget Comparison for the Year (page 3) and the Prior Year Balance Sheet comparisons (page 10), and these updates were circulated at the meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor Mallon, seconded by Councillor Clarke and was **RESOLVED**:

- 1) that the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1 on the Annual Return) where questions 1 to 9 were answered yes, be approved, and signed on behalf of the Council by the Leader of the Council and the Town Clerk;

- 2) that the Accounting Statements (Section 2 on the Annual Return), as amended, for the year ended 31 March 2017 be approved and be signed on behalf of the Council by the Leader of the Council and the RFO;
- 3) that the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2017, as amended (unaudited) be approved and signed on behalf of the Council by the Leader of the Council and the RFO.

C.17/18 Financial Risk Assessment 2018/2019

The Council considered a report from the Deputy Town Clerk and RFO submitting the 2018/19 Financial Risk Assessment. It was proposed by Councillor Mallon and seconded by Councillor Clarke and

RESOLVED that the Financial Risk Assessment for 2018/19 be approved.

C.18/18 Planning Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Ilott, seconded by Councillor Harrison and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 2 May, 8 May and 30 May 2018 be received.

C.19/18 General Services Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Harrison and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the General Services Committee meetings held on 8 May and 5 June 2018 be received.

A member commented on recent tree works in Hamilton Close and also on the decision to purchase two "Tommy" statues (both referred to in Minute GS.8/18. The Chairman gave a brief response in both respects.

C.20/18 Resources Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Mallon, seconded by Councillor Fatemian, and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Resources Committee meetings held on 8 May and 12 June 2018 be received.

**C.21/18 Resolutions Moved on Notice
- Resolution No 44**

It was proposed by Councillor Cherry and seconded by Councillor Ross that:

"This Town Council notes that the demolition and re-building of The Hill Youth and Community Centre has still not started. This is despite it now being nearly five years since the issues with the roof were identified which meant that the building had to be partially and then fully closed. Banbury Town Council registers its disappointment with this unacceptable state of affairs and calls on Cherwell District Council to deliver the re-generation as promised."

One of the council's double-hatted members then spoke briefly about the reasons for delays on the scheme, which he understood had now been overcome. It was then **RESOLVED**, with 15 members voting for, none against and three abstentions:

That this Town Council notes that the demolition and re-building of The Hill Youth and Community Centre has still not started. This is despite it now being nearly five years since the issues with the roof were identified which meant that the building had to be partially and then fully closed. Banbury Town Council registers its disappointment with this unacceptable state of affairs and calls on Cherwell District Council to deliver the re-generation as promised.

- Resolution No 45

It was proposed by Councillor Cherry and seconded by Councillor Mallon that:

"This Council notes the pervasive damage caused by plastic to the environment, particularly to the wildlife in our countryside, oceans and rivers. Much of this damage is created by single-use plastics. Banbury Town Council is committed to tackling this problem, and will do its best to ensure that the use of single-use plastics is minimised in all Council-owned premises, and is actively discouraged in our Parks and open spaces".

There then followed a lengthy debate on the motion, where a number of members spoke in support of the intention behind the motion, though some reservations were expressed about the potential cost implications. The mover of the motion was clear that he did not wish to put the council to increased costs but rather that working practices be modified where possible to achieve the aims of the motion. It was then **RESOLVED** unanimously:

That this Council notes the pervasive damage caused by plastic to the environment, particularly to the wildlife in our countryside, oceans and rivers. Much of this damage is created by single-use plastics. Banbury Town Council is committed to tackling this problem, and will do its best to ensure that the use of single-use plastics is minimised in all Council-owned premises, and is actively discouraged in our Parks and open spaces.

The Meeting ended at 6.55pm.