

## **BANBURY TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of a Meeting of Banbury Town Council held on Tuesday, 15 January 2019 at 6.30pm in the Town Hall, Banbury.

Present: Councillor Hussain (Town Mayor)  
Councillors: Beere, Banfield, Beverly, Cherry, Clarke, Colegrave, Dhesi, Donaldson, Fatemian, Harrison, Ilott, Kilsby, Mallon, Mepham, Milne Home, Richards, Ross, Turner, Woodcock and Wren.

Officers: Mark Recchia (Town Clerk)  
Mark Hassall (RFO & Deputy Town Clerk)  
Glenn Speakman (Planning & Administration Officer)

### **C.42/18 Apologies for Absence** Councillor Bell.

### **C.43/18 Declarations of Interest** Councillor Turner declared a personal interest in 18/01882/OUT, as an adjacent landowner, and stated he would leave the meeting should it be discussed.

### **C.44/18 Minutes of the Last Meeting** Councillor Woodcock asked the Leader of the Council what date the Council would be flying the rainbow flag as agreed in C.31/18 (Motion No 47). The Leader of the Council confirmed that the flag would be flown, if possible, in conjunction with any Banbury Pride event and that the Town Clerk would provide an update when a suitable date that did not clash with other events was found. It was then proposed by the Town Mayor, and **WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 November 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

### **C.45/18 Communications** The Town Mayor's communications had been circulated to those present, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Communications be noted.

### **C.46/18 Questions - Elected Members and Members of the Public** No questions were asked.

### **C.47/18 Planning Committee** It was proposed by Councillor Ilott, seconded by Councillor Harrison and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 14 November 2018, 12 December 2018 and 09 January 2019 be received.

### **C.48/18 General Services Committee** A Member asked a question on Minute GS.27/18, in respect of the centenary celebrations planned for People's Park, regarding the issue of signage directing people towards People's Park. The Chairman replied that a plan to install more signage was being considered. It was proposed by Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Harrison and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the General Services Committee meeting held on 11 December 2018 be received.

### **C.49/18 Resources Committee** It was proposed by Councillor Mallon, seconded by Councillor Clarke, and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on 8 January 2019 be received.

It was further **RESOLVED** that:

- i) further to Minute R.39/18 the estimates as recommended by the Grants and Budget Sub Committee on 27 November and the General Services Committee on 11 December 2018 be approved;
- ii) that the Four Year Financial Forecast be approved.
- iii) further to Minute R.40/18 the 2019/20 Calendar of Meetings as attached at **Appendix A** to the Minutes of the Resources Committee, be approved.

**C.50/18 To set the Precept for 2019/20**

The Leader of the Council expressed thanks to Officers and Councillors that had been a part of the Budget process, particularly those that attended the Grants & Budgets Sub Committee. He then outlined the budget highlights, which included a 0% increase in Banbury Town Council's share of the Council Tax bill, meaning the levy would stay at £122.12 for a D band home – the figure first set in 2010.

It was noted that 2019 would see People's Park celebrate its 100th anniversary and a number of park improvements were planned there. The Council would set £235,000 aside to create a café and provide toilet facilities to improve visitor experience at the park – and would be spending another £50,000 on making the footpaths better.

A further £125,000 was planned to be spent on play area refurbishments at a number of sites including Howard Road and St Louis Meadow. The council was also in the process of purchasing extra land in Hardwick to extend the existing cemetery. The new land would provide burial space for townspeople for the next 70 years and the purchase should be completed within the next few weeks. In addition, burial charges for town residents aged under-16 were being scrapped.

To encourage sport, the Council were halving the cost of hiring cricket pitches for T20 matches.

Work was also underway on planning to re-organise grounds maintenance by bringing some essential services 'in house' including the upkeep of cemeteries and some parks.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council set a precept of £1,846,320 (or £122.12 per Band D property), being an increase of 0%.

The Meeting ended at 6.55pm.