

BANBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Banbury Town Council held on Tuesday, 25 June 2019 at 6.30pm in the Town Hall, Banbury.

Present: Councillor Dhesi (Deputy Town Mayor in the Chair)
Councillors: Banfield, Beere, Bell, Beverly, Bignell, Cherry, Clarke, Fatemian, Harrison, Ilott, Kilsby, Mallon, Milne Home, Richards, Ross, Woodcock and Wren.

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

C.11/19 Apologies for Absence

Councillors Colegrave and Hussain.

C.12/19 Declarations of Interest

None.

C.13/19 Minutes of the Last Meeting

It was proposed by the Town Mayor, and **WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 May 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Deputy Town Mayor.

C.14/19 Communications

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

C.15/19 Questions - Elected Members and Members of the Public

There were no questions from Elected Members.

There was one question from a members of the public, who addressed the Council on behalf of the Fire Brigades Union to highlight safety concerns regarding proposals to reduce crewing levels on Fire Engines. The Town Mayor was asked to support calls to abandon the planned trial of three member fire crews. The Deputy Town Mayor indicated that a written response would be given to the member of the public.

C.16/19 Approval of Accounts and Annual Return 2018/19

The Resources Committee at their meeting on 11 June 2019 (Minute R.8/19 refers) considered a copy of the Annual Return and the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019 (unaudited).

With regard to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2019 the Leader of the Council responded to a Member's question regarding the level of Reserves held, in the light of pending reductions in Council Tax Reduction Scheme support grant from the District Council. The Leader confirmed that whilst any loss of income would be a significant operational challenge for the Council, reserves were currently ahead of the minimum required by the Council's policy and assured the Member that this would continue to be so under the current administration.

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), for the year ended 31 March 2019 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 2019, as amended (unaudited) be approved and signed on behalf of the Council by the Leader of the Council and the RFO.

C.17/19 Financial Risk Assessment 2019/2020

The Council considered a report from the Deputy Town Clerk and RFO submitting the 2019/20 Financial Risk Assessment. It was proposed by Councillor Mallon and seconded by Councillor Clarke and

RESOLVED that the Financial Risk Assessment for 2019/20 be approved.

C.18/19 Planning Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Ilott, seconded by Councillor Harrison and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 1 May, 7 May and 29 May 2019 be received.

In response to a Member's question regarding the current situation on an application at Boxhedge Terrace the Deputy Town Mayor indicated that a written response would be given.

C.19/19 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 7 May and 4 June 2019 be received.

The Chairman also advised Members that he had asked the Town Clerk to write a letter of thanks to Ms Judith Vernon, BBOWT Project Officer, who had worked tirelessly in establishing and making a great success of the Wild Banbury project.

C.20/19 Resources Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Mallon, seconded by Councillor Fatemian, and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Resources Committee meetings held on 7 May and 11 June 2019 be received.

It was further **RESOLVED** that the recommendation in Minute R.9/19 (Calendar of Meetings) be approved and the 2020 Annual Council Meeting take place on Wednesday 20 May 2020.

**C.21/19 Resolutions Moved on Notice
- Resolution No 48 (Water Fountains)**

It was proposed by Councillor Cherry seconded by Councillor Woodcock that:

"Following last years' unanimously agreed and adopted Motion to move Banbury Town council away from single-use plastics, it has been reported that in Oxford, water fountains will be available in Oxford city centre for all.

Therefore, this Council now agrees to commence a feasibility study to consider the installation of water fountains in the Council's parks, starting with Peoples Park. This will encourage people to use refillable bottles, topped up with the fresh drinking water provided, and thus cut back on the use of plastics; and helping to save the environment.”

There then ensued a lengthy discussion on the motion, with all speakers generally in favour of the proposals a note of caution was sounded regarding hygiene concerns that would need to be overcome. It was also noted that Banbury Town Hall was already signed up to the Refill App and that discussions had already taken place with the project team working on the proposed café development within People's Park, with a view to including an external drinking fountain as part of that development.

Other comments from Members included a suggestion to explore the potential for including this facility at sports changing rooms and also as part of the Council's outdoor events.

It was then unanimously **RESOLVED** that the motion be adopted.

The Meeting ended at 7.05pm.